Document of the Month: Annual Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Indiana…

The Secretary of State Annual Reports provide historical and statistical information about Indiana government, procedures, and various offices throughout the State. The reports contain articles of incorporation for railroads and businesses. Also included in these reports are listings of notaries public for each county, justices of the peace, Governor’s Proclamations, and congressional /senatorial districts with number of votes and population. These and other informative pieces of Indiana laws and history can be found in these reports. For example, in 1873, the Secretary of State was concerned with the cost of public printing and ensuring public access: “While all waste is to be avoided the State can not afford to be parsimonious in furnishing the people with information of the doings of their public servants, as shown in published acts, reports, and documents. “ The annual reports (1873-1916) can be found in the State Library’s Indiana Collection ISLI 353.9 I385ss.