

Library & Information Technology Association

A division of the American Library Association
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LITA ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Colleen Cuddy, LITA President
June 4, 2012

MISSION AND VISION

For the past few years LITA has reworked its mission and conducted strategic planning focused on specific goals and objectives. However, the vision statement was not revised, therefore we are taking the revision on this year. During the midwinter meeting the Board participated in a visioning exercise and hopes to draft a new vision statement at the annual meeting to send to membership for comment. The current vision and mission statement are below:

Vision

As the center of expertise about information technology, the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) leads in exploring and enabling new technologies to empower libraries. LITA members use the promise of technology to deliver dynamic library collections and services.

Mission Statement

LITA educates, serves and reaches out to its members, other ALA members and divisions, and the entire library and information community through its publications, programs and other activities designed to promote, develop, and aid in the implementation of library and information technology.

YEAR IN REVIEW

My presidential theme is open data/open science and I am looking forward to hearing Tony Hey and Clifford Lynch speak at the LITA President's Program later this month on this topic on June 24, 2012. Dr. Lynch is also the recipient of this year's LITA/Library Hi Tech award for Outstanding Communication in Library and Information Technology, cosponsored by Emerald Group Publishing Limited. The

prestigious Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology award, co-sponsored by OCLC, is being given to G Sayeed Choudhury this year. Dr. Choudhury is a longtime proponent of open data and the award recognizes his leadership in the field of data curation through the National Science Foundation supported Data Conservancy project.

One of LITA's biggest achievements this year was taking its journal "ITAL to an open access, online-only journal in March 2012. In addition to seeing our journal to its new platform, the publications committee has also been busy with a few new LITA Guides "Getting Started with GIS", by Eva Dodsworth. "Writing a Winning Technology Plan for E-rate Compliance" by Jean V. Morrison, and "Writing Successful Technology Grant Proposals" by Pamela H. MacKellar. In addition Tech Set #11-20, edited by Ellyssa Kroski was also published this year.

The Education Committee, Program Planning Committee and the National Forum Program Committee have also been busy. Six preconferences were/will be held this year prior in conjunction with midwinter, annual and the LITA forum. LITA has offered several courses online and more are in the works selected online courses include; Using Scrum to Streamline Web Applications Development and Increase Staff Involvement, Creating Library Web Services: Mashups and APIs, Roadmap to JPEG2000 and Getting Started with GIS

Programming continues to be strength of LITA. The 2011 LITA National Forum was held in St. Louis. Sixteen discussion sessions were held at the midwinter meeting with an additional thirty-seven planned for annual. Top Tech Trends continues to be an extremely popular program and this year at annual the LITA awards will be presented just prior to the Top Tech Panel. We anticipate a very large audience.

This year LITA sponsored two members who are part of the 2012 ALA Emerging Leaders cohort: Jodie Gambill and Tasha Keagan. Both were assigned to a team working on a LITA project that asked for a recommendation and plan for the implementation of a LITA Experts Profile System. The team was responsible for identifying the software to employ and creating an implementation plan with ontology recommendations. The team has identified VIVO (an open source, semantic web application) as the software for the project and will present its findings and implementation plan to the LITA Board and the ALA community at the ALA Annual Meeting Conference. The team did an outstanding job on this project and completed the deliverable on time, with very little guidance from LITA leadership—a sure sign of leadership!

I look forward to my new role as past-president, particularly in hosting the 2012 LITA Forum in Columbus, Ohio (October 4-7): New World of Data: Discover. Connect. Remix. The Forum Planning Committee led by Susan Sharpless Smith has done an outstanding job putting together an excellent meeting. The committee has lined up interesting speakers such as Eric Hellman, Ben Schneiderman, and Sarah Houghton, and thoughtfully evaluated many paper and poster submissions.

The trend in a slightly decreasing membership continues LITA membership at the end of April 2012 was 3310, compared with 3343. Increasing LITA membership by bringing better value to our members is something that is a priority for the LITA Board and the Membership Committee.

AWARDS

Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award
John F. Helmer, executive director of the Orbis Cascade Alliance

Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology
G Sayeed Choudhury, Associate Dean for Research Data Management and Hodson
Director of the Digital Research and Curation Center at the Sheridan Libraries of
Johns Hopkins University

LITA/Ex Libris Student Writing Award
Cynthia Cohen, MLIS Candidate, San Jose State University, School of Library and
Information Science, for
“Extending LOCKSS: the Preservation Risks of Private LOCKSS Networks”

LITA/Library Hi Tech Award For Outstanding Communication for Continuing
Education in Library and Information Science
Clifford Lynch, Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information

SCHOLARSHIPS

This year’s winner of the LITA/Christian Larew Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000) sponsored by Baker & Taylor is William Edward Jones III, who will pursue his studies at the University at Buffalo. The LITA/LSSI Minority Scholarship (\$2,500) winner is Brenda Bridgett Carrillo, who will pursue her studies at San Jose State University. Eugene D. Hsue, winner of the LITA/OCLC Minority Scholarship (\$3,000), will pursue his studies at University of Pittsburgh.

LITA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Cuddy (President, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012)
Elizabeth A. Stewart - Marshall (Vice President, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012)
Adriene I. Lim (Division Councilor, July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2013)
Karen J. Starr (Past-President, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012)
John F. Blyberg (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2014)
Aaron W. Dobbs (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2012)
Jason Griffey (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2013)

David Lee King (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2014)
Lauren Pressley (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2014)
Kevin Reynolds (Executive Board Liaison, July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2013)
Cindi Trainor (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2013)
Maurice York (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2012)
Dale Poulter (Parliamentarian, July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2013)
Mary Taylor (Ex-Officio Member, July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2012)

LITA STAFF

Mary Taylor, Executive Director
Melissa Prentice, Programs and Marketing Specialist
Valerie Edmonds, Program Coordinator