



The
Library and Information
Technology Association
A DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2015/2016

<https://goo.gl/27L4wl>
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A Message from the President



As I near the end of my presidential year, I reflect on how change is a constant in LITA, and how fortunate I have been to work with so many great people who are unfazed by the pace of change over the last few years. A couple of important transitions to note:

So Long...

LITA began the year with the bittersweet task of saying goodbye to Mary Taylor, who retired in July 2015. Mary had been our Executive Director since 2001. No organization says goodbye to a longtime leader without a few bumps in the road, and I want to thank the LITA Board, staff, committee chairs, and all our volunteers, not just for their hard work, but also for their patience as we sometimes scrambled to recover from a sudden gap in institutional memory.

Hello...

This year marks the beginning of Jenny Levine's tenure as LITA's Executive Director. Jenny comes to us from ALA's Information Technology and Telecommunications Services. Jenny was already familiar to many of us through her roles as ITTS Strategy Guide and ALA's liaison to the Games and Gaming Round Table (GameRT), as well as her @Shifted Librarian online presence.

...And Happy Anniversary!

At ALA Annual in Orlando, LITA will kick off its year-long 50th Anniversary celebration. The Information Science and Automation Division (ISAD, as we were named until 1977) was established in 1966 and held its first meetings that summer. As we come into the summer of 2016, we have an opportunity to combine this year's many new beginnings with our half-century of experience. Like many divisions, we face real challenges of member retention and financial sustainability, but we are facing those issues with a new energy, a strong staff and member volunteers, and—as always—cool content.

Thomas Dowling
LITA President, 2015/2016



About LITA

Mission The Library & Information Technology Association 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.

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

Strategic Plan LITA's most recent formal strategy statement expired in 2015. With a new Executive Director on board, the Executive Committee and the Governing Board have begun drafting a new strategic plan based on the principles of *Member Engagement, Organizational Stability and Sustainability, Education and Development, and Advocacy and Information Policy*. This new plan should be finalized in the fall of 2016.

About LITA

The LITA Staff

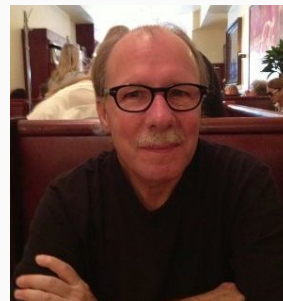
Jenny Levine
Executive Director

Coming to LITA from ALA's Information Technology and Telecommunications Services, Jenny began work as Executive Director in August, 2015. A librarian and LITA member, she has also served as ALA's liaison to the Games and Gaming Round Table (GameRT).



Mark Beatty
Programs and Marketing
Specialist

Mark joined the LITA staff in 2014. A LITA member and former president (2007-2008), he brings experience, insight, and energy to his work helping to support the programs and ongoing activities of the organization.



About LITA



Back row: **Ken Varnum**, Director at Large; **Nancy Colyar**, Financial Advisory Committee; **Jenny Taylor**, Director at Large; Andrea Mullarkey, Parliamentarian; **Jenny Reiswig**, Director at Large; **Ranti Junus**, Director at Large; **Susan Smith**, Director at Large.

Front row: **Jenny Levine**, Executive Director; **Rachel Vacek**, Past President; **Thomas Dowling**, President; **Aimee Fifarek**, Vice-President; **Andromeda Yelton**, Director at Large.

Not pictured: **Aaron Dobbs**, Division Councilor; **Bohyun Kim**, Director at Large.

The LITA Board

LITA is governed by an elected Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, a sub-set of the Board. The Board consists of the president, the Vice-President, the immediate Past President, the Executive Director, the ALA Councilor, and seven directors. The parliamentarian and financial advisor are ex-officio and non-voting members. Serving as organizational stewards, the Board oversees the affairs of the Association and works in the best interest of the membership.

The Executive Committee includes the President, Past President, Vice-President/President-elect, LITA Councilor, and an at-large member of the Board. Ranti Junus has served as the at-large member this year.

New Leaders



At the conclusion of ALA Annual in Orlando, **Aimee Fifarek** will be inaugurated as LITA's new president. This spring, **Andromeda Yelton** was elected and will officially become vice president/president-elect in Orlando.



Outgoing past president **Rachel Vacek** will rotate off the board this summer. (The current president can't begin to express his gratitude for her help, encouragement, and guidance over the past two years.)



Also in this spring's election, **Topher Lawton** and **Evviva Weinraub** won positions as members at large on the LITA Board. **Aaron Dobbs** was re-elected LITA Councilor.



Thanks to the nominating committee (**Michelle Frisque**, chair; **Galen Charlton**; and **Dale Poulter**) for their work in coming up with this year's slate of candidates.



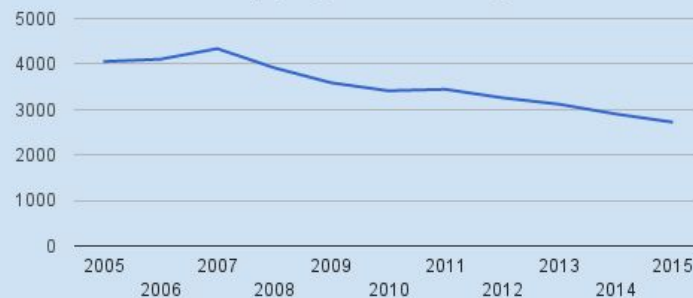
Thanks also to **Jennifer Reisswig** (Member at Large), **Andrea Mullarkey** (Parliamentarian), and **Nancy Colyar** (Chair, Financial Advisory Committee) who will roll off the Governing Board this summer.



Membership

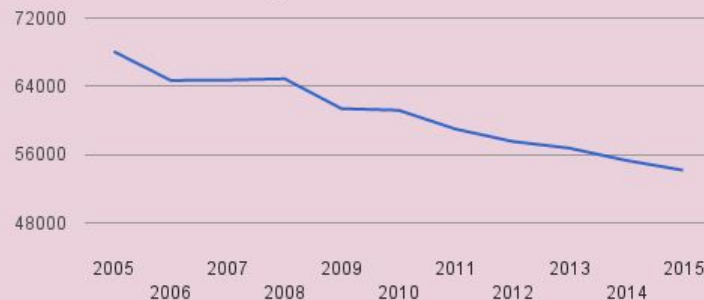
Along with many other divisions, ALA itself, and professional organizations in general, LITA is experiencing a decade-long decline in membership. For LITA, membership, revenue, and organizational stability go hand in hand. The Board remains focused on improving the member experience; education opportunities, conference programming, and social media presence all contribute to the overall strength of the division. There is no one “right” size for LITA, but our target energy level (“high!”) and value to members (“really high!”) will continue to drive the Division forward.

LITA Membership, August 2005 to August 2015



ALA Membership, 2005-2015

<http://goo.gl/Fil6ST>



New Committees and IGs

Much of LITA's work is carried out by volunteers serving on our 24 standing committees, four current task forces, and the editorial board of *ITAL*, our peer-reviewed journal. Two committees were formed this year and will begin work in 2016/2017:

The **Appointments Committee** takes on the essential role of helping the vice president/president-elect match volunteers with open roster positions.

The **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** has been convened to maintain diversity as a fundamental principle of the Association, and to work throughout the Association to help realize our diversity goals.

LITA also features a wealth of interest groups (IGs) formed by LITA members to address emerging trends, technologies, and issues. Four new IGs were created this year:

Women in Information Technology IG (founding co-chairs, **Abigail Goben** and **Zoe Stewart-Marshall**). Established to provide a forum and support network for individuals interested in issues and opportunities related to women in information technology fields.

LITA New Member IG (founding chair, **Jake Ineichen**). Established to create pathways to participation in LITA.

E-Rate and CIPA Compliance IG (founding chair, **Vicki Teal Lovely**). Established to provide a forum to discuss the E-Rate application process and CIPA compliance.

Additionally, the 3-D Printing IG was renamed the **Maker Technology IG** (chair, **Amanda Goodman**).

Education

The Education Committee (chair, **Abigail Goben**; vice-chair **Michael Kastellec**) oversees a very successful set of webinars and online courses covering hot topics in library technology. Their offerings this year included:

Web Courses

Personal Digital Archiving for Librarians

Presenter: **Melody Condron**

October 6 - November 3, 2015

Which Test for Which Data: Statistics at the Reference Desk

Presenter: **Rachel Williams**

February 29 - March 31, 2016

Universal Design for Libraries and Librarians

Presenters: **Jessica Olin** and **Holly Mabry**

August 1 - September 9, 2016

Webinars

Teaching Patrons about Privacy in a World of Pervasive Surveillance: Lessons from the Library Freedom Project

Presenter: **Alison Macrina**

October 6, 2015

Education

Webinars (continued)

Creative Commons Crash Course

Presenter: **Carli Spina**

October 7, 2015

Digital Privacy Toolkit for Librarians

Presenter: **Alison Macrina**

October 20, 2015

Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know - 2

Presenters: **Steven Bowers, A.J. Million, Elliot Polak and Ken Varnum**

November 2, 2015

How Your Public Library Can Inspire the Next Tech

Billionaire: an Intro to Youth Coding Programs

Presenters: **Kelly Smith, Crystle Martin, and Justin Hoenke**

March 3, 2016

The Why and How of HTTPS for Libraries

Presenter: **Jacob Hoffman-Andrews**

March 14, 2016

Yes, You Can Video: A how-to guide for creating high-impact instructional videos without tearing your hair out

Presenters: **Anne Burke and Andreas Orphanides**

April 12, 2016

Education

Webinars (continued)

Mindful Tech: Establishing a Healthier and More Effective Relationship with Our Digital Devices and Apps

Presenter: **David Levy**

June 7, 2016

Attendee Comments

“...this was an excellent way to learn about Creative Commons.” (Creative Commons Crash Course)

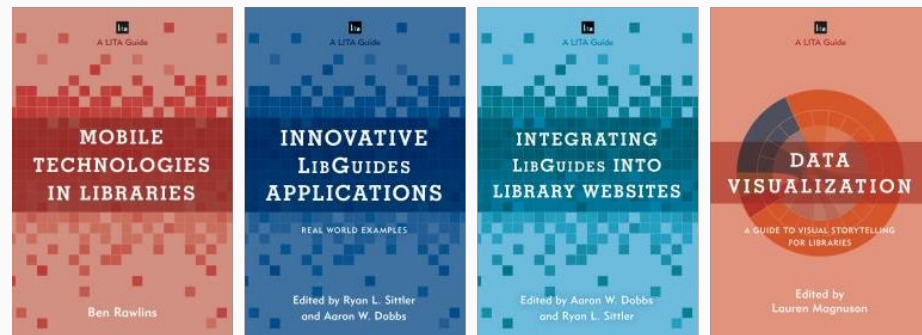
“This was possibly the best Webinar I have ever attended.” (Digital Privacy Toolkit)

“I wrote my dissertation on privacy...even I got tonnes of new information.” (Teaching Patrons About Privacy)

Publications

The Publications Committee (chair, **Zoe Stewart-Marshall**), and the ITAL editorial board (**Robert Gerrity**, chair) oversee LITA's main publishing efforts, the *LITA Guides* series of print and electronic monographs, and *ITAL*, our peer-reviewed, open access journal.

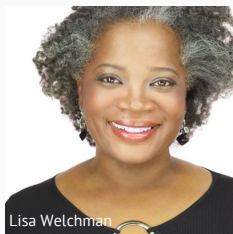
This year, the Guides completed their move to our publishing partners at Rowman and Littlefield. Seven titles have been published or are available for pre-order.



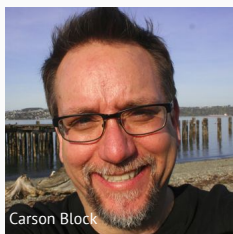
Information Technology
and Libraries

<http://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ital/>

LITA National Forum



The 2015 LITA National Forum was held in Minneapolis, November 12 - 15. 274 people attended, including 135 LITA members. Attendees heard keynote addresses from **Lisa Welchman** (President of Digital Governance Solutions, ActiveStandards), **Mx. (Mark) Matienzo** (Director of Technology, Digital Public Library of America), and **Carson Block** (Carson Block Consulting). The Forum Planning Committee (**Zoe Chao**, chair) also selected 57 presentations on a range of



topics spanning altmetrics, linked data, cybersecurity, project management, and user experience design.

The 2016 National Forum will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, on November 17 - 20. Announced keynote speakers include **Cecily Walker** (Vancouver Public Library), **Waldo Jaquith** (Director, U.S. Open Data), and **Tara Robertson** (@tararobertson). The Forum Planning Committee (**Tammy Allgood Wolf**, chair) is currently reviewing session proposals.



LITA @ Midwinter

LITA activities at Midwinter included a tour of two notable maker spaces: [Artisan's Asylum](#), a facility with 40,000 square feet of 3D printing, woodwork, metalwork, machining, artists' workshops; and [Parts and Crafts](#), a neighborhood makerspace for kids that runs camp, after-school, and homeschooling programs.

Our regular activities include the LITA Open House, an opportunity for new and prospective members to meet the Division's leaders and "old hands" to do some networking, get information on opportunities for volunteering, and learn about the benefits of membership.

The LITA Town Hall meeting, lead by **Aimee Fifarek**, continued 2015 meeting's discussion on strategic directions. Input from both meetings will inform the

Board's ongoing work towards a new strategic plan.

LITA's signature event, Top Tech Trends, covered topics ranging from our interactions with robots and AI assistants, to the balance of analytics data and privacy, to peer-to-peer data security with blockchains.

Of course, no ALA meeting is complete without LITA Happy Hour, held at the MIJA Cantina and Tequila Bar. There was good company, good drinks, and good food—and a couple of new interest groups came together too!



LITA @ Annual

In a conference full of outstanding programs, we are especially looking forward to *Sunday Afternoon With LITA* at the ALA Annual Meeting in Orlando. Top Tech Trends will start the afternoon, with a panel moderated by **Maurice Coleman** of the Hartford County Public Library (“Trainer, Speaker, Consultant, Author and Geek”).

The President’s Program will see the official kickoff for our 50th Anniversary celebration. Our featured speaker, Dr. **Safiya Noble** of the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, will present *Toward an Ethic of Social Justice in Information*. Dr. Noble conducts research in socio-cultural informatics; including feminist, historical and political-economic perspectives on computing platforms and software in the public interest. Her research is at the intersection of culture and technology in the design and

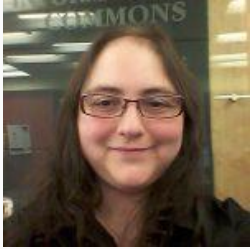
use of applications on the Internet.

Then, of course, off to LITA Happy Hour! Look for an announcement before Annual with the location.

Outside of Sunday afternoon, please join us for the Open House, 3:00pm Friday in the Rosen Center (Room Salon 09/10) and keep your eye on the scheduler for a full slate of programs and interest group meetings.



Awards and Recognitions



Tanya Johnson has been selected as the winner of the 2016 **Student Writing Award** sponsored by Ex Libris Group and the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) for her paper titled “Let’s Get Virtual: An Examination of Best Practices to Provide Public Access to Digital Versions of Three-Dimensional Objects.” Johnson is a MLIS candidate at the Rutgers School of Communication and Information.



Dr. June Abbas, Professor of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma, has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 **Frederick G. Kilgour Award** for Research in Library and Information Technology sponsored by OCLC and the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA).

Awards and Recognitions



Daniel Cohen, Founding Executive Director of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), has been selected as the winner of the 2016 **LITA/Library Hi Tech Award** For Outstanding Communication for Continuing Education in Library and Information Science.

Richard Johnson has been selected as the winner of the 2016 **Christian Larew Memorial Scholarship**. The scholarship is sponsored by **Baker & Taylor**, and the winner receives \$3,000 to study in a Masters of Library Science program.

Giao Luong Baker was selected for the **LITA / OCLC Minority Scholarship** in Library and Information Technology and **Renee Romero** for the **LITA / LSSI Minority Scholarship** in Library and Information Technology.

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