lita — Empowering libraries through technology
The Library and Information Technology Association

Annual Report
2016/2017

Being LITA President during the Association's 50th Anniversary year has been both an honor and a challenge. During a milestone year like this you become acutely aware of all of the hard work and innovation that was required for the Association to thrive for half a century, and feel more than a little pressure to leave an extraordinary legacy that will ensure another fifty years of success.

It's a tall order, especially in an era of rapid political and societal change. But as I navigated through my presidential year I realized that I didn't have to do anything more than ensure that people who already want to work hard for the greater good have a welcoming place to do just that.

After fifty years, LITA still has the thing that made it a success in the first place: a core group of volunteers committed to the belief that new technologies can empower libraries to do great things.

The talented and passionate people I have worked with on the Board, in the Committee and Interest Group leadership, and throughout the membership are the best legacy that an Association can have. Now more than ever the people in libraries who "do tech" can be leaders in their communities and on the national stage. Now more than ever it is LITA's time to shine.

In the slides that follow I will review all the hard work that LITANs have done over the last year, take stock of the amazing resources we have, and share the plan we've created to allow LITA to boldly go into the next 50 years.

Aimee Fifarek
2016/2017 LITA President

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.

Values   The Library & Information Technology Association's guiding principles are Assessment, Collaboration & Partnerships, Communication, Curiosity & Experimentation, Diversity & Inclusion, Lifelong Learning, Member Experience, and Openness & Transparency.

About LITA

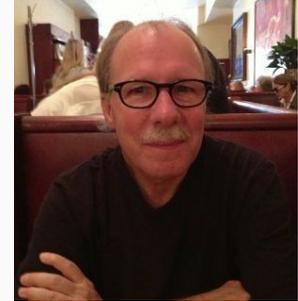## The LITA Staff

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: **Aaron Dobbs**, Division Councilor; **Evviva Weinraub**, Director at Large **Topher Lawton**,Director at Large; **Ken Varnum**, Director at Large and Executive Committee member; **Susan Smith**, Director at Large; **Thomas Dowling**, Past President.

Front row: Frank Cervone, Parliamentarian, Renee Lebeau-Ford, Financial Advisory Committee; **Jenny Levine,** Executive Director; **Andromeda Yelton**, President-Elect; **Aimee Fifarek**, President; **Jenny Taylor**, Director at Large; **Ranti Junus**, Director at Large;.

Not pictured: **Bohyun Kim**, Director at Large.

Board of Directors

LITA is governed by an elected Board of Directors that consists of the President, the President-Elect, the Past President, the ALA Councilor, and seven directors, as well as ex-officio and nonvoting members including the Executive Director, the parliamentarian and the financial advisor.

Serving as organizational stewards, the Board oversees the affairs of the Association and works in the best interest of the membership.

The Executive Committee is a subset of the Board and includes the President, Past President, President-elect, LITA Councilor, and one at-large member of the Board..

Leadership Changes

At the conclusion of ALA Annual in Chicago, **Andromeda Yelton** will be inaugurated as LITA's new president.

This spring, **Bohyun Kim** was elected and will officially become vice president/president-elect in Chicago.

Many thanks go to outgoing Past President **Thomas Dowling** for his excellent leadership, good humor, and superb agenda management.

Also in this spring's election, **Lindsay Cronk, Amanda Goodman,** and **Margaret Heller** (pictured at right) won positions as Directors at large on the LITA Board.

Thanks to the nominating committee, **Rachel Vacek** (chair), **Emily Clasper** and **Melissa Stoner**, for their work in coming up with this year's slate of candidates.

Thanks also to Directors at Large **Ranti Junus** and **Jenny Taylor** who will be rotating off the Board after 3 years of service.

2016-2018 Strategic Plan

LITA is starting our next 50 years strong with a new strategic plan that will take us through the next three years. Thanks to the 2015/16 and 2016/17 LITA Board members, as well as a number of dedicated LITAns who attended the in-person Board meetings at the annual conference in Orlando, for their hard work on this. The new plan has four areas of focus:

- Member Engagement
- Organizational Stability and Sustainability
- Education and Professional Development
- Advocacy and Information Policy

This plan allows us to prioritize enhancing benefits to LITA members, with an eye toward improving member retention, while putting the Association on a path to increasing national relevance. From net neutrality to online privacy to cybersecurity, technology is in the news like never before. As we work more closely with other units in ALA, LITA's role will be to take the esoteric matters of Information Policy and translate them into practical strategies libraries can use to improve their services.
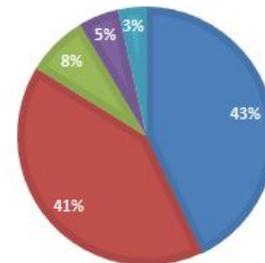
Financials

The charts here show the major areas where LITA earns and spends its money. Member dues along with conference, webinar, and course registration fees generate most of our revenue. Staff salaries and conference costs account for the bulk of our expenses.

LITA started the year with an expected budget deficit of $9,446, due primarily to decreasing revenues from dues and underperforming preconferences. However donations and revenues from the LITA Job Site are up, and this is looking to be a very good year for our publications.

The Board has worked hard on money management over the last year, thanks in part to the Financial Advisory Committee (interim chair **Christine Petersen**). In general we have been doing a good job of controlling our costs, and Executive Director **Jenny Levine** has automated several formerly manual tasks that will allow staff to devote more time to revenue generators like sponsorship development.
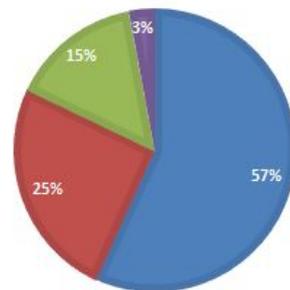

LITA 2016-17 BUDGET: REVENUES
■ Dues ■ Registration ■ Donations ■ Job Site ■ Royalties
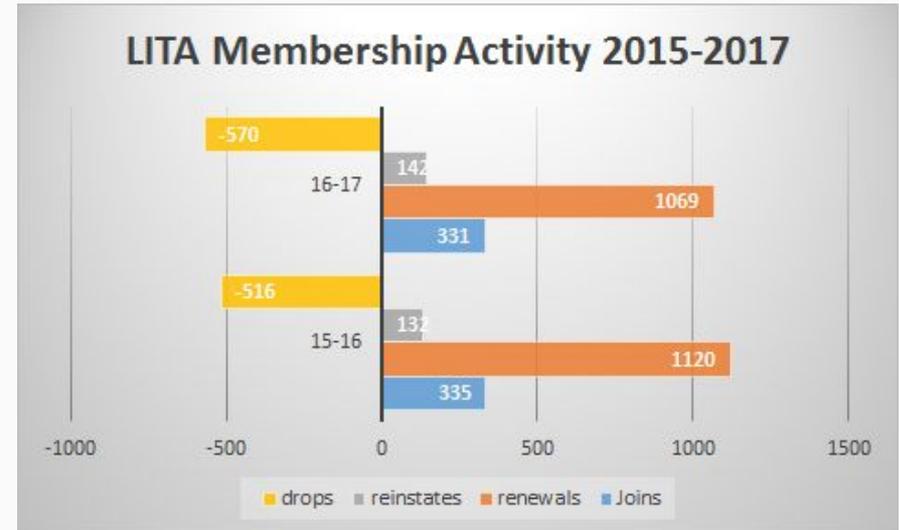43% / 41% / 8% / 5% / 3%

LITA 2016-17 BUDGET: EXPENSES
■ Staff ■ Conferences ■ Operating & Fees ■ Publications
57% / 25% / 15% / 3%

Membership

Along with ALA and many of its Divisions, LITA is experiencing a decade-long decline in membership. However this is not as gloomy as it might first appear. Each year over 300 people join LITA for the first time, and about 1200 renew their membership. Clearly our focus must be on retaining the members LITA is already quite good at attracting.

The Board has worked this year to improve the member experience. For new members this means targeted welcome emails and a new conference buddy program. For renewing members, we are focused on maintaining the quality of our educational opportunities and conference programming. Time will tell if our efforts this year will result in increased member retention in the future.

LITA Membership Activity 2015-2017

16-17	-570	142 / 1069 / 331
15-16	-516	132 / 1120 / 335

drops reinstates renewals Joins

The Faces of LITA

At the Midwinter meeting in Atlanta, the 10-member **Personas Task Force** (co-chairs **Yoo Young Lee** and **Hong Ma**) presented their research into who is - and who is not - a part of LITA. After a year of interviews, surveys, and collaboration, the Task Force developed 9 different personas (profiles of the different types of members and non-members) that will allow LITA's Board, Committees, and Interest Groups to develop more relevant programs and services.

The LITA Committee and IG Chairs have already been working on possible use cases for the personas. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee has proposed working with the Education Committee to develop webinars of interest to LITAns with tech interests (the "Michael Zhang" persona, top right). The Instructional Technology IG wants to reach out to non-members who come to LITA Events ("Steve Gonzalez," bottom center). And our current Emerging Leaders group, including Catie Sahadath, is completing an virtual meeting toolkit that will be beneficial to Involvement Members ("Amy Chuck," top left).

Automation/Systems
Information Technology
Web Services

"I work with several diff types of technology dail simple text editors to us complex integrated development environme

Instruction/Teaching
Reference/Information Services
Digital content management

a technologist but I
keep up-to-date with
nologies which are
to my work and how to
m to my daily work"

Information Technology
Web Services
Usability/UX/UI Design

"I think we should move away from using coding as the definition of a skill set and focus more on software integration and architecture."
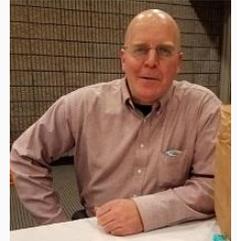
LITA @ Midwinter

This year at midwinter the new Diversity and Inclusion committee (chair **Carli Spina**) held kitchen table conversations on how LITA could best develop inclusive programming. The LITA Town Hall, led by President-Elect **Andromeda Yelton**, included a vibrant discussion of the strategic plan's four focus areas over a delicious (if somewhat delayed) breakfast.

Our regular Sunday with LITA started with LITA Open House, an opportunity for new and prospective members to meet the Division's leaders and "old hands" to learn about the benefits of LITA membership. This was followed by Director-at-Large **Ken Varnum** moderating LITA's signature event, Top Tech Trends. Our four panelists discussed topics ranging from reality (both augmented and virtual) to gamification to functional tattoos.

Sunday was brought to a successful close with LITA Happy Hour. This year's event, held at Gordon Biersch, was a fundraiser to celebrate LITA's 50th Anniversary. In addition to having the option to "Buy LITA a Drink" attendees could also bid on LITA Councilor Aaron Dobbs' new beard style. "Classic Ambrose Burnsides" was the initial money leader, but by the next day "A Clean Shave" was the clear winner.

In all, LITA raised nearly $5,000 to support professional development scholarships to support our Diversity and Inclusion focus - with over $800 of that coming from Aaron's campaign alone. You can still donate by going to https://www.crowdrise.com/lita-50th-anniversary#the-team.

Continuing Education

The Education Committee (chair, **Michael Kastellec**; vice-chair **Katherine Kimball Adelberg**) oversees delivery of webinars and online courses covering hot topics in library technology.

This year the LITA Board created a paid Acquisitions Editor position (recruitment opening soon) which will help the Education Committee source quality content for future web courses and webinars.

2016/17 Web Courses

Holly Mabry from Gardner-Webb University and Jessica Olin from Robert H. Parker Library, Wesley College taught Universal Design for Libraries and Librarians, which was so popular they brought it back for a second session.

St. Cloud State University Professor and information specialist Plamen Mintloff brought us Social Media for My Institution: from "mine" to "ours" .

Web courses going on now include Project Management for Success, taught by Gina Minks of Gina Minks Consulting, LLC. and Beginning Git and GitHub offered by Kate Bronstad and Heather J. Klish from Tufts University libraries.

This summer we will be looking forward to Past LITA President Rachel Vacek, Head of Design & Discovery at the University of Michigan Library, and Deirdre Costello, Director, UX Research, EBSCO Information Services, teaching Contextual Inquiry: Using Ethnographic Research to Impact your Library UX.

Education

2016/17 Webinars

77 individuals and 45 groups registered for LITA Webinars this year. Topics included:

- [How to Talk About User Experience](#) from returning instructor Michael Schofield;
- [Beyond Usage Statistics](#) Hui Zhang from Oregon State University Libraries and Press;
- [Online Productivity Tools: Smart Shortcuts and Clever Tricks](#) from WNYLRC Digital Services Coordinator Jaclyn McKewan;
- [What's so Super About Supercomputing?](#) From Jamene Brooks-Kieffer, Data Services Librarian at the University of Kansas and Dr. Mark Laufersweiler, Research Data Specialist for the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

Created by dilayorganci
from Noun Project

Created by Gregor Črešnar
from Noun Project

Notable work from LITA's Committees and IGs

Much of LITA's work is carried out by volunteers serving on our 21 standing committees, ad hoc task forces, and the editorial board of *ITAL*, our peer-reviewed journal.

This marked the first year of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee (chair **Carli Spina**). The Committee hit the ground running by hosting Kitchen Table conversations and developing a new Conference Buddy Program.

Appointments Committee (chair **Andromeda Yelton**) helps the President-Elect find the right volunteers to serve on all of our committees and task forces.

The new Excellence in Children's Science Fiction Committee (chair **Helen Gbala**) is in the process of developing the first List of Notable Titles for 2017.

Also debuting this year was the great #LITAchat Twitter series developed by the Membership Committee (chair **Joanna Messer Kimmitt**). The live streamed chats included discussions on the Internet of Things, a recap of Choose Privacy Week events, and personal digital archiving.

LITA also features a wealth of interest groups (IGs) formed by LITA members to address emerging trends, technologies, and issues. The E-Rate and CIPA Compliance IG (chair **Victoria Teal Lovely**) and the Women in Information Technology IG (co-chairs **Abigail Goben and Elizabeth Stewart-Marshall**) both completed their inaugural years.

The Patron Privacy IG (co-chairs **Sarah Houghton and Mike Robinson**) continued their great work by developing a set of Privacy Checklists to support the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee's Privacy Policies. Read more about the project on the LITA Blog post.

Publications

The Publications Committee (chair **Michael Witt**), and the ITAL Editorial Board (chair **Robert Gerrity**) oversee LITA's main publishing efforts, the *LITA Guides* series of print and electronic monographs and *Information Technology and Libraries (ITAL)*, our peer-reviewed, open access journal.

This year, eight titles were published and two more are available for pre-order. Four issues of ITAL were also published.

Coming Soon!

LITA National Forum

Cecily Walker

Waldo Jaquith

Tara Robertson

The 2016 LITA National Forum was held in Fort Worth, TX November 17 - 20 with more than 270 people attending. Attendees heard keynote addresses from **Cecily Walker** (Vancouver Public Library)**, Waldo Jaquith** (Director, U.S. Open Data), and **Tara Robertson** (@tararobertson). The Forum Planning Committee (**Tammy Allgood Wolf**, chair) also selected 58 presentations on a range of topics from analytics to IT Leadership to Raspberry Pi. (Mmmm . . . pie.)

The 2017 National Forum will be held in Denver, CO, on November 9-12. The Forum Planning Committee (chair **Vincci Kwong**) is currently reviewing the more than 140 submitted proposals.

Future forums will benefit from the hard work of the Forum Assessment Task Force (co-chairs **Jenny Taylor** and **Ken Varnum**) who completed their report in January.

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LITA @ Annual

At ALA Annual in Chicago, LITA will wrap up its year-long 50th Anniversary celebration with another conference full of outstanding programs starting Friday with the Avram Camp preconference at Northwestern University. Based on the Ada Camp toolkit, the all-day session is designed to assist women working in technology with the unique challenges they face.

Later that afternoon the LITA Membership Committee (chair **Joanna Messer Kimmitt**) will host our Conference Kickoff session (W194b at 3pm). On Saturday, the Imagineering IG will have another awesome author lineup including LITA favorite Cory Doctorow (W192 at 1pm).

As usual *Sunday Afternoon With LITA* will begin with Top Tech Trends (W192 at 1pm). **Margaret Heller** will be moderating our impressive panel of experts.

Our Sunday sessions conclude with the Award and President's Program. Our featured speaker will Kameron Hurley, author of the *Worldbreaker Saga* and the Hugo award-winning essay "We Have Always Fought."

Then, of course, off to LITA Happy Hour! This year our signature celebration will be at The Beer Bistro on Madison Street. Expect amazing things as we close out our 50th Anniversary year.

Awards and Recognitions

Ellyssa Kroski, Director of Information Technology at the New York Law Institute, has won the LITA/Library Hi-Tech Award for Outstanding Communication for Continuing Education in Library Science sponsored by Emerald Publishing and LITA. An award-winning editor and author of 36 books including *Law Librarianship in the Digital Age* and the ten-book series *The Tech Set*, Kroski is also adjunct faculty at Drexel and San Jose State Universities.

Timothy Cole, Head of the Mathematics Library and Professor of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, has been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology, sponsored by OCLC and LITA. Professor Cole's research over the last 20 years into digital libraries, metadata design and sharing, and interoperable linked data frameworks has significantly enhanced discovery and access of scholarly content.

Awards and Recognitions

Mark Sandler, principal at Novel Solutions Consulting, has been named the 2017 winner of the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award. He founded the Text Creation Partnership which brought about ProQuest's Early English Books Online database. He also championed the Google Book Digitization Project, greatly expanding the the texts in the HathiTrust repository. The Atkinson Award is sponsored jointly by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), the Association of Library Collection and Technical Services (ACRL) and LITA.

Megan Ozeran has been selected as the winner of the 2017 Student Writing Award sponsored by Ex Libris Group and LITA for her paper titled "Managing Metadata for Philatelic Materials." Ozeran is a MLIS candidate at the San Jose State University School of Information.

LITA's two Minority Writing Scholarships sponsored by LS&S and OCLC have become Spectrum Scholarships. Winners will be announced after the 2017 ALA Annual Conference.

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