President's Report
Andromeda Yelton
ALA Annual 2018 (New Orleans)

Around LITA and ALA

A lot has happened in LITA, and around ALA in ways that directly impact LITA, over the last four months.

ALA and LITA Elections

The LITA membership elected new incoming officers: Emily Morton-Owens, President-Elect; Tabathy Farney and Berika S. Williams, Directors-at-Large. Congratulations to our new officers; I look forward to welcoming you officially on board. And to Jason Griffey, David Lee King, Galen Charlton, and Kelly Sattler: thank you for your distinguished records of service to LITA and your willingness to stand for election.

The member petition to require the MLS received a majority of votes in favor of the MLS requirement, but did not achieve the quorum required to be binding. Therefore the earlier decision of Council, making the MLS preferred but not required, stands.

Information Technology and Libraries

Following up on my previous report: Ken Varnum is now officially on board as ITAL editor-in-chief, and we have clarified that our license is CC BY-NC 4.0. This is now fully documented, and we have confirmed that our submissions process has been establishing the necessary rights grants.

A number of editors have rolled off the editorial board and new ones been selected in their place, representing a variety of types of libraries. Welcome to Steven Bowers, Kevin Ford, Cinthya Ippoliti, Ida Joiner, Breanne Kirsch, Michael Sauers, and Laurie Wills.

Web Site Redesign

The newly responsive lita.org has been launched. Thank you to ITTS and WCC for all your hard work on this one.

WCC is also in the process of redesigning LITA's jobs site.

ALA Connect

The new ALA Connect has launched. LITA has delayed its participation in the launch while ensuring that several privacy issues are worked out, but we anticipate relaunching our communities imminently.

LITA Education

Since Midwinter, we have offered the following online education:
- Webinars
  - Introduction to Schema.org and JSON-LD (Jacob Shelby)
  - IT Security and Privacy in Libraries (Blake Carver)
  - Nuts and Bolts of Data Visualization (Vincci Kwong)
  - In conjunction with the Patron Privacy Interest Group, the Education Committee offered a five-part series on privacy:
    - Developing Good Privacy Policies: and Incorporating Them into Staff Training (Sarah Houghton)
    - Wrangling Library Patron Data (Becky Yoose)
    - Adopting Encryption Technologies (Matt Beckstrom)
    - Analytics and Assessment: Privacy vs. Surveillance (T.J. Lamanna and Eric Hellman)
    - Take Back Researcher Privacy (Sam Kome)

We have the following web courses coming up this summer:
- Contextual Inquiry: Using Ethnographic Research to Impact your Library UX (Rachel Vacek and Deirdre Costello)
- Project Management for Success (Gina Minks)

Thank you to all the presenters. Thank you also to LLAMA for cosponsoring the first in our series of privacy webinars.

LITA Publications

In addition to our March 2018 *ITAL* issue, we have published the following LITA Guides since Midwinter:

- The LITA Guide to No- or Low-Cost Technology Tools for Libraries (Breanne Kirsch)
- Big Data Shocks - An Introduction to Big Data for Librarians and Information Professionals (Andrew Weiss)

We have three more titles due to be published in June and July:
- The Savvy Academic Librarian's Guide to Technology Innovation (Cinthya Ippoliti)
- Augmented and Virtual Reality in Libraries (ed. Jolanda-Pieta van Arnhem, Christine Elliott, and Marie Rose)
- Digital Curation Projects Made Easy - A Step-by-Step Guide for Libraries, Archives, and Museums (Cameron Cowick)

Thank you to all of our authors.

LITA Excellence in Children's and Young Adult Science Fiction Notable Lists

The LITA Committee Recognizing Excellence in Children's and Young Adult Science Fiction has published its first notables list: https://sfnotables.org/about-the-lists/2018-list/ . It recognizes 6 picture books, 10 middle grades books, and 12 YA books.

Small Division Realignment

The LITA, LLAMA, and ALCTS leadership have been meeting regularly to explore closer collaboration between our divisions. We have narrowed our scope to the possibility of forming a new division together; there is not a financially feasible path forward for closer collaboration within the ALA structure. We are, however, optimistic that a shared division could create numerous opportunities for staff efficiencies and member service. We are proceeding on the hypothesis that such a division would be voted into existence by Council in 2019, to commence with the fiscal year in September 2019.

To this end, we have chartered two working groups. One, on finances, was charged with reviewing our finances by Annual to do a preliminary recommendation on whether a combined division is feasible; they have concluded there are likely paths forward here, and will be exploring them in more depth over the coming year. They synthesized a tremendous amount of data on a very tight timeline. Thank you to Charles Wilt (chair), Miranda Bennett, Margaret Heller, Elspeth Olson, Brian Rennick, and Jeff Steely.

The second working group's charge centers on member communications. They are pulling together plans for us to communicate outward to the members, as well as for the members to have interactive venues to express their feelings and share their ideas. This work will kick into high gear in the fall. Thank you to working group members Erin Boyd, Maria Collins, Debbie Tenofsky, Joel Tonyan, Zara Wilkinson, and Kyle Willis.

We anticipate that additional working groups will be chartered in future to explore additional questions that would need to be answered prior to the formation of a new division (such as bylaws) or within its first few years (unifying various programmatic lines). These working groups will provide additional opportunities for member engagement.

Each division's board will be reviewing documentation that has emerged from this process prior to Annual, and we each plan to hold a vote at our initial board meetings on whether to continue with the process. We also have engaged Kathryn Deiss to facilitate a shared Board meeting during our second Board meetings, on Monday from 1 to 3. Although the Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Executive Directors of each division have been meeting

biweekly, this will be the first chance for our boards as a whole to meet and discuss issues with one another.

There is a Google form where people have been able to ask anonymous questions about the process. I have been answering these questions on LITAblog: https://litablog.org/tag/lita-llama-alcts-stronger-together/ .

My Activities as President

I am continuing many of the activities that were in progress at Midwinter: regular meetings with Jenny Levine (and now also Bohyun Kim); thanking donors; planning and scheduling Board meetings.

Several things that were in process as of my Midwinter report are now completed:
- The Machine Learning IG is now formally in existence.
- Kendra Albert will be my President's Program speaker". Kendra is a lawyer specializing in technology and copyright issues; a Berkman Klein Center affiliate; and a critical legal scholar. They have expertise in library and archival issues as well. Their talk, "The Silences of (Big) Data", promises to be thought-provoking.
- The Board has voted to accept the Forum pricing proposal from FAC.

The education acquisitions editor process is nearing its completion; finalists have been selected and interviews are scheduled. I anticipate that this will be concluded by Annual. Thank you to Kyle Denlinger and Abigail Goben for their work on this, and especially to Catie Sahadath and her project-management skills for running the process.

I've just submitted my fourth (and last!) ITAL column; collectively they were on the past, present, and future of LITA.

However, my original plans for my presidency were knocked on their axis by the small division realignment possibility. The vast majority of my work since Midwinter has gone into that: regular meetings; reading documentation from the divisions; brainstorming about our structures, cultures, and programmatic lines; reading about organizational transitions and transformational leadership; communicating with members about the process. I trust the LITA presidency is an honor, an education, and a surprise for all who serve; it has absolutely been all of those for me.

Travel

In May, I traveled to New York City for a two-day workshop on libraries and privacy hosted by Data & Society. It was gratifying to see numerous LITA members there (including LITA VP Bohyun Kim), not only because it's always a delight to network with our excellent

colleagues, but also because it's wonderful to see them recognized for their expertise in this area.

In August, I will be traveling to Bozeman, where I am serving as an advisor for an MSU-led, IMLS-funded project on algorithmic awareness.

Forum 2018

LITA Forum will be November 8-10; we're returning to Minneapolis, where we had an excellent experience in 2015. Registration will open soon at https://forum.lita.org/ ; please tell everyone!

I specifically charged the committee with creating a "A welcoming, thoughtful conference with hands-on experiences and leadership training." To that end, they have done or are working on things including:

- The programming committee has opened, advertised, and closed the CFP, and is currently sorting through about 100 submissions. The CFP language specifically called out interactivity and the subcommittee is evaluating the proposals accordingly.
- Programming has also secured several invited speakers with expertise in engineering, design, and play who will run hands-on sessions.
- The accessibility and sponsorship subcommittees are working on captioning options; accessibility, web, and local arrangements are working together to document venue accessibility.
- The sponsorship prospectus is up - https://forum.lita.org/sponsors/prospectus/ - and includes both general and targeted opportunities ("caffeine sponsorship", anyone?) Please share this with anyone you think appropriate.
- Sponsorship and conference UX are working on childcare options.
- Programming and the streaming/recording subcommittee are identifying the spaces and programs most amenable to being videotaped.

This committee is doing really incredible work and I think we're going to be putting on a genuinely special experience. I hope to see you all there.

ALA Annual

Thank you to the Program Planning Committee, the Membership Development Committee, our interest groups, and our preconference planning groups for putting together another great slate of upcoming programs at Annual. Highlights include:

- The second AvramCamp, a feminist unconference for women in library technology. This year we're excited to have PLA on board as a cosponsor.
- Preconferences on managing library technology and programming in Python.
- A Wikipedia edit-a-thon, courtesy of our Diversity & Inclusion committee.
- Sessions on integrating accessibility into UX planning; VR, AR, and 3D services; DevOps; cybersecurity; privacy threats in data analytics; AI; cheap and free instructional technology tools; and more.
- This year, the always-engaging Imagineering panel is on gender & sexuality in science fiction, and features Seanan McGuire, Nnedi Okorafor, Jacqueline Carey, and Sherrilyn Kenyon. These authors have collectively won dozens of awards, including multiple Hugos and Nebulas.
- The ever-popular Top Tech Trends.
- Happy Hour, this year at Fulton Alley, a fabulous-looking space featuring games as well as New Orleans food, drink, and hospitality.
- My aforementioned President's Program.

Coming soon

LITA will be having a joint Board session with LLAMA and ALCTS, facilitated by Kathryn Deiss, to allow for trust- and relationship-building and work on our path forward.

And don't forget Forum in November!

324* emails sent & received

14 mailing lists

31 meetings

* Not counting emails on the mailing lists, or the ones I forgot to tag.