

Committee Information Update (CIU)

ALA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC)
Conference Year: 2023-24
Committee Chair: Ed Sanchez
Staff Liaison: Shakir Akbari, Rebecca Headrick, Sherri Vanyek
Committee Members: Stacy Brown (AASL), LaMoya Burks (YALSA), Lilian Calix (Committee Associate), Toby Greenwalt (PLA), Kathy Kosinski (UFL), Charles McAuley (Publications), Chulin Meng, Mary Morgan Ryan, Danielle Shapiro (ALSC), Frank Skornia (CORE), Anne Sleeman (ACRL), Jerry Yarnetsky (RUSA), Steven Yates (Executive Board Liaison), Tao You (Committee Associate)

| Date of meeting(s) | Meeting format (in-person or virtual) | Number of members present | Guest Presenters, Speakers |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 17 January 2024 | Virtual | 11 members | Sam Helmick, Ray Pun |
| 12 December 2023 | Virtual | 6 members | |
| 26 October 2023 | Virtual | 10 members | |
| 25 June 2023 | In person | All members | |

Committee Charge:

- To advise the Association and the ALA Chief Information Technology Officer on the priorities and strategies that promote utilization and continued development of ALA technology products and services.
- To provide oversight for major technology transitions, monitor important industry or technical trends and advise on the development, implementation and monitoring of the ALA technology infrastructure, cybersecurity framework, data governance, disaster recovery and IT internal control practice.
- To advocate for universal access and superior user experience with ALA online content and services.
- To develop, review and recommend to Council policies for the application of information technology products and services, and to provide advice to the ALA Chief Information Technology Officer responsible for implementing such policies and guidelines.
- To make recommendations on the reconciliation of differing strategic plans with a technology component or impact from ALA and its divisions.
- To provide an ongoing channel for member communication by working closely with other units, committees, and offices of the association.

- To participate in the evaluation and testing of technology products and services used by Association members or by the public.

Objectives of the committee for this conference year, including any planned activities:

1. Participate in UX/UI activities for ala.org website redesign.
2. Participate in end-user testing of redesigned ala.org website for standard user and author edit paths.
3. Gather feedback from Divisions on strategic objectives and technology challenges.
4. Collaborate with ALA IT Team for prioritization of member experience improvements in commonly used platforms (nominations process, volunteer applications, and more).
5. Initiate the formation of goals for establishing inclusive naming standards in ALA's technology practice, emphasizing practice refinement, member engagement, and collaboration across ALA vendor relationships.

Describe interactions with other units within ALA:

Synthesis of activities (summarize discussions, decision(s) or motion(s) reached, and note follow-up action(s) required:

In alignment with new charge item *"To advocate for universal access and superior user experience with ALA online content and services."*

- Engagement in Website Project Site UX/UI and Author Testing
In alignment with new charge items *"To make recommendations on the reconciliation of differing strategic plans with a technology component or impact from ALA and its divisions"* and *"To provide an ongoing channel for member communication by working closely with other units, committees, and offices of the association."*
- Established content and format for soliciting information from divisions on the technology challenges, needs, strategies and plans from represented units.
- Shared information with IT Team for synthesis of information available through staff channels to assist ALA IT Team in prioritizing project efforts that address these challenges.

Priorities/recommendations for the upcoming year:

1. Continue active participation in final feedback cycles and launch preparation for ALA.org new release in May 2024
2. Act as new ALA.org website champions for planned launch in May 2024 (posting ALA-crafted messaging on connected channels, whether LinkedIn, Social Media, or other platforms)
3. Continue to gather information from representatives' respective divisions into a single resource for access and alignment with overall technology strategy.

Questions for ITAC Members and their Divisions or Units:

- What technology challenges are you facing right now, or what needs are not being fulfilled? Why do you think these challenges exist?
 - What strategies or plans do you have to address those challenges and/or unmet needs?
 - What is the single most important thing you hope to achieve within this fiscal year?
 - What metrics or key performance indicators (KPIs) do you use to measure the success of your strategic plans?
4. Develop clear objectives on establishing inclusive naming standards in ALA's technology practice, including:

- Introduction to Inclusive Naming: Gain a basic understanding of inclusive naming principles and their relevance to our organization, including acquiring a foundational understanding of inclusive naming principles, its importance, key concepts, and potential impact on promoting and supporting ALA principles of diversity and inclusion.
- Research and Exploration: Explore existing resources and case studies to gather insights into inclusive naming practices.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with member stakeholders to gather perspectives on the importance and application of inclusive naming within our organization.
- Collaboration and Idea Generation: Collaborate among committee members and Division stakeholders to generate ideas and strategies for implementing inclusive naming standards.
- Policy Development: Develop a proposal for an inclusive naming policy tailored to our organization's needs and objectives to bring forth to Council by AC25.
- Beyond Policy Development and Adoption:
 - Implementation Planning: Outline a plan for implementing the inclusive naming policy, including steps, timeline, and resources required.
 - Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the inclusive naming policy post-implementation.

Submitted by: Edward Sanchez, Chair

Date Submitted: 27 February 2024