President's Report

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ALA Annual 2019 (Washington D.C)

A Message from the President

LITA has been always a division that embraces a change. LITA members are known to look for ways to innovate and experiment and create positive changes wherever they go, and we are proud of that tradition. Now, LITA is embarking on a change in order to better support the shifting and evolving needs of library technologists and information professioanls in all career stages and from all organization types, to empower transformation in not only technology but also collections and leadership, and to advocate for access to information for all. This change is being thoughtfully planned out with two other divisions, ALCTS and LLAMA. In this report, you will find updates about this ongoing project, whose outcome will be presented for the membership vote in Spring 2020.

This report also includes some of the exciting new developments and happenings around LITA since the 2019 Midwinter Meeting and updates regarding ALA's efforts for better organizational effectiveness. I hope that this report shows you how our LITA values and common interests connect many LITA members together and continue to move LITA forward and motivates you to find more ways to be involved with LITA.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated LITA Board of Directors, the always fantastic LITA staff, and all LITA leaders and members whose creativity, passion, and energy make LITA thrive. Also, our amazing LITA staff, Mark Beatty, has announced that he would retire after the ALA Annual Conference. Mark joined the LITA staff in 2014 as the Programs and Marketing Specialist. As a long-time library technologist, LITA member, and former LITA president (2007-2008), Mark has brought much experience, insight, and energy helping to support the programs and ongoing activities of the organization. We will miss him dearly and wish him a very happy retirement!

– Bohyun Kim, LITA President 2018-2019

Merger Planning with ALCTS and LLAMA

The Merger Planning Steering Committee of LITA, ALCTS, and LLAMA resumed its discussion after a brief hiatus after the 2019 Midwinter. The LITA board had an extensive discussion about the future direction of LITA at the 2019 Midwinter Meeting at Seattle, WA. The leadership of all three divisions decided to continue the efforts to present the best merger proposal for consideration and the membership vote on the Spring 2020 ballot.

The new Steering committee will be led by the 2019-20 Presidents-elect of three divisions. For more information and future updates, see the ALCTS/LITA/LLAMA Alignment Discussion community at ALA Connect. There will be also the joint board meeting at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C. on Monday June 24. The joint board meeting is open to all. Please join us in mapping our future together!

LITA Forum 2020: Collaborative Experimentation

For the 2020 LITA Forum, LITA will be experimenting with joint programming with ALCTS and LLAMA in order to kickstart our collaboration while the merger planning continues. This will also generate a wider and more interesting range of programs for the Forum. The LITA Board decided to hold the next LITA Forum in Fall 2020, skipping it in 2019. This will allow the LITA leadership to focus their efforts and energy on the time-sensitive merger planning project and help the LITA staff prepare for the move of the ALA headquarter.

I am also happy to report that the LITA Board had an extensive and enthusiastic discussion about adding a virtual component for the future LITA Forum in the future. As a step in this direction, LITA will participate in the joint programming of the second virtual ALCTS Exchange to take place in Spring 2020, along with LLAMA. Once the merger planning is completed, strengthening our virtual offerings will be given priority and a lot more attention. If the membership vote result is in favor of the three-division merger, then the new division will be officially formed in Fall 2020. Then, the planned 2020 LITA Forum may become the first conference of the new division, and the virtual Exchange may well be developed into a fully online conference which complements the physical LITA Forum. There are many possibilities open for us.

LITA thanks all members of the original LITA Forum 2019 committee, who graciously agreed to serve on the LITA Forum 2020 committee. The 2020 Forum committee is chaired by Berika Williams, and the planning is already underway!

LITA Elections

The LITA membership elected new incoming officers: Evviva Weinraub for the President-Elect, Hong Ma and Galen Charlton for Board of Directors at Large, and Jodie Gambill for the

LITA Councilor. Congratulations to all new LITA officers, and we thank everyone who stood for the election!

Led by the incoming LITA President, Emily Morton-Owens, the capable and dedicated LITA leadership will continue to accomplish many great things with energetic and forward-thinking LITA members in coming years. The future of LITA is brighter with these new LITA leaders.

In the Works: LITA Allyship/Bystander Training

Shortly after the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the LITA Board released a statement in Response to Incidents at ALA Midwinter 2019, and decided to commit funds to create and disseminate an online allyship training to address the issues aggressive behavior, racism, and harassment at conferences.

Since then, the LITA staff and the LITA Board of Directors have been closely working together with the ALA office and several other divisions, reviewing multiple options. It is likely that this training will follow the "train-the-trainer" model, in order to generate and expand the pool of allyship trainers who will develop and run the LITA's online allyship training for LITA members.

Our goal is to expand our collective capacity to strengthen active and effective allyship, recognize and undo oppressive behaviors and systems, and promote the practice of cultural humility, which requires ongoing efforts, not just a one-time event. For this reason, we are also working hard to find the training option that will bring the maximum impact over time within the amount of the fund we can afford. Stay tuned for more details to be announced as soon as the final plan is determined.

LITA Award Winners

I would like to highlight the LITA award winners who will be celebrated at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C. and to thank the members of all LITA award committees for their hard work.

The 2019 LITA/Ex Libris Student Writing Award will go to Sharon Han, a Master of Science in Library and Information Science candidate at the University of Illinois School of Information Sciences, for her paper, "Weathering the Twitter Storm: Early Uses of Social Media as a Disaster Response Tool for Public Libraries During Hurricane Sandy," which will be published in the ITAL journal.

Charles McClure and John Price Wilkin were selected as the 2019 winners of the LITA/OCLC Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information

Technology and the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award sponsored by ACRL, ALCTS, LLAMA, and LITA, respectively. Charles McClure is the Francis Eppes Professor of Information Studies in the School of Information and the Director of the Information Use Management and Policy Institute at Florida State University. John Price Wilkin is the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The North Carolina State University Libraries will receive the 2019 LITA/Library Hi Tech Award for Outstanding Communication in Library and Information Technology, which recognizes outstanding individuals or institutions for their long-term contributions to the education of the Library and Information Science technology field and is sponsored by LITA and Emerald Publishing.

See the full list of LITA awards and scholarship at http://www.ala.org/lita/awards.

LITA Highlights at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference

Not-to-be-missed LITA highlights at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C. include the LITA Top Tech Trends program widely known for its insightful overview of emerging technologies, the LITA President's Program with Meredith Broussard, a data journalist and the author of *Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World* (MIT Press, 2018), as the speaker, and the LITA Happy Hour, a lively social gathering of all library technologists and technology-enthusiasts.

The LITA Avram Camp is also preparing for another terrific all-day discussion and activities this year for women and non-binary library technologists to examine the shared challenges, to network, and to support one another.

The LITA Imagineering Interest Group has put together another fantastic program, "Agency, Consent, and Power in Science Fiction and Fantasy," featuring four sci-fi authors, Sarah Gailey, Malka Older, John Scalzi, and Martha Wells.

The fabulous LITA Membership Development Committee has also prepared a virtual LITA Conference Kickoff recording for those who are newly attending the ALA Annual Conference. In this 10-min recording, the LITA Member Development Committee members and other LITA members talk about LITA activities at the upcoming ALA Annual 2019 conference. They will describe ways you can meet LITA leaders, committee chairs, and interest group participants; build professional connections; and share your knowledge and ideas about current issues in library technology while in Washington, DC.

There are also many LITA sessions at the conference sessions focused on library technology. Make sure to check them out at the ALA Conference Scheduler and take a look at the more detailed LITA Highlights list, and we look forward to seeing you all at the LITA Happy Hour on Sunday, June 23!

LITA Education, *ITAL*, and Publications

LITA offers a number of learning opportunities throughout the year from webinars and Web Courses to pre-conferences at the ALA Annual Conference. During 2018-2019, LITA offered 8 webinars and 4 online courses. At the 2019 ALA Annual Conference, three pre-conferences - Beginning Git and GitHub, Metadata Management Tools, and the LITA Avram Camp – will also take place.

With the editor, Ken Varnum, the editorial board of *Information Technology and Libraries*, the official journal of LITA, has been putting out high-quality issues focusing on a wide range of topics from web preservation to artificial intelligence. Make sure to check out the new issue to come out soon this summer!

During 2018-2019, four more titles have been also added to the LITA Guide series.

- *Library Technology Planning for Today and Tomorrow: A LITA Guide*
  Diana Silveira (2018)
- *Marketing with Social Media: A LITA Guide, Second Edition*
  Edited by Beth C. Thomsett-Scott (2019)
- *New Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know: A LITA Guide*
  Edited by Kenneth J. Varnum (2019)
- *Tech for All: Moving beyond the Digital Divide*
  Edited by Lauren Comito (February 2019)

If you are thinking about giving a webinar, an online course, or writing a book on library technology, you should do so with LITA! LITA webinars and online courses are also an excellent venue for outreach to disseminate the outcome of a successful grant project as they reach a large number of people in the information profession in all types of libraries.

LITA thanks all members of the Education Committee, the Publications Committee, and the ITAL Editorial Board for their hard work. Consider sharing your experience and knowledge with LITA! The proposal forms are below.

- LITA Webinar/Online Course Proposal Form
- LITA Guides - Book Proposal Form

Around ALA

As usual, many things are happening around ALA. In this report, I would like to draw your attention to the work of ALA SCOE (Special Committee on Organizational Effectiveness). SCOE was created with the charge of developing and recommending strategies and tactics to create an ALA with the agility to respond to current challenges and opportunities, and to

focus energy and resources on its mission and members in the decades to come. Their preliminary recommendations were published on June 8, 2019 and are available at https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=826872f5-c1cd-4ede-bb97-63567329e05e&forceDialog=0.

The recommendations include a streamlined governance model with the ALA Executive Board as a decision-making body with the input from three leadership assemblies from divisions, roundtables, and chapters, three committees on policy, finance and audit, and nominating and leadership development, and additional volunteer engagement groups. In their recommendations, divisions are envisioned to provide content expertise for the ALA Executive Board and to offer an effective path to leadership and engagement for members.

Stay tuned for discussions about these recommendations at the 2019 Annual Conference and beyond. With its merger planning with ALCTS and LLAMA, LITA is already fully engaged in the division consolidation and realignment efforts within ALA, and the LITA Board will continue to pay close attention to the developments in this area.