

Welcome to the first issue of *Information Technology and Libraries (ITAL)* as an open-access, e-only publication. As announced to LITA members in early January, this change in publishing model will help ensure the long-term viability of *ITAL* by making it more accessible, more current, more relevant, and more environmentally friendly. *ITAL* will continue to feature high-quality articles that have undergone a rigorous peer-review process, but it will also begin expanding content to include more case studies, commentary, and information about topics and trends of interest to the LITA community and beyond. Look for a new scope statement for *ITAL* shortly.

We're pleased to include in this issue the winning paper from the 2011 LITA/Ex Libris Student Writing Award contest, Abigail McDermott's overview on copyright law. We also have two lengthier-than-usual studies on library discovery services. The first, Jason Vaughan's overview of his library's investigations into web-scale discovery options, was accepted for publication more than a year ago, but due to its length did not make it into "print" until now, since we no longer face the constraints associated with the production of a print journal. The second study, by Jody Condit Fagan and colleagues at James Madison University, focuses on discovery-tool usability. Jimmy Ghaphery and Erin White provide a timely overview of the results of their surveys on the use and management of web-based research guides. Tomasz Neugebauer and Bin Han offer a strategy and workflow for batch importing electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) into an EPrints repository.

With the first open-access, e-only issue launched, our attention will be turned to updating and improving the *ITAL* website and expanding the back content available. Our goal is to have all of the back issues of both *ITAL* and its predecessor, *Journal of Library Automation (JOLA)*, openly available from the *ITAL* site. We'll also be exploring ways to better integrate the *ITALica* blog and the *ITAL* preprints site with the main site. Suggestions and feedback are welcome, at the e-mail address below.

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