Editor's Comments

Bob Gerrity

G'day, mates, and welcome to our third open-access issue. *ITAL* takes on an additional international dimension with this issue, as your faithful editor has taken up residence Down Under, in sunny Queensland, Australia.

The recent ALA Annual Meeting in Anaheim marked some changes to the *ITAL* Editorial Board that I'd like to highlight. Cynthia Porter and Judith Carter are ending their tenure with *ITAL* after many years of service. Cynthia is featured in this month's Editorial Board Thoughts column, offering her perspective on library technology past and present. Judith Carter ends a long run with *ITAL* as Managing Editor, and I thank her for her years of dedicated service. Ed Tallent, Director of Levin Library at Curry College, is the incoming Managing Editor. We also welcome two new members of the Editorial Board: Brad Eden, the Dean of Library Services and Professor of Library Science at Valparaiso University, and Jerome Yavarkovsky, former University Librarian at Boston College, and the 2004 recipient of ALA's Hugh C. Atkinson Award. Jerome currently co-chairs the Library Technology Working Group at The MediaGrid Immersive Education Initiative.

We cover a broad range of topics in this issue. Ian Chan, Pearl Ly, and Yvonne Meulemans describe the implementation of the open-source instant messaging (IM) network Openfire at California State University San Marcos, in supporting of the integration of chat reference and internal library communications. Richard Gartner explores the use of the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS) as an alternative to the Fedora Content Model (FCM) for an "intermediary" digital-library schema. Emily Morton and Karen Hanson present an innovative approach to creating a management dashboard of key library statistics. Kate Pittsley and Sara Memmott describe navigational improvements made to LibGuides at Eastern Michigan University. Bojana Surla reports on the development of a platform-independent, Java-based MARC editor. Yongming Wang and Trevor Dawes delve into the need for next-generation integrated library systems and early initiatives in that space. Melanie Schlosser and Brian Stamper begin to explore the effects of reposting library digital collections on Flickr.

In addition to the compelling new content in this issue of *ITAL*, we have compelling old content from the print archive of *ITAL* and its predecessor, *Journal of Library Automation (JOLA)*, that will soon be available online, thanks in large to the work of Andy Boze and colleagues at the University of Notre Dame. Scans of all of the back issues have now been deposited onto the server that currently hosts *ITAL*, and will be processed and published online over the coming months.

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