

---

Welcome to the June 2019 issue of *ITAL*. You'll likely notice a new look to the journal when you read this issue's content. Our helpful and supportive partners at Boston College, where *Information Technologies and Libraries* is archived, have updated the journal's content management system to the current version of Open Journal Systems. I am grateful to John O'Connor at Boston College for his patience with and quick, helpful responses to my numerous questions as we adapted to the new user interface and editorial workflows.

Columns in this issue include Bohyun Kim's final "[President's Message](#)" as her term concludes, summarizing the work that has gone into the planned division merger that would combine LITA, ALCTS, and LLAMA. Editorial Board member Cinthya Ippoliti discusses the role of libraries in fostering digital pedagogy in her "[Editorial Board Thoughts](#)" column. And, in the second of our new "[Public Libraries Leading the Way](#)" column, Jeffrey Davis discusses the technologies and advantages of digital pass systems.

Peer-reviewed articles in this issue include:

- "[No Need to Ask: Creating Permissionless Blockchains of Metadata Records](#)," by Dejah Rubel, laying a path for using blockchain for managing metadata.
- "[50 years of ITAL/JLA: A Bibliometric Study of Its Major Influences, Themes, and Interdisciplinarity](#)," by Brady Lund, a thorough study of how our journal has influenced, and been influenced by, other leading information technology journals.
- "[Weathering the Twitter Storm: Early Uses of Social Media as a Disaster Response Tool for Public Libraries During Hurricane Sandy](#)," by Sharon Han. This article is the 2019 LITA/Ex Libris Student Writing Award-winning paper.
- "[Good Night, Good Day, Good Luck: Applying Topic Modeling to Chat Reference Transcripts](#)," by Megan Ozeran and Piper Martin, describing a process to categorize chat reference themes using topic mapping software.
- "[Information Security in Libraries: Examining the Effects of Knowledge Transfer](#)," by Tonia San Nicolas-Rocca and Richard J Burkhard, investigating the importance of knowledge transfer across an organization to enhance information security behaviors.
- "[Wikidata: From 'An' Identifier to 'The' Identifier](#)," by Theo van Veen, describing how libraries could use Wikidata as a source of linked open data.

Thank you to this issue's authors, and all of *Information Technology and Libraries'* readers for supporting peer-reviewed, open-access, scholarly publishing.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board whose terms are ending June 30: Patrick "Tod" Colegrove, Joseph Deodato, Richard Guajardo, and Frank Cervone. I'm grateful to these four individuals, upon whom I've relied for their excellent advice and guidance in steering *ITAL's* course. We are in the process of appointing new Editorial Board members with two-year terms starting on July 1, and I'll introduce them in the next issue.

Kenneth J. Varnum, Editor

[varnum@umich.edu](mailto:varnum@umich.edu)

June 2019

