

President's Message: The End and New Beginnings

Michelle Frisque

As I write this last column, the song "My Way" by Frank Sinatra keeps going through my head. While this is definitely not my final curtain, it is the final curtain of my presidency. Like Sinatra I have a few regrets, "but then again, too few to mention." There was so much more I wanted to accomplish this year; however, as usual, my plans were more ambitious than the time I had available. Being LITA's president was a big part of my life, but it was not the only part. Those other parts—like family, friends, work, and school—demanded my attention as well.

I have thought about what to say in this final column. Do I list my accomplishments of the last year? Nah, you can read all about that in the LITA Annual Report, which I will post in June. Tackle some controversial topic? While I can think of a few, I have not yet thought of any solutions, and I do not want to rant against something without proposing some type of solution or plan of attack. I thought instead I would talk about where I have devoted a large part of my LITA time over the last year.

As I look back at the last year, I am also thinking ahead to the future of LITA. We are currently writing LITA's Strategic Plan. We have a lot of great ideas to work with. LITA members are always willing to share their thoughts both formally and informally. I have been charged with the task of taking all of those great ideas, gathered at conferences, board meetings, hallway conversations, surveys, e-mail, etc., to create a roadmap for the future. After reviewing all of the ideas gathered over the last three years, I was able to narrow that list down to six major goal areas. With the assistance of the LITA board of directors and the LITA Executive Committee, we whittled the list down to five major goal areas of the LITA Strategic Plan:

1. *Training and continuing education:* LITA will be nationally recognized as the leading source for con-

tinuing education opportunities for library information technologists and all library staff who have an interest in technology.

2. *Innovation:* To serve the library community, LITA expert members will identify and demonstrate the value of new and existing technologies within ALA and beyond.
3. *Advocacy and policy:* LITA will advocate for and participate in the adoption of legislation, policies, technologies, and standards that promote equitable access to information and technology.
4. *The organization:* LITA will have a solid structure to support its members in accomplishing its mission, vision, and strategic plan.
5. *Collaboration and outreach:* LITA will reach out and collaborate with other library organizations to increase the awareness of the importance of technology in libraries, improve services to existing members, and reach out to new members.

The LITA Executive Committee is currently finalizing the strategies LITA will pursue to achieve success in each of the goal areas. It is my hope that the strategies for each goal are approved by the LITA board of directors before the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. That way the finalized version of the LITA Strategic Plan can be introduced to the Committee and Interest Group Chairs and the membership as a whole at that conference. This will allow us to start the next fiscal year with a clear road for the future.

While I am excited about what is next, I have also been dreading the end of my presidency. I have truly enjoyed my experience as LITA president, and in some way wish it was not about to end. I have learned so much and have met so many wonderful people. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you and for your support. I have truly appreciated it.

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