

LITA President's Midwinter Report January 2020

To the LITA Board:

Here are some of the highlights and important actions for the year so far. Much of the discussion this year has revolved around the Core effort and ways we can be prepared to integrate ongoing LITA activities into Core or anticipate certain collaborations for events that are already being planned.

1. Ongoing meetings: In addition to our scheduled board meetings, I have met regularly with Jenny and biweekly with Jennifer Bowen (ALCTS) and Anne Cooper Moore (LLAMA).
2. Midwinter 2020: After a board vote, I announced our decision that LITA will step back from some activities at Midwinter, in recognition that we want to limit barriers to participation, and in anticipation of ALA's changes to the purpose of the meeting. We will debrief the results of this decision at a post-Midwinter board meeting.
3. Planning for President's Program at Annual 2020: One of the main items for ongoing discussion between me, Jennifer, and Anne has been a joint President's Program. Jennifer had appointed a committee to manage an ALCTS program before we agreed to do it jointly, so the planning has been led by former ALCTS president Cynthia Whitacre; LITA representatives are Carli Spina and Melissa Stoner. We are very pleased that Meredith Clark of UVA has agreed to be our speaker. The topic will be chosen by her, but our suggested theme was around libraries' role in capturing and preserving controversial and turning-point events. The committee is also planning a panel discussion for the following day to include librarians who have been on the scene of such events.
4. Other joint plans: Members from the three divisions have been planning the online Exchange for spring and in-person Forum for fall together. This has been a great preview of what working together could look like, but it has also been extra work that we agree is unsustainable if the merger does not go forward formally. Members of ALCTS and LLAMA may also join the planning of AvramCamp for 2020. However, we decided not to attempt a joint Emerging Leaders project since it seemed difficult to frame an assignment in a way that wouldn't require the participants to have an unreasonably sophisticated understanding of the governance of all three divisions as well as that of Core, which would be coming together simultaneously with their term.
5. Selection of Blog Editor and eLearning Coordinator: A group of past-chairs of relevant committees (Cynthia Ippoliti, Joel Tonyan, Robert Wilson) solicited and evaluated applications for these two positions, resulting in the appointment of [Jessica Gilbert Redman](#) as Blog Editor and [Kira Litvin](#) as eLearning Coordinator.

6. Education: With both the eLearning Coordinator and Education Acquisitions Editor now in place, we are finally in a good place to relaunch our online education efforts, and it's essential that we do so as quickly as possible, for both financial and member-value reasons.
7. ITAL Columns
[Sustaining LITA](#) - vol. 38, no. 3
[Joining together](#) - vol. 38, no. 4
8. Core Town Halls: I spoke with Anne and Jennifer at one of the Town Halls, and attended several of the others.
9. Emerging Leaders: We were lucky to be matched with our top picks for this year's Emerging Leaders cohort. Our project was also selected, with Margaret Heller as member guide. The topic is to build on ALA's sustainability resolution with specific analysis and plans for division activities. This can be based on LITA but it's also an auspicious time to make suggestions that could apply to Core in the future.
10. Committee Chairs Coordinator: Kelly Sattler has talked to LITA staff members Jenny Levine and Chrishelle Thomas about ways to check in with the chairs through the year. This would make a good topic for Midwinter discussion and a post-meeting check-in, since we've cancelled the in-person chairs meeting for Midwinter 2020.
11. Bystander Training: Our first cohort of future member-trainers did the initial Bystander Training in November. Our next step will be to schedule additional trainings, available to members, but this was not feasible to get on the calendar before Midwinter.
12. Leadership cohort idea: At our October board meeting, we discussed the idea of a cohort-based leadership program for library technology workers, on the model of the AAHSL program. While the board expressed enthusiasm about the idea, the Heads of Library Technology interest group isn't currently active enough to support such an official program. LLAMA has a technology section that might have interested members, but the middle of merger planning didn't seem like an auspicious time to try to coordinate something like this. I'm noting this in the hope we can resume deliberations on this topic in 2021!
13. Thank you notes: Cards have gone out to our donors. Thanks to the Fundraising Committee, LITA staff, and everyone who contributed.

It has been a pleasure to work with the staff, board, and membership so far this year. I welcome members to contact me at egmowens.lita@gmail.com as we enter a key phase of our discussions about becoming Core.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily G. Morton-Owens