Alma Implementation, Year 1
On July 3, 2018 Harvard Library began its journey in production with the library services platform, Alma. Significant efforts (14 working groups of over 100 staff and more than 50 staff trainers) across the libraries and Library Technology Services well over the course of 18 months paved the way for data migration, workflow development, documentation, and training to support this landmark achievement. Over the past year, staff have continued to learn the system, review system functionality, offering suggestions for how the system could be enhanced for improved throughput. All major activities were functional on Day One. Staff continue to adjust, share tips, and develop best practices for how to leverage Alma.

Focus on Identity Management
As Harvard Library metadata practitioners have continued to deepen their expertise with identity management practices in ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier), a focus in the past year has also been to develop identity management training materials and support for the external metadata community. Primarily promoted through avenues in the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, Harvard metadata staff wrapped up the PCC ISNI Pilot at the end of calendar year 2018 where twelve PCC libraries began working in the ISNI platform for creation and enrichment of unique identifiers; now, we are beginning to extend ISNI training to an additional group of 10 libraries in the LD4P cohort.

Harvard’s own ISNI work has centered around stewarding ISNIs for Harvard faculty, enhancing faculty recognition on the open web. Thus far, faculty in the Harvard Graduate School of Design and Harvard Kennedy School of Government have had ISNIs created or enhanced resulting in identifiers that can be used in the schools’ research information systems and in Harvard’s institutional repository, DASH. Explorations are underway with university technical staff to embed ISNIs in university systems to enable more effective collocation of faculty scholarly outputs. Staff have outlined a plan to work next with the Harvard Graduate School of Education, using this project to experiment with batch tools within Wikidata as a complement to ISNI.

Cataloging support for Harvard Faculty scholarly articles output (DASH)
DASH (Digital Access to Scholarship at Harvard) is Harvard’s central, open-access repository for research by Harvard community members. Staff from Acquisitions and Metadata Creation have taken a metadata support role to enhance access to Harvard content stored in the institution’s repository as part of the ingest workflow for new content submissions. Metadata Management staff have begun to collaborate with the Office of Scholarly Communications to explore the use of ISNI and Wikidata to manage DASH researcher identities and better expose DASH collections on the web.
Support for Research Data Management
Harvard Library is collaborating with the Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) to support the submission process for data sets into Harvard’s Dataverse, an open source research data repository. Staff from Acquisitions, Electronic Resources, Administrative Support, and Metadata Creation embarked on a pilot program to help the Library determine the skillset and type of service we could support as the level of interest and userbase for Dataverse and other research data management repositories expands.

Linked Data

• For Production
Led by Stanford University Libraries, Harvard Library joins Stanford, Cornell University Library, the University of Iowa, and the Library of Congress in the Mellon-funded Linked Data for Production: Pathway to Implementation (LD4P2) project to begin the “implementation phase of the cataloging community’s shift to linked data for the creation and manipulation of their metadata.” Harvard staff have explored linked data identity management through Wikidata and ISNI, completed trainings and other foundational efforts to prepare for the LD4P2 linked data editor toolkit, Sinopia, currently under development through the grant. Harvard staff participated in planning and presenting at the LD4 conference, held at the Harvard Medical School campus.

• Tools
Harvard Library staff participated in OCLC’s Project Passage, reviewing their Linked Data Wikibase Prototype “to demonstrate the value of linked data for improving resource-description workflows in libraries” using an instance of the open-source platform that underlies Wikidata. The staff were excited by the opportunity to apply their linked data training in a practical, concrete setting while providing feedback that they saw reflected in each product update and in the forthcoming OCLC Research Report.

• Sources
Over the past year, staff explored the potential of Wikidata. A number of them attended Wikicite 2018, presented at WikiConference North America 2018, participated in a Wikidata workshop hosted by Harvard, and piloted internal training for Harvard metadata librarians. Part of Harvard Library’s work in the LD4P grant is targeted at leveraging and contributing to structured data in Wikidata in support of specific underserved collections, as well as defining Sinopia lookups for selecting Wikidata identifiers for general use in BIBFRAME descriptions.

WorldCat
As a consequence of changing library system platforms, routines for batch submission of library holdings into WorldCat were interrupted. However, holdings for records for titles receiving original cataloging
have been set as a natural outcome of completing this cataloging in Connexion. Harvard Library is close to beginning a reclamation project which will include significant consolidation of library symbols. Once that work is complete, the two databases can be in ‘datasync’.

**New Leadership**
Martha Whitehead began June 1, 2019 as the Vice President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian and the Roy E. Larsen Librarian for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

In technical services, Amy Dittman began her role as the Head of Electronic Resources and Serials Acquisitions in December 2019.