

TO: LITA Board of Directors

TOPIC: President's Report

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: Report

SUBMITTED BY: Bohyun Kim, LITA President

DATE: January 22, 2019

1. Selected and Confirmed the Speaker for the LITA President's Program at the 2019 Annual Conference

- Meredith Broussard, the author of Artificial Unintelligence, has been confirmed as the LITA President's Program speaker at the 2019 Annual Conference.
- <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/artificial-unintelligence>

2. Attended 2019 LITA Forum at Minneapolis, MN

- Attended the 2019 LITA Forum and the Forum committee wrap-up meeting.
- The 2019 LITA Forum has been on hold due to the intense weekly merger discussion and related work by the ALCTS/LLAMA/LITA Steering Committee. We had tentatively planned for holding it in 2020 as a joint forum. However, this will need to be revisited as the merger discussion took a new turn on 1/21/2019, and the merger ballot is now officially on hold and will not proceed. *(See more below at 7/8/9.)*

3. Contributed the LITA President's Column for the ITAL Journal

- Vol 37, No 4 (2018)
[President's Message: Imagination and Structure in Times of Change](#)
- Vol 37, No 3 (2018)
[President's Message: Rebuilding Our Identity, Together](#)

4. LITA Board Meetings

- I scheduled and ran three LITA Board meetings so far during my term.
 - July 20, 2018
 - Oct 31, 2018
 - Jan 16, 2019 & LITA Board vote regarding some ALCTS/LITA/LLAMA merger-related decision items.

5. Submitted a LITA candidate recommendation for the ALA ED Search Committee for two Division Representatives and voted along with other ALA division presidents.

- Division Presidents met online to discuss selection on 1/15/2019.
- The votes have been cast. Hoping to find out the selection at the 2019 MW.

6. Thanking ALL LITA Donors!

- Wrote and sent hand-written thank-you cards for all donors to LITA.
- Many folks on the LITA Board also gave to LITA. Thank you!!!

7. LITA/ALCTS/LLAMA Merger Discussion from right after the 2018 Midwinter to 1/20/2019

- Attended and participated in the weekly meeting of the ALCTS/LITA/LLAMA steering committee (SC) meeting, which resulted in the mission/vision/values/guiding principles of the new division and the project draft plan.
- Chaired the Operations Working Group, which produced two versions of the Operations WG report with recommendations.
- Worked with President-elect, Past-President, and Executive Director to create a letter to the SC that outlines LITA concerns and proposals on 1/08/2019. The letter was shared with the LITA board.
- Updated the LITA Board about all developments at the SC at the board meeting 1/16/2019, created two votes to decide on the merger-related items to best represent the LITA interests on the SC, wrote the due process proposal to the SC, and finalized with the collective input from the LITA board.
- Presented the voting result from the LITA board and the due process proposal to the SC on 1/20/2019.
 - LITA expressed its willingness to be on board with the single ballot, putting it for the timeline LLAMA prefers, the two-level structure with networks/IGs, going with ALLTC as a final name if the MW doesn't bring any surprise in 10 days, etc.
 - LITA also informed the SC that the LITA board will support the merger regardless of the LITA's preference on the new division presidency model and the President-Elect election.
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8. Updates on the Merger Discussion on 1/22/2019 & for the Board Meetings at 2019 MW

Due to the lack of time required, the merger ballot on the 2019 Spring has been put on hold. The SC will re-group at a later time for further discussion.

- The SC agreed on the following.
 - **No joint board meeting at the MW.**
 - **No joint town hall meeting at the MW.**

9. Topics for Some Further Discussion

Over the last 3-4 years, the LITA Board has been paying close attention to the financial situation of LITA and its future sustainability. We have been making some positive changes with the formation of the FAC and other initiatives, which I believe was a step forward in the right direction. However, for understandable reasons, the beginning of the merger discussion has short-circuited that discussion and put that on the back burner.

With the merger vote on hold at this point and with all the new lessons we have learned in the last two years, I think that now may be a good time for LITA to revisit that discussion. Perhaps LITA should consider downsizing with a smaller but stronger set of activities. Maybe LITA should re-visit

how to build upon the personas work or think about what differentiates LITA from other many tech associations outside of LITA: (i) what LITA's distinctive attractions may be in comparison to them; (ii) how to strengthen those attractions. Also, if we merge with another division, what would be our priorities to retain and what would be things we can negotiate or compromise to make the merger to take place? How would we continue to serve the interests of people in library technology whether LITA exists as a separate division or not?

I suggest the LITA Board consider these questions and discuss at the Midwinter and continue this through the 2019 Annual. It is my belief that considering the brilliant minds of the current and (undoubtedly future) LITA board members, all problems are solvable.