

Farewell 2020

Kenneth J. Varnum

I don't think I've ever been so ready to see a year in the rear-view mirror as I am with 2020. This year is one I'd just as soon not repeat, although I nurture a small flame of hope. Hope that as a society what we have experienced this year will exert a positive influence on the future. Hope that we recall the critical importance of facts and evidence. Hope that we don't drop the effort to be better members of our local, national, and global communities and treat everyone equitably. Hope that as a global populace we continue to get into "good trouble" and push back against institutionalized policies and practices of racism and discrimination and strive to be better.

Despite the myriad challenges this year has brought, it is welcome to see so many libraries continuing to serve their communities, adapting to pandemic restrictions, and providing new and modified access to books and digital information. And equally gratifying, from my perspective as ITAL's editor, is that so many library technologists continue to generously share what they have learned through submissions to this journal.

Along those lines, I'm extending my annual invitation to our **public library colleagues** to propose a contribution to our quarterly column, "[Public Libraries Leading the Way](#)." Items in this series highlight a technology-based innovation from a public library perspective. Topics we are interested in could include any way that technologies have helped you provide or innovate service to your communities during the pandemic, but could touch on any novel, interesting, or promising use of technology in a public library setting. Columns should be in the 1,000-1,500 word range and may include illustrations. These are not intended to be research articles. Rather, Public Libraries Leading the Way columns are meant to share practical experience with technology development or uses within the library. If you are interested in contributing a column, please submit a [brief summary of your idea](#).

Wishing you the best for 2021,

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