

Letter from the Editors

Kenneth J. Varnum and Joanna DiPasquale

The September issue marks Joanna DiPasquale's first as the journal's Assistant Editor (see [last issue's letter](#) for a brief biography). As we start to work together on this first issue under our joint oversight, we have been thinking about how artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the world of libraries, publishing, and basically every part of our professions. We've noted an increase in articles focused on AI (and are publishing several in this issue). With AI in mind, we are starting to plan a special issue for mid-2026 focused on AI-powered research assistants in library tools. We'll be sharing more details in October.

IN THIS ISSUE

The [September 2025](#) issue contains the following peer-reviewed articles:

- [Unlocking the Digitized Historical Newspaper Archive: Exploring Historical Insights with Deep Learning](#), by Vincent Wai-Yip Lum and Michael Kin-Fu Yip describes a project to utilize historical newspapers through the application of computer vision and machine/deep learning to extract the headlines and illustrations from newspapers for storytelling.
- [The Invisible Default: Examining Representation in Digital Collections](#), by Kaylee P. Alexander, Dorothy Terry, Jasmine Kirby, Rachel Jane Wittmann, and Anna Neatrou investigates the representation of race and ethnicity within the J. Willard Marriott Digital Library at the University of Utah and introduces a novel approach to metadata analysis that may guide future digital collection initiatives toward enhanced diversity and inclusion.
- [Finding Aids Unleashed: Iterative Development of a Portable Publication System](#), by Deb Verhoff, Joseph G. Pawletko, Donald R. Mennerich, and Laura Henze, describes a redesign for their finding aids publishing service to replace an outdated XSLT stylesheet publishing method and presents the overall systems design for the suite of microservices used to automate and scale this process.
- [From Weberian Rationalization to JavaScript Components: Modularism in Academic Library Software](#), by Mark E. Eaton, considers modular approaches to building library software and situates these practices within the context of the rationalizing logics of modern programming.
- [MAPping out the Future from the Past](#), by Teresa K. Hebron, traces the history of Mountain West Digital Library's metadata application profile, compares five published standards to date, and focuses primarily on decisions and changes made in the most recent version, published in early 2020.
- [Using Springshare's LibCal to Move Librarians off the Reference Desk](#), by Karen Munro, provides a practical case study in implementing a service model change, with emphasis on how the library adapted LibCal to support the service to serve librarians and students.

This issue also has our regular contributed columns:

- *From the Field:* [Uncovering the Works by Early Modern Women Printers: An Experiment with Generative AI](#), by Tang (Cindy) Tian and Daniela Rovida, presents a project that uses ChatGPT-4o to identify contributions of women to the printing trade during the hand press era.
- *ITAL & ...:* [Free Online Graphic Design Software: Canva versus Adobe Express](#), by Jess Barth, compares two free online graphic design programs to help choose one over the other.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE JOURNAL

We invite all readers to contribute to the journal. If you are involved in any aspect of libraries—we consider this an inclusive scope, including cultural memory institutions such as museums, archives, and more—we welcome submissions for peer-reviewed articles or communications. *Information Technology and Libraries* is proud to be diamond open access—that is, it is free to read for all, charges no article processing fees to authors or their institutions, and content is published under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#). Want to know more? See our [Call for Submissions](#). If you have questions or wish to propose a topic, get in touch!

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