Letter from the Editor

Kenneth J. Varnum

I am excited to have been appointed Editor of *Information Technology and Libraries* as the journal enters its 50th year. Originally published as the *Journal of Library Automation*, ITAL has a long history of tracking the rapid-fire changes in technology as it relates to libraries. Much as it has over the past 50 years, technology will continue to change not just the way libraries offer services to their communities, but the way we conceptualize what it is we do. If past is prologue, I have no doubt the next decades will continue to amaze, probably in ways even the most adventurous trend-forecaster won't get quite right.

In the context of the rapid change in how we do our work, what we do will remain the same: collecting, preserving, and providing access to the information and artefacts of our culture, whatever that may be. I would like ITAL to grow and expand, while keeping its core essence the same. That core is high-quality, relevant, and informative articles, reviewed by our peers, and made available to the world. But I think there is more we can do for LITA and the library technology profession by expanding the scope and impact of the journal through seeking and soliciting articles from a wider range of librarians, adding more case studies to the research articles that are at the journal's core, and being more rapidly responsive to the evolving technology landscape in front of us.

To that end, I invite you to think broadly about researching, documenting, and describing the technology-related work you do so that others can learn about it. I welcome questions about how your project might fit into ITAL, and look forward to working with you.

I'd like to close by extending my thanks to Bob Gerrity, who served as *ITAL*'s editor for the past 6 years and stewarded the journal's transition to an open access publication. I am grateful for his service to ITAL, LITA, and the profession.

Sincerely,

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