Letter from the Editor

Kenneth J. Varnum

Earlier this fall, I had the privilege of participating in the Sharjah Library Conference, a three-day event hosted by the Sharjah Book Authority in the United Arab Emirates with programming coordinated by the ALA International Relations Office. The experience of meeting with so many librarians from cultures different from my own was truly rewarding and enriching. It was both refreshing and invigorating to see, first-hand, the global importance of the local matters that occupy so much of my professional life. I returned to my regular job with a newfound appreciation for how much the issues I spend so much of my professional time on—information access, equity, user experience, and the like—are universal. It is easy to get lost in the weeds of my own circumstances and environment, and sometimes difficult to look up and explore what colleagues, known and unknown, are doing and thinking.

The experience reinforces the importance of important open access publications such as *Information Technology and Libraries*. While "open access" doesn't remove every possible barrier to accessing the knowledge, experience, and lessons contained within in its virtual cover, it does remove the all-important paywall. And that is no small thing, in a community of library technologists who interact and exchange information through social media, email, and other tools. Our open access status gives this journal a vibrant platform for sharing knowledge, experience, and expertise to all who seek it.

I hope you find this issue's contents useful and informative, and will share the items you find most important with your peers at your institutions and beyond. I invite you to add your own knowledge and experience to our collective wisdom through a contribution to the journal. For more details, see the About the Journal page or get in touch with me.

Sincerely,
Kenneth J. Varnum, Editor
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