

# Letter from the Editor

## The Core Question

*Kenneth J. Varnum*

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As I write this, the members of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), and LITA are voting to merge into a new consolidated division, [Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures](#).

This **merger is essential** to the continuing activities that we library technologists rely on. The LITA Board has indicated that if the merger does not go through, LITA will be forced to dissolve over the coming year.

The merger will enrich LITA members' opportunities. LITA has long focused on the library technology practitioner. That has been our core competency, born of a time when technology was the new thing in libraries. We technologists know—the entire information profession knows—that technology is no longer an addition to a library, but is the way society operates, for a huge portion of our work and life. Core reflects this evolutionary change. Similar evolutions have taken place in technical services and collections development areas; those functions have been forever changed by the wave of technologies that we have implemented over the past half century.

Core brings together the practitioners and technologies that make libraries run, and combines them with the library leadership areas that many of us aspire to, or end up taking on, as our careers develop. When I joined LITA over a decade ago, I was myself moving from “doer” to “manager.” Now that my role is largely project and personnel management, the skills and conversations I seek for personal growth are often found in other parts of ALA, and beyond. Yet, the focus—the core, if I may—of what I do is still in the center of the Venn diagram of technology, people, and data.

I voted to support Core and hope that all of you who belong to LITA, ALCTS, and/or LLAMA, will do the same.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Varnum, Editor

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