Letter from the Editors

Kenneth J. Varnum and Marisha C. Kelly

Welcome to the first issue of 2024. A summary of the issue's contents is below, but we wanted to provide several updates about work being completed by the Editorial Board behind the scenes.

First, we are excited to share our updated mission, purpose, and audience statement, which can be found at the top of the [About the Journal](#) page. The journal's mission is defined as:

> As a peer-reviewed, open-access journal of ALA's Core Division, *ITAL* embraces the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. *ITAL* provides a trusted platform through which scholars, students, educators, practitioners, and professionals in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAM) and information science communities exchange knowledge, ideas, and expertise that drives innovation and excellence in technology implementation in these domains.

The updated mission statement highlights the breadth of ITAL's desired readership and actual author community. Being open access ensures that contributors have the greatest possible reach and influence. Because we charge no fees to authors for peer review or publishing positively reviewed articles, we strive to be as inclusive as possible in our contributor pool.

Second, we will soon be announcing a call for proposals for our new quarterly column, "Notes from the Field," which will focus on **immediate, timely** reports on ways in which libraries are responding to a new idea, challenge, or opportunity. Please watch for more details later this spring.

Finally, in April we will be issuing a call for volunteers to ALA Core members to join the ITAL Editorial Board for a two-year term starting July 1, 2024. Details will be shared via the ALA Core member listserv. If you are a member of Core and are interested, please review the [Editorial Board member job description](#) and keep an eye out for the call for volunteers.

In this Issue

Our regular Public Libraries Leading the Way column is "[How Libraries Can Foster a Vibrant Local Music Community](#)," by Joshua Smith of the New Orleans Public Library. This essay highlights how libraries can add value to both their digital offerings and programming while providing local music artists with a curated, low-barrier entrance into streaming media.

Peer-reviewed articles in the current issue are listed here:

- "[Overview of Library Automation System in South Sulawesi Libraries](#)," by Taufiq Mathar and Ismaya, provides an analysis of no- and low-cost ILS tools in Indonesia.
- "[Exploring the Impact of the Gamified Metaverse on Knowledge Acquisition and Library Anxiety in Academic Libraries](#)," by Pradorn Sureephong, Suepphong Chernbumroong, Supicha Niemsup, Pipitton Homla, Kannikar Intawong, and Kitti Puritat. This article compares the effectiveness of a traditional library program with a Metaverse-based library program in terms of knowledge acquisition and library anxiety.

- "[Hidden Inequities of Access: Document Accessibility in an Aggregated Database](#)," by Amanda Hovious and Congwen Wang, explores the important topic of the accessibility of HTML and PDF content in selected journal publishing platforms and notes that while the entire sample of PDF articles failed to meet the minimum standard of PDF Universal Accessibility of containing a tagged structure, all PDF articles in the sample passed accessibility permissions tests, so could be made accessible retroactively by a third party.
- "[Recommended by Librarians: A Computational Citation Analysis Methodology for Identifying and Examining Books Promoted in LibGuides](#)," by Carmen Orth-Alfie and Erin Wolfe. The authors present a novel model for comprehensively gathering data about a specific genre of books from individual LibGuide pages and applying computational methods to explore the resultant data.
- "[Knowledge Graph Visualization Interface for Digital Heritage Collections: Design Issues and Recommendations](#)," by Christopher S. G. Khoo, Eleanor A. L. Tan, Siam-Gek Ng, Chwee-Fong Chan, Michael Stanley-Baker, and Wei-Ning Cheng. This paper proposes a knowledge graph system and visualization interface as a promising solution for digital heritage systems to support users in browsing related items, understanding the relationships between items, and synthesizing a narrative on an issue.
- "[Supporting Information Visualization Research in an Academic Library: Lessons Learned from an Analysis of the Literature](#)," by Michael Groenendyk and Tomasz Neugebauer, summarizes librarian research on information visualization as well as general trends in the broader field, and identifies opportunities for libraries to improve their information visualization support services.

Kenneth J. Varnum, Editor   Marisha C. Kelly, Assistant Editor
varnum@umich.edu   marisha.librarian@gmail.com