

Letter from the Editors

Kenneth J. Varnum and Joanna DiPasquale

It should be no surprise to even the casual reader of this journal that artificial intelligence (AI) and particularly the latest flavor, generalized artificial intelligence (GenAI), has been a hot topic for the past few years. The rapid growth of GenAI tools and their inclusion in both traditional and novel library products continues to accelerate, and in general permeate all aspects of our collective personal and professional lives.

The rise of GenAI tools in library discovery layers, management systems, databases, and full-text providers provides no shortage of excitement and concern. For a summary of this, see a white paper from the NISO Open Discovery Initiative from earlier this summer (ITAL's editor is co-chair of that organization), "Generative Artificial Intelligence and Web-Scale Discovery."¹ There is much discussion around the topic, reflecting the amount of opportunity and challenge that AI represents for libraries. Rather than acting as passive agents, waiting for AI to come to them, libraries are actively and thoughtfully engaging with these technologies to help shape our collective future.

In September 2024, we published our first special issue on libraries and artificial intelligence.² Now, we are pleased to announce a new special issue, targeted for September 2026, to be guest edited by Ellen Schmid and Katy Miller. In their words, the issue will focus on:

As guest editors of this upcoming special issue, we invite ITAL readers engaged in generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) projects to share their insights. In the rapidly evolving landscape of AI, we have the opportunity to learn from one another and deepen our collective understanding of its growing impact on our work. Our goal is to curate an issue that goes beyond a collection of mainstream applications, such as meeting summarization or policy document creation. We seek contributions that explore how GenAI could transform our professional landscape, providing valuable insights for practitioners on both the successes and challenges of incorporating these innovations in a meaningful way. If you are involved in a GenAI-related project, please consider submitting a proposal for this special issue.

If you have an idea for this issue, please fill out the [proposal form](#). Proposals are due by February 1, 2026, with invitations to contribute full articles expected by the end of February 2026, and first drafts of completed articles are due on May 1, 2026. If you have questions about this special issue, contact Ellen Schmid (schmidellen@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov) and Katy Miller (katy.miller@ucf.edu).

IN THIS ISSUE

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

- [Using AI to Auto-Tag Graduate Theses](#), by Kyle Morgan, presents a practical approach to using artificial intelligence (AI) for tagging graduate theses in an institutional repository with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- [VIAF Governance Concerns about the Refurbished VIAF Web and API Interfaces](#), by Stefano Bargioni, compare the old and new interfaces for Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) clusters, highlighting the pros and cons introduced and calling attention to some critical errors that compromise the functionality of much of the VIAF product.



- [Measuring the Impact of Digital Collections: Digital Content Reuse Assessment Framework Toolkit](#), by Santi Thompson, Joyce Chapman, Ranti Junus, Ayla Stein Kenfield, Liz Woolcott, and Ali Shiri, addresses some of the gaps in quantitative approaches to assessment of how digital repository materials are utilized and repurposed, using the Digital Content Reuse Assessment Framework Toolkit (D-CRAFT).
- [Validation of GDPR Compliance in a Library Management System: A BISIS and TeMDA Case Study](#), by Tijana Rajačić, Danijela Boberić-Krstićev, Danijela Tešendić, and Gordana Milosavljević, explores the challenges of achieving General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance in library management systems by integrating their novel TeMDA framework into BISIS.
- [From Linked Open Data to Collections as Data: A Reproducible Framework Using Federated Queries](#), by Meltem Dişli, Giulia Osti, Gustavo Candela, and Richard Zijdeman, develops a federated and reproducible approach for extracting Collections as Data material from Linked Open Data repositories.
- [From Availability to Access: How Students Perceive and Navigate Access to Online Information Resources](#), by Brittany Brannon, Samuel R. Putnam, Amy G. Buhler, Tara Tobin Cataldo, Ixchel M. Faniel, and Lynn Silipigni Connaway, reports on student perspectives on access to online information resources when conducting an initial search for a school project.
- [AI-Infused Discovery Environments: Information Retrieval Boon or Overpromised Hype?](#), by Blake L. Galbreath, Dr. Erica England, Corey M. Johnson, Jen Saulnier Lange, outlines steps taken to examine Primo Research Assistant, an AI-infused discovery environment, for potential deployment at a large US public research university.

This issue also has our regular contributed columns:

- *From the Field*: [Neurodivergent People in the Library Workplace: Perspectives from a Couple of Autistic Library and Technology Nerds](#), by **Cindi Trainor Blyberg and Shanna Hollich**, highlights the authors' experiences in, and perspectives on, library and library-adjacent work, as neurodivergent people.
- *ITAL &*: [Relationality Over Neutrality: On Technology](#), by Kaylin Slater, frames a critical discussion regarding neutrality towards technology within librarianship using LIS's interest in generative AI.

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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ENDNOTES

- ¹ Ken Varnum et al., “Generative Artificial Intelligence and Web-Scale Discovery,” (NISO Open Discovery Initiative Standing Committee, August 2025), <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/m0fs2pqtaqp2mkbdd35o3/NISO-ODI-Survey-Report-GenAI-and-Discovery-August2025.pdf?rlkey=4qlcvtj3ji55umugugk9flmjv&e=1&st=ay2c4s9x&dl=0>.
- ² Peter J. Musser, ed., “Libraries and Artificial Intelligence,” special issue, *Information Technology and Libraries* 43, no. 3 (2024), <https://ital.corejournals.org/index.php/ital/issue/view/1316>.