Letter from the Editors

Kenneth J. Varnum and Joanna DiPasquale

We had a great response to our call for proposals for the September 2026 special issue on concrete implementations of generative AI tools in library services. Special issue guest editors Ellen Schmid and Katy Miller had a strong pool of articles to select from, aided by advice from the ITAL editorial board. This strong pool was hardly surprising, given the tremendous discussions around artificial intelligence across so many sectors, and we are looking forward to publishing this special issue. AI remain a very popular topic for submissions, and this trend is reflected in the content of this March issue (see below).

If you are a member of ALA's Core division and are interested in working more closely with ITAL, consider applying to join our editorial board. A call for volunteers will be distributed later this month. Or, contact either of the editors for more information.

IN THIS ISSUE

The March 2026 issue contains the following peer-reviewed articles:

- Navigating the Future of Library Systems: A Case Study of Durban University of Technology's Review of Its Library System, by Sean Carte, Sagren Moodley, and Anushie Moonasar, describes the process by which the Durban University of Technology Library conducted a comprehensive review to determine whether its current library system (FOLIO and EDS) still met its needs.
- How Many Public Computers in the Library? Maximum Concurrent Usage as a Metric to Determine the Size of the Computer Fleet in a Post-COVID-19 Landscape, by Scott Goldstein, describes a process for making decisions about how many public-use computers are appropriate for a given space.
- Making Access Possible: The Human Impact of Digital Initiatives, by Carly Garzón Vargas and Bridgette Garcia-Olvera, provides a high-level look at the often-hidden staff costs of maintaining digital initiatives and providing user-focused services to support them.
- An Analysis of Revisions to OAIS and the "Designated Community" in Digital Preservation, by Nathan Moles, reviews the recently revised Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) and its updated concept of a "Designated Community," the group or groups of prospective users for whom information is preserved. This study examines the extent to which these revisions address or mitigate concerns regarding the Designated Community.
- Metadata for Storytelling: Exploring the Collections as Data Model, by Emily Baldoni, Angela Yon, and Maddi Loiselle, discusses a digital humanities project supporting Collections as Data (CAD) and linked data principles. The team recognized great potential for experimentation in a significant World War I archival collection to highlight lesser-known stories and argues that even institutions without a dedicated CAD initiative can incrementally implement principles from the CAD model to add value to their digital collections.
- Automatic Classification of Subjects and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Documents with Generative AI: An Experience from the Unicamp Library System, by Francisco Tadeu Gonçalves de Oliveira Foz, Márcio Souza Martins, Alessandra Karyne Clemente de Souza, Erica Cristina de Carvalho Mansur, and Oscar Eliel, describes a tool, "Artificial Intelligence for Theme Generation," developed with generative artificial

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intelligence, for automating thematic classification and the assignment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to master's theses.
- Connecting the Dots: A Semantic Web Solution for Enhanced Library Resource Discovery, by Ee Min Hoon, Ashwin Nair, and Robin Dresel, explores the development and implementation of the Singapore Infopedia Widget, a recommendation engine designed to guide users to related resources by utilizing metadata and a Linked Data Knowledge Graph.
- From Card Catalogs to Semantic Search: Building a Human-Centered Discovery Platform Powered by AI Technologies, explains the user research and decision-making process behind Harvard Library's Collections Explorer. The development process included extensive user research, including interviews, usability testing, and prototype evaluations, to understand and address user needs.

This issue also has our regular contributed columns:

- *From the Field*: Librarian Leadership in the Age of AI, by Jeremiah Rood, discusses approaches librarian leaders could take in preparing for the newest seismic technological shift, AI workforce disruption.
- *ITAL &*: Refusal as Instruction: Equipping Patrons to Resist AI, Data Brokers, Big Tech, & More, by Hannah Cyrus, explores ways in which library workers can better align technology use and instruction in library settings with library values, through championing the refusal of technologies that conflict with values like privacy and intellectual freedom.

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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