

OLITA Annual Report 2017

It has been a joy and a privilege to work with OLITA Council in 2017 and our OLITA membership. This year brought new OLITA council members to join with our returning councillors and I'm proud of the work that we have accomplished together and have planned for the future.

This year's **Digital Odyssey** was dedicated to games and it lived up to its tag-line of "We Got Game: Gaming, Learning and Playing Together." Dr. Scott Nicholson, Professor of Game Design and Development from Wilfrid Laurier University in Brantford and author of *Everyone Plays at the Library* was our opening keynote and he started our one day conference with jolts and other playful activities for all of us to integrate into our teaching and presentations. Then there were sessions on Minecraft, on interactive fiction, integrating coding and creating, partnering with your local game development community, and exploring new worlds in virtual reality. We want to thank OCAD for hosting Digital Odyssey and being our playground.

Use of OLITA's **Technology Lending Library** continued to grow in 2017 and we're excited to introduce new items for our members and their communities to try out including the BreakoutEDU's "Escape Room in a Box" and an OSMOT kit.

In 2016, OLITA Council launched a Social Media Roundabout as an excuse to try different social media channels to see which ones resonated with OLITA members. Our OLITA members told us what they really wanted was a listserv and in 2017 through the generosity of McMaster University, we launched **OLITA-L mailing list**. If you are a member of OLITA, please join us and sign up at: <https://mailman.mcmaster.ca/mailman/listinfo/olita-l>. OLITA Council member Sarah Macintyre continues to bring the people behind the technology to the forefront through her regular feature **IT Crowd** column in OLA's Open Shelf.

This year's **Technology Track at OLA Superconference** was put together by the Graham Lavender (Michener Institute) and Michelle Goodridge (Wilfrid Laurier University). Our featured Spotlight speaker was Sara Grimes, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Information of the University of Toronto. Among the many talks in the technology stream, our coordinators also brought Tech Talks back by popular demand as well as an inaugural OLITA debate on the topic of Makerspaces. Thank you so much Graham and Michelle for all your hard work.

And I would like to again extend my thank my fellow OLITA Councillors for all their good work and I offer a hearty welcome to our new councillors and new OLITA members.