OLITA 2019 President's Report

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I had the privilege of leading OLITA in 2019. It has been rewarding to work with such an inspiring team of councillors. Together, with the wonderful staff at the OLA Office, OLITA had a great year.

OLITA council spent time this year updating our **strategic plan** to reflect the strategic priorities of OLA, for 2019-2020. Building on momentum from previous years we agreed to launch a **free webinar series**. Our hope in launching the series is to increase value to OLITA's members. The first webinars will be in the winter of 2020 through OLA's Education Institute. The vision for our webinars is to continue as an extension of our annual Digital Odyssey conference, providing more in-depth sessions on the conference theme. In this way, we hope to provide education on technology topics to those who can't attend the conference in person and in so doing reach members in rural and remote communities. Many thanks to councillors Sarah Macintyre and Eva Stepanian for their work on this.

Our annual conference **Digital Odyssey** was well attended with 82 participants across all library sectors, public, academic and school libraries. The theme was Digital Literacy, and the program included an inspiring keynote on navigating equitable digital futures by Nasma Ahmed, a panel on city-building and digital literacy, and a variety of breakout and lightning talk sessions that focused on subjects such as digital andragogy, mentoring, github, micro:bits, data visualization, how to recycle 3D printer waste, and digital literacy skills for library staff. Many thanks to the Toronto Public Library, North York Central Library branch who allowed us to use their space and provided support throughout the day. A special thank you to OLITA councilor Alex Carruthers for her support with Digital Odyssey this year.

Further to our conference and webinar series, OLITA is working towards an additional education event in the form of an OLITA **Library Carpentry** workshop in the upcoming year, stay tuned for more details.

OLITA's **Technology Lending Library** has been growing its collection over the years, with newer purchases of Muse headbands and Lego WeDo. This year our lending library received an exciting donation, with the help of councillor Pam Saliba, of micro:Bits from Kids Code Jeunesse, who also provided a break-out session at Digital Odyssey.

OLITA has made concerted efforts this year with a view towards supporting OLA's strategic priority of "influencing policy" with our topical **Open Shelf** articles and **Tweets**. *Buy, Borrow, Bypass: The Current Landscape of eBooks in Libraries* was the 2nd most viewed article in the issue. Thank you to councillor Laura Warner for her tireless efforts as OLITA's Open Shelf contributor, including the always popular Library IT crowd column. Thank you as well to councillor Eva Stepanian for her guidance in developing a Twitter content calendar for OLITA.

Building on our strategic goal to integrate evaluation and research of library technology, OLITA council, in collaboration with OPLA's Research and Evaluation Committee, has begun the initial stages of an exciting research project on **makerspace policy and pricing**.

I would like to thank OLITA's conference planners Matt Rowheder and Lee Puddephatt who have done tremendous work with this year's spotlight speaker Justin Ling, along with our ever popular OLITA Tech Talks and the many great technology sessions present at this year's conference.

All of this wouldn't be possible without the hard-work and dedication of an incredible OLITA council. Many thanks to our councillors and a special thank you to our outgoing councillors John Fink, Rebecca Laroque, and Laura Warner. It has been a great pleasure to serve as OLITA President this past year, and I wish all the best of luck to our incoming 2020 President Sarah Macintyre!