ONTARIO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION
SARAH MACINTYRE, PRESIDENT

OLITA

2020 OLITA Membership: 962

It has been a privilege serving as President of OLITA in 2020. We all know that this year has been totally unlike anything we have seen before, and so I would be remiss if I didn't start off by sincerely thanking Shelagh Paterson for her leadership and all the OLA staff for their dedication. I am certain that OLITA would not have seen the same success this year if not for the support of such an outstanding team.

We started the year off on a high note, with a successful Super Conference in January. We had the pleasure of having Justin Ling as our OLITA spotlight speaker, where he discussed his work as an investigative journalist and his work on the CBC Podcast *Uncover: The Village*. Our March Council meeting was the last of our "regular, pre-COVID" meetings – we planned the year's activities and were discussing a refresh of the popular Tech Lending Library service that OLITA offers through OLA.

Of course, our plans had to change quickly in April, and instead of being able to offer our annual conference Digital Odyssey in-person in to June, we opted instead for a series of webinars over the course of the summer, with a theme of "Exploring AI in Libraries". The series started with an engaging session about *Machine Information Behavior* with speaker Mike Ridley, followed by *Exploring AI in Libraries: What is Being Done and What Comes Next* where speaker Amanda Wheatly provided valuable insights tailored to the library profession. The final session saw speaker Rediet Abebe, with the important topic of *Roles for Computing in Social Justice*. All three were well-attended and provided enriching discussions about artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The summer also saw a virtual version of Library Carpentry hosted by Tim Ribaric at Brock University. A smaller session was first run in June, and then a larger session was held in August. Both received positive feedback and had great attendance. OLITA hopes to support another session of Library Carpentry online in 2021. OLITA was also delighted to see councilor Jorge Rivera's *Open Shelf* article in October, *Library tech services are crucial to social well-being during a pandemic*, which discussed the role that public library services play in ensuring equitable access to technology.

In addition to the Digital Odyssey webinar series in the summer, OLITA held a webinar with the Education Institute in December, on the topic of ethics in cataloguing. The panelists included May Chan, Sarah Furger, Dr. Diane Pennington, Beth Shoemaker, and Karen snow, and the speakers led the attendees through a variety of examples and discussions regarding key ethics issues in cataloguing.

Although the Tech Lending Library service had to be put on pause in 2020, OLITA is planning on refreshing and re-launching the service in the Fall of 2021. Also looking ahead to 2021, OLITA is looking forward to the next Digital Odyssey conference, which will be held virtually in June 2021, on the topic of Accessibility and Accessible Technologies. Although the exact date and speaker information have yet to be firmed up, we anticipate this event to be an engaging mix of practical application and inspiration for libraries of all types. We look forward to seeing you there!

I would like to take a moment to thank our Super Conference planners Matt Rowheder and Jennifer Corrin, who have done an outstanding job pulling together a strong program for OLA's first virtual Super Conference: *Clever Minds & Human Hearts*. As well, none of what we have achieved this year could have been done without the dedication of the OLITA Council – with special thanks to outgoing councillor Pam Saliba. We have all had to navigate constant change at our workplaces, as well as in our personal lives, and I am so proud of what OLITA has accomplished this year. I feel so fortunate to have been able to serve as President of OLITA in 2020 and look forward to all the fantastic activities OLITA has planned in 2021.