



# ONTARIO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

## SARAH MACINTYRE, PRESIDENT

# OLITA

**2021 OLITA Membership: 555**

This past year, I had the pleasure of continuing my role as OLITA president for a second time (one of the positive side effects of the pandemic!). As always, I continue to be so impressed by the outstanding OLA staff team, who have supported OLITA in countless ways throughout 2021. Despite not being able to gather in-person, we were still able to accomplish a lot over the past year!

The year began with the first-ever virtual OLA Super Conference and the first virtual OLITA AGM! Unlike in years past, we did not issue an OLITA award, but through OLA's online recognition wall, we were thrilled to see the wide variety of ways that libraries implemented innovative technologies to support their communities during the pandemic. I am so pleased that at the upcoming OLA Super Conference in February 2022, OLITA will be presenting a winner for the OLITA technology award. It is nice to return to some of our regular annual activities again.

In 2020, OLITA was not able to hold a regular Digital Odyssey conference, but this past June, we were delighted to host a full-day virtual conference on the theme of Accessibility (How to Get IT Right: Tackling Accessible Tech). We were so fortunate to spend the day with interesting speakers, such as Luke Anderson, Beverly Dooley, Alexis Hillyard, and Regine Gilbert, among others. Now that we have experience with hosting our conference online, OLITA is looking forward to planning a virtual Digital Odyssey in June of 2022. While the theme and exact date is still yet to be determined, we expect to be able to share more details in the spring!

In the summer, OLITA started a project to engage with members and library employees working with technology. The OLITA Membership Profiles Project captured videos from OLITA council members, and library workers from across the province, who shared comments about the work that they do, the technology they use, and some of the projects they have spearheaded. We were thrilled to be able to feature these videos on OLA's social media platforms, and I would like to extend a special thank you to all those who participated!

Looking ahead to 2022, OLITA is excited to be bringing back the Tech Lending Library service! We had hoped to resume lending this past year, but due to ongoing constraints, we were unable to do so. In 2022 we plan on refreshing our collection, and we are going to connect with OLITA members as we identify new items for purchase. We want to ensure that any new items we add to our collection will meet the needs of our membership, and we hope that folks will be excited to try out the tech we will have to offer when we resume lending!

As I write this, we are gearing up for Super Conference 2022, and I am really looking forward to the outstanding sessions organized by our OLA Super Conference planners, Jen Corrin and Amanda French. I am so grateful to have such a dedicated team planning the OLITA sessions this year and cannot wait for you all to see what they have in store! Finally, I would like to thank my fellow OLITA council members from 2021 – despite continuing to navigate uncertain times in both our workplaces and personal lives, I continue to be amazed and impressed by your thoughtfulness, commitment, and enthusiasm. 2022 will bring change for OLITA – OLA will be launching a new strategic plan, we will have 4 new members on council, and Michelle Goodridge will be stepping in as president. All I can say is that 2022 is going to be another great year for OLITA, and I can't wait to see what gets accomplished!