



EDITOR'S NOTE

EVOLVING WITH TECHNOLOGY

The More Things Change ...

It happened again last week. I heard myself say, “I saw this ...” in reference to an instructional concept I read about in a scholarly journal article. I printed the article to read rather than reading it on screen. Maybe this is why I said *I saw* it when sharing the idea. I wondered aloud to my companion about how the phrase *I saw* is replacing *I read* and whether saying *I saw* implies a different level of comprehension or creates a different expectation for the listener. We decided that we didn’t know and chalked it up to another musing on the impact of information technology in our daily lives.

I have had a number of information technology musings lately; perhaps the most challenging was after learning that my article published in *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* last December was available on Sci Hub (sci-hub.io) as early as February. Similarly, an article I co-authored with Sara Sampson and published in *College & Undergraduate Libraries* last November is also available on Sci-Hub. Like most librarians, I am working through the issues resulting from the rise of research sharing via peer-to-peer options such as Library Genesis, Sci-Hub, and #icanhazpdf. Does the upside of increased dissemination and readership outweigh the lost download counts for my tenure dossier? It is indeed a complicated issue that is prompting important conversations across our profession and generating, along the way, clever terms such as “guerilla open access” and characterizations of librarians as “personal shoppers who moonlight as border guards.”

I thoroughly appreciate technology’s management of information—who would ever admit to wanting to use paper *Shepard’s* over electronic formats that more easily and efficiently accomplish the same task? Even more, I appreciate how information technology continually challenges us to reevaluate and think critically about some of our most basic assumptions about information. In Sci-Hub’s instance, what do I really think about copyright? What should it accomplish? Does our

current structure of scholarship and publishing meet those goals? And perhaps most interesting, are those assumptions global in nature or simply reflections arising from the comfort of the developed world?

This issue of *AALL Spectrum* invites readers to explore their own assumptions about information and information technology on a variety of issues from information security to managing electronic documents to the impact of big data. This issue also reflects upon the outstanding accomplishments of our colleagues with profiles on the 2016 winners of the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, the Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award, and the inductees to the AALL Hall of Fame.

A review of the upcoming AALL Annual Meeting programs indicates that conversations about information technology and its role in our professional and personal lives are sure to enliven this year’s conference. I hope to see you in Chicago this summer and hear your thoughts on this evolving issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine A. Lemmer'.

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