



# Hack-A-Thon Guidelines

Most hack-a-thons feature programmers collaborating intensively over a short period of time to produce better and/or innovative code. In our hack-a-thon, we will be looking for innovative ways to address important issues and challenges facing our association.

Below, you will find four challenges. Your task is to put your heads together and develop ideas for addressing each of these issues. For now, do not worry about cost, time, or resources! We want your unfettered creativity!

## Topics

**Group 1: ILTA Awards.** The ILTA awards were introduced about a decade ago to honor the accomplishments of ILTANs in a number of categories, as well as to add some gravitas to our “formal” evening at ILTACON. The awards have morphed since their creation, but we do not seem to have landed on an approach that works.

The goal of Group 1 is to “re-imagine” the ILTA Awards. Some questions the group may wish to address include, but are not limited to, the following:

Do we want to continue the awards?

If so, do we have the right number of awards? The right categories of awards?

How could we improve the application and judging processes?

Does it make sense to celebrate the awards at ILTACON or at another venue? Could certain awards be associated with certain events?

**Group 2: Diversity and Inclusion.** The term diversity covers more than gender, ethnic origin, LGBTQ, etc. Diversity also includes generations, roles, and skill sets. In addressing diversity, it is important to think about it – from an ILTA perspective – in terms of leadership, charitable and community service, and support for the profession in general, as well as in terms of programming.

The goal of Group 2 is to propose initiatives that promote diversity in all of the ways outlined above – and maybe in ways we haven’t even considered! Some questions the group may wish to address include, but are not limited to, the following:

What programming should we be offering to our members and business partners? To law firm and law department leaders, law schools, high schools, and beyond?

What can ILTA do to promote diversity within the volunteer leader ranks? General membership? The legal profession in general?

What other kinds of content add value in promoting diversity?

**Group 3: Lawyer Involvement.** As the role of the lawyer changes, then ILTA needs to change as well. Or does it? Lawyers are now involved in Core IT, as well as in important ILTA constituent groups, such as KM. But lawyers are also tech leaders, tech champions, and – sometimes – tech detractors.

The goal of Group 3 is to develop approaches to addressing lawyer involvement in ILTA. Some questions the group may wish to address include, but are not limited to, the following:

Do lawyers in tech roles need to be served in ways different from non-lawyer members?

Can or should ILTA be involved in the development and delivery of tech-related CLE content?

What is our event strategy relative to lawyers? Do we need to make our core events more lawyer friendly? Create new events that are lawyer-targeted?

How do we fight anti-lawyer bias in our programming?

**Group 4: Collaborators and Competitors.** ILTA has long had “sister” organizations with similar missions – supporting the non-practicing-lawyer specialists who support the practicing lawyers. However, those traditional groups have evolved and new groups have arisen. Are these groups potential collaborators or potential competitors?

The goal of Group 4 is to identify groups with whom we should collaborate more closely (as well as those we feel compete with ILTA) and propose approaches and initiatives around that collaboration and competition. Some questions the group may wish to address include, but are not limited to, the following:

Does it make sense to maintain and nurture affiliate organization relationships?

How do ILTA’s citizens benefit from collaboration?

How do ILTA’s citizens stand to lose from competition?

## How the Hack-A-Thon Works

Participation in the Hack-A-Thon is optional. If you wish to participate, select a topic and email Samantha Surillo ([ssurillo@iltanet.org](mailto:ssurillo@iltanet.org)) with your preference. *If you are interested in being a team leader, please let Sam know as well.* On January 14, we will send out the team lists for each topic, indicating who has volunteered to lead the team. There is no minimum or maximum team size.

At Ascend, you will receive a colored dot for your badge based on the topic you select, so that you can find your teammates.

Spend as much time brainstorming prior to Ascend as you wish. Select a team leader. Collect and document your ideas. Your team will have an hour Saturday afternoon (5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) to meet in person. (Please note: Members of the Volunteer Leadership Taskforce and Team Coordinators from the ILTACON Committee and Content Coordinating Teams, also have meetings at that time. This will not prevent you from participating in any Hack-a-thon meetings prior to Ascend, and providing your input if you are particularly passionate about a certain topic)

Each team will select a spokesperson who will present your ideas (start with the “best” one) to all Ascend attendees. The presentations begin Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. You will have 15 minutes. Then wait for your accolades!

## **Feedback Criteria for Presentations**

Those not participating in the hack-a-thon will be your audience. We will poll the audience to gain their feedback. The feedback will be based on the following three areas.

***Purpose:*** Does the idea address the challenge as defined?

***Core Values:*** Does the idea support ILTA’s core values?

***Impactful:*** How much will the idea “move the needle” on the identified business challenge?

Go forth and hack-a-thon!!!