

**TO:** Core Board of Directors

**TOPIC:** NEW JOURNAL PUBLISHING PLATFORM

**ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT:** ACTION

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** CORE PUBLICATIONS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**SUBMITTED:** December 15, 2022

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## SUMMARY

Core is seeking an open access publisher to unite its three journals ([Information Technology and Libraries](#), [Library Leadership & Management](#), and [Library Resources & Technical Services](#)) on a single platform. Requests for proposals were sought from Iowa State University Digital Press, PKP, University of Michigan Press, Minnesota Publishing, ALA Production Services, and Duke University Press. After reviewing these proposals, the Core journal editors recommend that the Core Board accept the ALA Production Services bid at a cost of \$22,593.76 for calendar year 2023 and \$31,685.76 in calendar year 2024. With editors' stipends of \$8,250 per year, the **total expenses for all three journals is estimated as \$30,843.76 and \$39,935.76, respectively**. The increase in ALA Production Services cost between year 1 and 2 is that composition duties for ITAL and LL&M, currently handled by their editors, will be taken on by ALA Production Services. See the "Detailed Budget" section, below, and the quote from ALA Production Services (appendix), for details.

## BACKGROUND

The Core Publications Committee charged the editors and assistant editors of the three journals to identify a single provider to handle hosting, proofreading, layout, and other related publication services for the three journals going forward, as well as to oversee the migration of each journal's backfile to the new platform.

## HOSTING

Until now, the journals of the three former divisions have independent hosting arrangements with different Open Journal Systems providers:

- ITAL through Boston College. Boston College previously took on no-cost hosting for ITAL because a previous editor was employed there at the time. In 2019, several years after the previous editor moved to a different organization, Boston College requested that LITA begin paying their standard \$2500/year fee to cover their hosting and administrative support of the journal. They have so far generously allowed LITA/Core to use their OJS platform at no cost. However, based

on communications between ITAL's editor and Boston College, there is a desire on BC's part to either have us move to a different host or begin payment.

- LL&M through the Texas Digital Library's OJS platform. This arrangement seems stable for the foreseeable future.
- LRTS through ALA Production Services. LRTS has subscriptions through the end of 2022 and ALA Member Relations & Services processed those. ALA Production Services has provided full production services including layout, copyediting, and issue creation.

Both ITAL and LRTS are published on PKP's OJS platform through ALA and Boston College's independent relationships with that provider, respectively. LL&M is published on OJS through the University of Texas. All three journals are at slightly different versions of OJS, with different funding needs and degrees of formality. Staying with OJS will allow for a relatively quick and seamless implementation.

## JOURNAL PRODUCTION

Each journal currently handles the preparation of accepted articles differently:

- LRTS's editors pass responsibility for production to ALA Production Services once articles are accepted for publication.
- ITAL's editors do all the production work on accepted journal articles except proofreading, which is done by ALA Production Services. ITAL's editors prepare a layout-ready version of accepted articles in Microsoft Word, copyedit them, and review changes with the authors. After proofreading, ITAL's editors prepare PDFs and upload them to the OJS site for the journal.
- LL&M's editors do all production work on accepted journal articles. They copyedit, proofread, and prepare layout-ready versions of accepted articles and upload them to the OJS site for the journal.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The task force drafted an RFP (see Appendix A) that was distributed to 6 providers, 5 of which responded:

- [Iowa State University Digital Press](#)
- [PKP](#)
- [University of Michigan Press](#)
- [Minnesota Publishing](#)
- [ALA Production](#)
- Duke University Press (no response)

A summary of their responses can be found at [Core Journals Proposal Summary](#)

## ACTION REQUESTED

The Publications Coordinating Committee recommends that the Core Board approve contracting with ALA Production Services for producing and publishing *Information Technology and Libraries*, *Library Leadership and Management*, and *Library Resources and Technical Services* journals, as outlined in the proposal in the appendix, at a first year cost of \$30,843.76 and a second year cost, including layout for all three journals, of \$39,935.76.

## APPENDIX A: Request for Proposals

Core Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures, a division of the American Library Association, is seeking an Open Access publisher to unite its three journals ([Information Technology and Libraries](#), [Library Leadership & Management](#), and [Library Resources & Technical Services](#)) on a single platform.

At the minimum, the following services are required:

- Hosting
- Publication workflow
  - Author/Submission portal
  - Review process management
- DOI provision/registration

If interested, please provide itemized expenses for each of the following services to the extent they are separable:

- Migration of three journals from their OJS platforms (one-time)
  - LRTS: 2.4.8.1
  - LL&M: 3.2.1.2
  - ITAL: 3.1.2.0
- Migration of backfiles
  - LRTS: 787 published articles (includes some editorials and book reviews)
  - LL&M: total articles
  - ITAL: 699 published total articles
- Publication workflow
  - Author/Submission portal
  - Review process management
- DOI provision/registration
- Custom URLs per journal
- Annual hosting fee
- Article numbers and page counts for each journal (annual averages)
  - LRTS (24 things with DOIs, ~240 pages)
  - LL&M (last year: 22 articles, 386 pages)
  - ITAL (typical year: 35 articles (things with DOIs; ~30 peer-reviewed items), 400 pages)
- Editorial Process
  - Layout/typesetting
  - Copyediting
  - Proofreading
- Other required costs
- Other optional costs

We are also curious to receive responses to these questions:

- Please describe your experience migrating from OJS (version) to platform
- Please provide the level of WCAG accessibility
- Does your platform support multiple languages for author workflows and/or other pages?

## APPENDIX B: ALA Production Services Proposal

Per-item estimates are based on page and item counts from Calendar Year 2021 for ITAL and LL&M and from Fiscal Year 2022 for LRTS. This table includes both ALA Production Services costs (detailed on the next page) as well as stipends paid by Core to the journal editors and assistant editors.

	CY 2023			CY2024		
Line Item	ITAL	LL&M	LRTS	ITAL	LL&M	LRTS
<i>Stipends</i>						
Editor & Assistant Editor	\$2750	\$2750	\$2750	\$2750	\$2750	\$2750
<i>ALA Production Services</i>						
Migration	\$590	\$590	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Platform Hosting	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400
Proofreading (2021 page count @ \$6.92/pg)	\$2,885.64	\$3,037.88	\$2,920.24	\$2,885.64	\$3,037.88	\$2,920.24
Composition (2021 page count @ \$12/pg)	\$0	\$0	\$5,064	\$5268	\$5004	\$5,064
Upload fee (2021 files @ \$42)	\$1260	\$996	\$1050	\$1260	\$996	\$1050
<i>ALA Subtotals</i>	<i>\$6,135.64</i>	<i>\$6,023.88</i>	<i>\$10,434.24</i>	<i>\$10,813.64</i>	<i>\$10,437.88</i>	<i>\$10,434.24</i>
<b>Totals</b>	\$8885.64	\$8773.88	\$13184.24	\$13563.64	\$13187.88	\$13184.24
	<b>\$30,843.76</b>			<b>\$39,935.76</b>		

# ALA American Library Association

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December 7, 2022

## Estimate: **Core journal production, LRTS composition only**

attn: Julie Reese, Core

Job Description		Rate	Total/year
ITAL OJS site build and populate	10 hours (est)	\$ 59.00	\$ 590.00
LL&M OJS site build and populate	10 hours (est)	\$ 59.00	\$ 590.00
Library Resources & Technical Services production			
Composition	422 page (est)	\$ 12.00	\$ 5,064.00
Proofreading	422 pages (est)	\$ 6.92	\$ 2,920.24
OJS uploads	25 (est)	\$ 42.00	\$ 1,050.00
OJS hosting	1 year	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400.00
<b>LRTS total</b>			<b>\$ 10,434.24</b>
Information Technology & Libraries production			
Proofreading	439 pages (est)	\$ 6.92	\$ 2,885.64
OJS uploads	30 (est)	\$ 42.00	\$ 1,260.00
OJS hosting	1 year	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400.00
<b>ITAL total</b>			<b>\$ 5,545.64</b>
Library Leadership & Management production			
Proofreading	417 pages (est)	\$ 6.92	\$ 3,037.88
OJS uploads	23 (est)	\$ 42.00	\$ 966.00
OJS hosting	1 year	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400.00
<b>LL&amp;M total</b>			<b>\$ 5,403.88</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 22,563.76</b>