

President's Column

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It is quite a task to write a column for this last issue of the IALLT journal. When I accepted the IALLT presidency, I never envisioned I would be in the position of writing a column for this last issue. It is sad to lose our journal, and lose with it years of traditions. We still enjoy reading journals, newspapers, and books, when we are away from computers, in a car, on the train, in a plane, at the train station, or in a park. Although with new mobile technologies available, we can now even access the Internet on the plane! Our profession is not the only one experiencing difficulties with traditional print publications. This is an international phenomenon. People communicate less and less with traditional means such as letters, articles, or even books. I recently heard that the medical field was experiencing a decrease in authorship and that physicians often could not locate articles reviewing new treatments or drugs. Potential writers are communicating in new ways. Readers are using the Internet as a source of information rather than turning to journals. So it is time to let the paper go. People's nostalgia for books however will remain. One of our faculty members just decided to use FlipViewer, software which makes reading text look and feel like reading a book. She hopes that in doing so she will inspire her students to write books.

So let's look to the future and consider what technology is providing to help us investigate, learn, and disseminate research and other information. The new on-line IALLT journal will make it easier for us to conduct our professional business and share ideas and applications. We want to thank the dedicated team of the IALLT journal Barbara Sawhill and the help she has received from our past journal Editor Andrew Ross.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our IALLT 2007 conference at Tufts University, Massachusetts, June 22–26, 2007. We hope that many of you from around the world will join us. We are very pleased to be able to return to the Northeast as it has been 8 years since IALLT was on the east coast and we hope that many of our friends from the East coast will be able to join us.

I hope you will enjoy this last issue of the journal where you will find a comprehensive retrospective of the history of IALLT written by Read Gilgen, one of our many dedicated past presidents. See you at IALLT 2007.

Sincerely,
Claire