

TALL Blog AGM 2020 Report

Hi everyone, my name is Cecilia Rose, and along with Emily Woon, we are the TALL Blog Editors. We started the blog just over a year ago in the spring of 2019, and at that time we also had the help of Jonathan Leroux as an editor. He left TALL and his Blog duties in the fall. We formed a small Blog committee including Kathryn Kingston and Heather Bennett.

Since last spring, we came up with a system to manage submissions, brainstormed quarterly themes and topics, solicited short articles from TALL members, proofread them, and arranged for them to be posted on the site. Once the post was made available on the site, we shared the link on social media, and at the end of each quarter, we compiled a PDF of all the blog posts that quarter, posted that PDF on the site and distributed it to members by email, and then submitted it to HeinOnline for archiving.

In 2019 Q3, we started off strong, posting 12 articles, so about one per week. In 2019 Q4, we posted 8, and in 2020 Q1, we posted 3. In 2020 Q2 we only posted 2 at the beginning and since then we have not posted any submissions. We did open the blog to non-members at one point in the fall, so that there would be no barrier for readers to access the posts.

The themes we went with were Government Information, Legal Technology, and Teaching and Training, though these themes were only loosely applied, so for example, updates about the Conference or other topics were welcome if there was an interest in writing about them. We sent out a survey last summer asking for topic and theme ideas and we were very happy to receive many responses with ideas so thank you all who responded to that survey. We took all your feedback and suggestions into consideration.

Where we are at now is that we are in a holding pattern pending on what will happen with the website in the next year. The website has limitations and it is not ideally suited for a blog. For example, we can't get statistics on how many times a blog post has been read, and the format of the web page is geared more towards news and announcement postings rather than a blog.

Also, it has proven difficult to garner interest in writing articles and given that we're not sure how many of you are interested in reading them, we are currently on hiatus, awaiting new developments with the website to see if continuing with a TALL Blog is viable.