means for developing competent library and information use as a part of life-long

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2012

lahaffy

he ALA Midwinter Mee tng is fast approaching and I j umped on my iPad to make my plane reserva tons. Today's techno not have made it easier. I had a no tce show up automa tcally in my me of a great deal one of the airlines was o fering (and it wasn't jus ould link directly to the reserva ton site, pull up calendars to check date h, swipe, and otherwise manipulate the screen all the way through to my of a shining, new, e- tcket.

Not that th is ki l f electronic transac ton is unusual. In fact, full range services delivered via intui tve interfaces re rc he norm in the commercial world, and library use the same expecta tons of us. As librarian s grap with evolving user demands, it can be a struggle ow which technological trends

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to adopt, which to pass on, and how to make everything work seamlessly for the user. From large scale transitions to small scale troubleshooting, technology issues can hit fast and furious. These were some of the questions raised in my library in just the past few days:

> How can we become more mobile accessible?
>
> Can we provide electronic tutorials on common database functions when the steps are slightly different from one database to the next?
>
> Can we keep a tablet at the front desk to enhance some of our services without someone walking off with it?

However complex or varied our technology challenges, we can learn from one another's expertise. This month's Tech Talk column (see page 10) takes on the large topic of Web-scale Management Systems and begins to break it down for us. At ALA Midwinter in Seattle, the Technology Learning and Teaching Committee

students with those outlined in the Associaton of College & Research Libraries Informaton Literacy Standards for