

From the Chair

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It has been a busy year for GODORT. Our efforts to help the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) shape the future of the Federal Depository Library Program have kept us fully engaged. Between our annual meeting, in June 2004, and March 2005, GODORT commented on GPO's proposals for a national bibliography of U.S. government publications, a collection of last resort, the electronic collection, the decision framework for federal document repositories, and Information Dissemination Policy Statement 72 on Withdrawal of Federal Information Products from Information Dissemination Collection and Distribution Programs. These letters appear as "Communications from the Chair" on the GODORT web site. We hope these and other efforts will help assure permanent (no-fee) public access to information produced at taxpayer expense.

At the ALA Annual Conference in 2004, GODORT was one of two round tables selected by the Round Table Coordinating Assembly to represent round table interests at ALA Ahead to 2010 Planning meetings held in the fall of 2004. While the final document has not been compiled, Jim Hill of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table and I worked to ensure that language was inclusive of all library workers and ALA units. "Permanent public access to government information" was listed as a feature of "the Library" in the draft desired future, leading me to believe that GODORT's values have been adopted as mainstream ALA values.1 GODORT submitted comments on the strategic plan, which ALA Council is expected to adopt this June.

GODORT continues to improve its web under the leadership of web manager Lesley Pease.

The most recent edition of GODORT's history a number of projects, including the FDTF sponsored preconference, *Demystifying Government Sources: Government Information for the Rest of Us* and the 2005 annual conference program, *Born Digital, Dead Tomorrow: Strategies for the Preservation of Web-based Government Information*, organized by Jim Church and Arlene Weible. Barbara Miller and the Bylaws Committee have been polishing GODORT's Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM), while Marilyn Von Seggern and the Membership Committee have been working to make GODORT even more member-friendly. This is not an exhaustive recounting, but this GODORT chair is grateful for the good ideas and wisdom shared by members.

References

1.
[ALA Ahead to 2010](#)
2. Mills, Lois. A History of the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association, 1972-1992 (Bethesda, Md.: Lexis-Nexis, 2002); Larry Romans and Sandy Peterson, A History of the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association, 1992-2002 (Bethesda, Md.: Lexis-Nexis, 2002).
3. Robinson, Judith Schiek. "We Are All Documents Librarians: Naturalizing the Next Generation." DttP: Documents to the People 32, no. 4 (Winter 2004): 22-24.
4. Ann E. Miller's mailing address is: Federal Documents Librarian, Public Documents & Maps, Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0177.