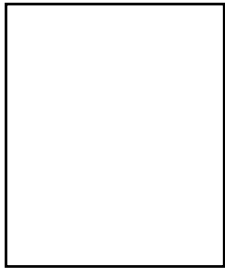


From the Chair



Welcome to the next 40 years!

Welcome to the next 40 years of GODORT! Milestone anniversaries, such as our 40th are usually a time to look back and reflect on past achievements and remember former (or continuing!) colleagues. Our last DttP issue did just that, including an interview with Bernadine Hoduski, one of GODORT's founders, as well as Beth Clausen's review of "40 great things about GODORT." The GODORT summer conference reception also gave us a chance to celebrate 40 great years (thank you Linda Spiro and Gretchen Gould for a great job!) while looking at slides from GODORT's early years. We had a chance to congratulate John Phillips for a long career with government documents.

However, here we are now at the beginning of the next 40 years! Time to move forward! Let's assess our strengths a round table. It always helps to move forward from a strong base. First of all (and this wasn't always the case), we are financially sound (thank you to treasurer John Hernandez for keeping the books). Not only do we have a safe level of carry over, but we have a large enough endowment to cover our annual Rozkuszka scholarship without going into our reserve funds (thank you Steve Hayes and the Endowment Committee). In addition, we have a preconference planned for 2013 (thank you International Documents Task Force), which already has vendor funding! We have just voted in a successful bylaws revision that allows us to have more flexibility with committee structure, and that streamlined the bylaws putting more procedures into the Policy and Procedure Manual (PPM). The PPM was in turn extensively revised to create a more parallel structure and make duties of various parts of GODORT more understandable to new officers, coordinators, and committee chairs. Thank you Kathy Bayer and Valerie Glenn, and the entire Bylaws Committee, for their VERY hard work this year. We have a strong Legislative Committee coming in, many with previous legislative experience and/or experience with other ALA units, for a broader perspective on how to handle legislative issues. We have a great slate of chairs and officers, thanks to hard work of the nominating committee (thank you Sarah Erickson and the Nominating Committee). The Membership Committee also worked hard this year to get out publicity, and even found us GODORT bags and mugs for our 40th. Thank you Rebecca Hyde and the Membership Committee. The Education

Committee has taken over a successful webinar project; thank you Jesse Silva and the Education Committee. We have a strong GODORT councilor, John Stevenson, and we have several other ALA councilors from GODORT ranks to keep government information interests before Council. We have a GODORT representative on the ALA Executive Committee (thank you Kevin Reynolds). GODORT Occasional Papers continue to be published each year, providing a publishing venue for GODORT researchers (thank you Helen Sheehy and the Publications Committee). We have had a smooth transition to a new DttP editorial team (welcome Greg Curtis). We have good relationships with several vendors who help us by sponsoring our receptions, preconferences, and awards (and a thank you to Awards and Andrea Severson, for another great job). And, we have a fairly well working ALA Connect, as well as the GODORT Wiki (except for Conference, of course) to keep us communicating (and a big thank you to Barbie Selby, GODORT secretary, for keeping all minutes going and Connect updated). We are carrying over a great program in Anaheim, with more than 120 people attending, which helped raise GODORT's profile as a unit of ALA (thank you Richard Guajardo, Crenetha Brunson, and the Catalog Committee). Many of our committees are successfully working through changes. GITCO is no more, but has successfully transformed into a Discussion Group (thank you Amy West). Rare and Endangered is considering a similar move, or a move to a virtual Midwinter Meeting (thank you Aimee Quinn for accepting this challenge). All of these moves are now possible because of the new bylaws. We have good working relationships with many other units of ALA, and have co-sponsored programs with many this year, including ALCTS and the new E-government Subcommittee of the Committee On Legislation. Our relationship with the GPO is strong. I could go on, but you get the idea, and I apologize if I left out any great things I know

