

From the Chair



Collaborating for Success

Suzanne Sears

Another ALA Annual Conference is behind us. Where does the time go? Before we move forward planning for Midwinter in Philadelphia, I want to take a moment and reflect on Chicago. I would like to thank the many GODORT members and vendors who contributed to make the Chicago 2013 Conference a success. It takes everyone working together to accomplish what we need to in the two face-to-face meetings we have each year. I appreciate all of your volunteer efforts and vendor support. The pre-conference on international statistics and the awards celebration on Sunday night were both very successful thanks to the vendor participation and support as well as the planning efforts of Helen Sheehy, Amanda Wakaruk, John Shuler, Marianne Ryan, Sarah Erekson, and the members of the GODORT Conference Committee and Awards Committee.

The collaboration of GODORT members is essential to pull off a successful conference and in providing access to government information. This year we had a terrific panel on Monday afternoon presenting on collaboration and cooperation. The panelists represented a wide range of library types: Janet Fisher, Arizona State Library; Rosemary LaSala, St. John's University Rittenberg Law Library; Barbie Selby, University of Virginia; Jesse Silva, University of North Texas; and Robbie Sittel, Tulsa City-County Library. I found the information to be very valuable. I asked each of the panelists to send me notes from their talks so that I could share highlights with those of you that could not make the program.

Rosemary LaSala opened the program with her experiences that in collaborating with other New York depository libraries on the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Forecast Study. She highlighted how many of the libraries were excited to be asked for their opinion and assistance. The points she brought up about collaboration were that it is not always easy, it can be very time consuming in the beginning especially to get things going, and that you need to ask if someone wants to work together with you instead of assuming that they would not be interested. In addition, she pointed out that partners in a collaborative effort may need assurances that their time will not be wasted and that their efforts will have a result.

Barbie Selby talked about the history of ongoing collaborative efforts of the depository libraries in Virginia. Working with law libraries, public libraries, and other non-depository libraries,

the selectives provide a multitude of workshops and presentations to provide training on accessing government information. To determine the needs of public libraries in Virginia, a training needs assessment survey was designed in collaboration with the Library of Virginia. The public library listserv of the Library of

