A HISTORY OF THE

Government

Documents

Round Table

OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1972-1992

by Lois Mills

1992-2002

by Larry Romans and Sandy Peterson

Contents

Introduction

The thirtieth anniversary *History of the Governments Documents Round Table of the American Library Association 1972-2002* is published in two parts. The original history by Lois Mills, *A History of the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association, 1972-1992*, published by the Congressional Information Service in 1992, is reprinted slightly revised as part one. The revisions include reformatting text, removing preliminary pages, illustrations, and updating appendices. The original history with illustrations will be made available on the GODORT web site.

The second part is *A History of the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association, 1992-2002*, written by Larry Romans and Sandy Peterson, and with contributions by many GODORT members.

--Andrea Morrison, Chair
GODORT Publications Committee 2001-2002

Acknowledgments

THE BEGINNING

> The Round Table has made significant contributions in revitalizing the Advisory Committee [sic] to the Public Printer, in establishing guidelines for the use and servicing of state documents, in reviewing the function of the depository law, and [has] become a respected representative able to speak for the problems, needs, and goals of documents librarians.

Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director of the American Library Association, in his "State of the Association" address at the 1977 ALA Annual Conference in Detroit with these words gave GODORT a much appreciated fifth birthday gift.

In January 1970, seven years before Wedgeworth's remarks, Bernadine Hoduski, then at the University of Missouri Library, Kansas City, asked permission to attend the midwinter meeting of a small group called RSD/RTSD Interdivisional Committee on Public Documents. The chair denied permission, citing lack of space. The chair had requested space for ten people and feared that allowing one extra person to attend would, in her words, "open the gates."

The RSD/RTSD Interdivisional Committee, a forerunner of GODORT, was later to add another acronym to its name; it became the RSD/RTSD/ ASLA Interdivisional Committee on Public Documents. People who were working to form an organization devoted to the problems of government publications attended the meetings of the Committee on Public Documents and joined actively in the work of its Census Bureau Advisory Committee as well as its Census Task Force and the Subcommittee on Census Documents.

Although there have been groups and individuals working in the field of government documents since the 1930s, there began in the 1970s to be widespread interest in an organizational effort by people not necessarily part of the ALA established hierarchy. Margaret T. Lane and Joyce Ball, past chairs of the Public Documents Committee, were both of great help to those less experienced in the intricacies of ALA governance who were working to establish GODORT.

In response to this interest, Lane, then chair of the Public Documents Committee, arranged a "non-program" for the 1970 annual meeting of the Committee. She invited eighty-five documents librarians, including thirty-six regional librarians, to come to this meeting and group themselves for free-ranging discussions according to their particular documents interest. Members of the newly reeetiny r

By the end of the midwinter conference, Bernadine Hoduski, the new coordinator, had an announcement listing the proposed task forces with their volunteer leaders, around which the efforts of the Round Table would be initially organized:

* Federal Documents (Joyce Ball and Bernadine Hoduski)
* Municipal Documents (Marilyn Lester, Dan Lester, and Judith Bull)
* International Documents (Mina Pease)
* State Documents (Dallas Shaffer, Deanne Holzberlein, Geneva Finn)
* Microforms (John Bell)
* Round Table Clearinghouse (Arne Richards).

In April 1972, eight people met at the Public Library in St. Louis, Missouri, to work on a constitution and bylaws for the fledgling organization. So far as collective memory can ascertain, they were Geneva Finn, Clare Beck, Bill Smith, Mina Pease, Deanne Holzberlein, Marian Carroll, Bernadine Hoduski, and Lois Mills.

Except for the proposed constitution and bylaws and an agenda, there are no written records of the meeting. The meeting was taped, but two different audio- visual departments have not been able to raise anything but a faint murmur. According to the agenda the group discussed items to be included in the constitution and bylaws such as membership qualifications, elections, whether there should be an Action Council as in SRRT, the place of the task forces in the organization, the duties of the Clearinghouse personnel, and the provision for liaisons from state documents groups who were to be called affiliates.

By May 30, 1972, the final draft of the GODORT constitution and bylaws was forwarded to ALA for a successful review and eventual approval by its Constitution and By-Laws Committee after GODORT changed its

The Constitution Planning Committee prepared and tabulated the ballots. In order to get into phase with the proposed GODORT constitution, the Steering Committee officers and the members of the Election and the Constitution and Bylaws Committees would be elected for one-year terms in 1972.

In this first election there were contests for the offices of assistant coordinator, treasurer, liaison to state and local affiliates, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The first officers of the ALA Government Documents Round Table were: Coordinator, Bernadine Hoduski; Assistant Coordinator, Anthony Miele; Secretary, Geneva Finn; Treasurer, Eugene Malkowski; Clearinghouse Coordinator, Arne Richards; Liaison to State and Local Affiliates, Mary Sanders; Election Committee, James Corvey, Barbara Gray, Aaron House and Sherwood Kirk; Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Elaine Blowers, Judith Bull, John Morgan, and Patricia Ourth. Two of the people elected turned out not to be members of ALA. Agreement was reached about their status, and they were given the opportunity to join ALA.

There were no minutes available for the meeting of the new Round Table that was held the last day of the conference. A substantial quote is given here from Irene Schubert's Informational Notes on the Steering Committee because that meeting established the patterns of GODORT procedure.

> *Bernadine Hoduski called the meeting to order. She suggested that plans be made for the midwinter conference of ALA to be held in Washington, D. C. on January 28-Feb. 3, 1973. It was agreed that each taskforce would have one meeting and that the whole Round Table would meet at least once. Later it was decided that a short general meeting of the whole Round Table would be appropriate first, to introduce the work of the taskforces to those who will not be familiar with the work of the Round Table or the taskforces. The six taskforces would probably meet for about an hour and a half. It was suggested that no two taskforces meet at the same time so that people would not have conflicts. The Round Table would then have general meeting followed by a Steering Committee meeting. The meetings would hopefully be at the beginning of the week so that there would be time to draft any resolutions or other matters for the consideration of the ALA Council. It was suggested that a meeting room be reserved for the Round Table for two days. The room could be used as a central meeting place when scheduled meetings were not being held. A suggestion was also made to reserve a suite.*

In case readers think this inexperienced group to be hopelessly naive, by the time of the Washington midwinter meeting in January-February 1973, Readex had agreed to sponsor such a suite!

A further quote from the account of that first Steering Committee meeting reports another procedure established early in the history of GODORT: "Mr. Arne Richards is ittee meeting reping 5

Round Table had grown from three to four.

coordinator. By a vote of 15 to 13 the group said the assistant coordinator should be coordinator-elect. By 20 to 13 they felt the program chairman should be a separate officer and by 18 to 13 they thought this officer should be appointed and not elected.

Although the second coordinator of GODORT announced that the approval of the constitution was an important item of business, for some reason it was not part of the first coordinator's agenda at the New York meeting where the two coordinators shared the conduct of business.

A brief report of a Constitution Committee meeting by Clare Beck recorded concern about consistency in use of the terms "chairman" or "chairperson" and how to elect one. There was a question from the floor about the preparation of a policy manual.

The members were questioned about whether the constitution revisions should be voted on by mail or in meetings and whether the ballot should be a simple yes or no or voted on section by section. Mail ballot carried, reaffirming an earlier decision of the Round Table. A note from Lois Mills, then chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, resulted in a simple "Approve" or "Do Not Approve" ballot being published in the November 1974 issue of *DttP* for return to Robert Schaaf, then chairman of the Election Committee.

In retrospect, the events outlined above suggest that the business of writing and approving the constitution was a messy and unorganized procedure, but the GODORT constitution and bylaws, with all revisions to date, were nonetheless completed and printed in the November 1975 issue of *DttP*.

The first new suggestion for a revision to the newly completed bylaws was printed in the March 1976 issue of *DttP,* and a ballot to be mailed to Beverly Railsback, chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, was printed in the June 1976 issue. This suggested revision removed the provision that the persons receiving the highest number of votes in an election for members of the Election Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee be declared chair and provided instead that the chairs be elected from among the committee members. The September 1976 *DttP* reported approval of this change.

In 1977 an error, which specified that Steering Committee members could serve no more than two terms consecutively, was removed and that limitation was made applicable to all elected officers. A second change allowed the treasurer to take office on September 1 following an election rather than at the close of the annual meeting, thus bringing that office into phase with the fiscal year of the American Library Association. In November 1977 a complete revision to date of the constitution and bylaws appeared in *DttP*.

The next version of the constitution and bylaws, which appeared in the September 1979 *DttP,* eliminated a statement about the amount of dues and instead provided that dues be determined by the Steering Committee with the approval of the membership. In addition, the preparation of an annual budget was requested. A report of GODORT annual conference proceedings to the ALA that had been required was dropped because the ALA publication that carried it was discontinued.

In a move that appeared to erode the original volunteer concept, the composition of the Clearinghouse Committee was changed from "as many volunteers as wish to serve" to " ...the Treasurer of GODORT, the Liaison to State and Local Affiliates, the Membership Chairperson, and one representative from each task force...." The change

was justified as setting up a more permanent committee. Indeed, how could anyone run an operation as complicated as gathering material, overseeing the printing and distribution of the finished publication from widely separated locations, never knowing who would volunteer and when? The treasurer was added to the committee because *DttP* incurred more than three-fourths of GODORT's annual expenses.

The November 1982 issue of *DttP*

The first recommendation of the Committee caused some consternation. This excerpt shows why:

> *The Committee recommends that the functions of GODORT continue to be structured through the use of task forces, workgroups and committees, but that a variety of operational changes be made. To facilitate the organizational changes, the Committee recommends that all taskforces, work groups and special committees be abolished; those for which charges are prepared would be reestablished.*

This procedure is common in a wholesale reorganization. Members were not prepared for it to be quite so wholesale.

In order to obviate the overlapping of charges and activities between the level of government task forces (Federal, State and Local, and International) and the subject task forces, the report recommended that the level of government task forces be limited to these three and that special committees be established to consider subjects of common interest to all levels of government. The report noted that two subject task forces, Administration and Organization and the Microforms Task Force had already been abolished and that currently (1985) the Statistics Task Force and the Machine Readable Government Information Task Force were both having difficulty keeping member interest.

Under this recommendation the Education Task Force, the Statistics Task Force, and the Machine Readable Government Information Task Force would be abolished and reestablished as special committees. Existing special committees, the Cataloging Committee, Legislation Committee, Freedom of Information Committee, and the Friends of Documents Committee would all have to go through the procedure for reestablishment as outlined in detail in the report.

The recommendation that elicited the most discussion was to appoint, rather than elect, almost all members of both standing and special committees as well as the secretaries of the task forces. In answer to the deep concern expressed in the membership meeting the report pointed out:

> *As is clearly evident from the preceding discussion, the number of elected officers will be reduced, and the terms of office for many positions will be increased if the Committee's recommendations are adopted. While these changes may appear to limit an individual's ability to participate in GODORT's activities, the Committee believes that this change will actually allow for more participation, especially by those who do not have the benefit of name recognition on ballots that older members do.*

There was discussion of how the "Outreach and Accessibility" program should work to attract new members, and how the newly named Network Committee, formerly called the Liaison to State and Local Affiliates, would be involved with the program.

Other recommendations would encourage more work between the two meetings each year, less oral reporting at business meetings, and the continuation of the update meeting as a separate meeting for the Federal Documents Task Force only. Updates for the other

task forces would be part of their general business meetings. The Committee's report even took a position against GODORT becoming a division, partially because ALA was not encouraging the formation of new divisions at that time. The report concluded with a summary of recommendations, pointing out changes necessary in the constitution, the bylaws, and the operation of the Steering Committee if the report were to be approved.

A report of the Second Ad Hoc Committee to Study GODORT Structure was mailed to members as *Newsline* Number 4, dated November 1985. This second committee noted that discussion of the report of the First Ad Hoc Committee at the annual meeting in June was inconclusive because: "Some recommendations proved to be controversial and time for discussion ran short." Members passed a motion that discussion be continued at Midwinter and asked the Second Ad Hoc Committee to revise the report before the January meeting to reflect the changes already approved.

The second committee said that the original committee was directed to find ways to streamline the schedule of GODORT meetings and to cut down the number of volunteers needed to run for office. The second committee felt that the first committee had, indeed, found ways to accomplish these objectives, but that the membership had voted against them. The second committee explained that these membership votes did not mean the final defeat of the suggested amendments. That would occur only when the changes necessary to implement the recommendations were not approved when, and if, they did appear as amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

For the most part the report of the second committee agreed with recommendations of the first committee. They wanted to change the Clearinghouse Committee to the Publications Committee, to leave the Liaison to State and Local Affiliates unchanged, and to give the National Action Alert Network to the GODORT Legislation Committee. The committee position on elected versus appointed offices was that "the Publications Chair, because he/she sits on the Executive Committee, ...remain an elected office. In order to avoid the appearance of undemocratic procedures, we also suggest that the Awards Committee... be elected."

The second committee ended its report by endorsing the proposals of the first committee. Members of the Second Ad Hoc Committee to Study GODORT Structures were Chair Diane Garner, Jennifer Arns, Jaia Barrett, Stephen Hayes, David Heisser, Linda Hoffmann, Stephen Patrick, and Sandra Peterson.

The December 1987 issue of *DttP* proposed the merging of the constitution and bylaws. The texts of the two existing documents were printed and the suggested merged text was also given. By 1988 the merged text was approved and the title of the document was the GODORT Bylaws. Substantive changes included the creation of a standing Budget Committee, the demise of the Liaison to State and Local Affiliates with its responsibilities moved to the Membership Committee, and the provision for a parliamentarian.

In the December 1991 issue of *DttP* the latest revised edition of GODORT Bylaws appeared with an Editor's Note that gave publication schedules for GODORT governance documents.

The September 1988 *DttP* printed the Handbook for GODORT Members, compiled and edited by Jack Sulzer. This very useful publication provided:

* A list of GODORT officers and committee members for 1988/89
* GODORT's Statement of Purpose
* A citation to the location of the Strategic Plan for the Growth and Development of the Round Table (*DttP,* Volume 15, Number 2, June 1987, page 104)
* An outline of the organizational structure of GODORT
* Bylaws
* A description of GODORT units, i.e., task forces, work/interest groups, and committees
* The GODORT Policies and Procedures Manual
* Policies of *DttP*
* The procedures of the Notable Documents Panel
* Affiliates and liaisons with other groups

There was also a most interesting and helpful checklist of resolutions passed by GODORT between 1973 and 1984 with the note that resolutions passed since 1984 can be found in the minutes of GODORT business meetings published in the March and September issues of *DttP*.

By 1989 this Handbook had evolved into the GODORT Policies and Procedures Manual, Member's Edition, edited by Ben Amata. There is a separate edition for officers, which is issued to them upon their election and assumption of office.

In 20 years GODORT has grown from an unstructured, free-wheeling group into a highly structured organization with many rules and a complex formula for terms of office, which assigns great powers to a handful of people.

For example, members of these standing committees - Membership, Legislation, Education, Cataloging, Statistical Measurements, Program, and Government Information Technology - are appointed by the Chair of GODORT with the approval of the Steering Committee. All chairs of these committees except Statistical Measurements and Program are appointed by the Chair of GODORT. The Chair of the Program Committee is the Assistant Chair/Chair Elect of GODORT.

Legislation, Cataloging, Education, Program, and Government Information Technology standing committees have additional members appointed by each of three task force coordinators. Two committees, Awards and Bylaws, have respectively six and four elected members with their chairs appointed by the Chair of GODORT with the approval of the Steering Committee. The Nominating Committee is composed of four members elected annually; the Chair is appointed by the Chair of GODORT from among these four. The Publications Chair is elected by the total membership and the remaining five members sit on the committee because of the other positions they hold. Most committees use a complicated staggered term structure to give more opportunity for membership to serve and to provide flexibility.

Because of GODORT's complex structure and the tremendous responsibility of a few people, present and future chairs of GODORT need wide acquaintance with GODORT members and firm faith in the judgment of the people needed to suggest appointees to GODORT offices.

Documents to the People

I

The Chronology of Documents to the People

While the content of *DttP* began in the way it was to go forward, the pattern of the publication schedule was erratic until 1984. Four issues, September 1972 through September 1973, made up the first volume. Volume 2 began with the October 1973 issue, but it finished with a combined issue, Numbers 3 and 4, dated April 1974. The first number for Volume 3 began with September 1974 and that volume ran for eight issues through November 1975.

Volume 4 suffered problems also. In the summer separate parts of Number 4, labeled Parts 1 and 2, were published in June and July respectively. The second July part was only five pages. The total Volume 4, which ran through November 1976, comprised six numbers.

With the January 1977 volume the editors began two new practices. They decided to publish on a calendar year basis and to use continuous paging throughout a volume. There continued to be six issues a year through Volume 10 for the year 1982.

Actually, six issues were planned for Volume 11,1983, but the editorship changed and Numbers 1 and 2 were printed together, making the final issue for 1983 Number 5.

From 1984 to the present the pattern of four issues per calendar year (March, June, September, and December) has continued to the present, except for Volume 14 when Number 4 failed to appear.

The people who served as editors performed for GODORT the most onerous task with the least amount of glory. Arne Richards and Bernadine Hoduski served as co-editors for the first volume. As Clearinghouse Chair it was one of Dallas Shaffer's duties to edit the *DttP* issues from October 1973 through April 1974. Jaia Heymann (Barrett) was elected the next Clearinghouse Chair, and the issues between September 1974 and March 1975 were her responsibility. Roger Jones was editor for issues from May 1975 to July 1976. Jaia Heymann stepped in and edited the issues between September 1976 and June 1977 while Patricia Reeling was in charge for issues from September 1977 through June 1978.

The longest editorial tenure, from September 1978 to November 1982, was held by LeRoy Schwarzkopf. He resigned to pursue other interests, and no editor was listed in Numbers 1 and 2 of Volume 11, 1983. However, we know from Barbara Kile's report as GODORT Chair that she and Sandra McAninch compiled the conference reports printed there. Joe Jaros was persuaded to take the editorship beginning with the May 1983 issue, and he continued through the issue of September 1986. Diane Garner's tenure began with the March 1987 issue and continued through the issue of December 1989, when Mary Redmond assumed the position.

Volunteers have done the indexing for *DttP*. Judy Horn and Sandra Kom did yeoman service with their compilation covering Volumes 1 through 6. Horn continued with separate yearly indexes for Volumes 7,8, and 9; she went on with the task of doing combined compilations for Volumes 10 through 14 and 15 through 17. Charlotte Bagh and Sally Reeves compiled 15 through 17, and Horn did final editing. Since *Library*

Literature began to index *DttP* with Volume 19 there will be complete indexing available except for Volume 18, 1990. The indefatigable Judy Horn has probably already taken care of the gap.

A supplement to *DttP,* the *DttP Newsletter,* appeared as a pilot issue, dated February 15, 1980 and edited by Karl Nyren, then a member of the *DttP* Editorial Advisory Board. Sent to members of the GODORT Steering Committee and to state chapter contacts, the four-page newsletter's purpose was to get the word out fast, alerting members to legislative events in particular. Carol Collier, a member of the Editorial Advisory Board, asked people who saw it to duplicate it and send it on to other members.

Morehead's column in *DttP*, "Quorum of One," appeared first in the November 1976 issue. In it he reviewed a government publication, *Job Title Revision*, which updated the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* to rid it of age identifying and sex stereotyping language. His examples are humorous, and the piece ends with his observation that the publication under review was issued by the Manpower Administration.

"Quorum of One" appeared in more than twenty issues before it ceased publication in mid-1983. Subjects were of daily usefulness as well as historical interest to documents librarians. The second column commented on a committee print excerpted from a classified print titled "Summary of Executive Orders in Times of War and National Emergency A Working Paper," which traced

Depository Library Council meetings have all informed GODORT members with reasoned background material and firm basis for action.

Patricia Reeling offered a fine and needed service to busy documents librarians in 1972 and 1973 with her "Calendar of Events," her fully annotated list of ERIC documents on documents, and another annotated bibliography called "Publications."

On the state and local front, a recurring column called "Documents Groups at State and Local Levels" was a project of the Liaison to State and Local Affiliates and a gathering of news items from the groups at those levels. Margaret T. Lane did a number of columns called "Scattered Notes on State Publications" and Marie Clark produced two columns on new state and local documents. Tom Reynolds began "State and Local Documents News" in 1987 and continues to write it.

Publications of international provenance have received attention in sometimes irregularly recurring columns, beginning with material about Canadian documents. News of official publications from the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United Nations followed. Familiar names appeared at the head of these columns: among them were Eve Johannson, Peter Hajnal, Judith Boettger, Luciana Marulli, Patricia M. Grenier, and Ann E. Miller. In 1980 Luciana Marulli (later Marulli-Koenig) produced "International Documents Roundup." For several years readers found these columns very helpful. Maureen Ratynski edited the column next and later alternated responsibility with Nellie Moffitt. The current compiler of "International Documents Roundup" is Barbara M.(Barbie) Smith.

"Mapnews" first appeared in the November 1978 issue *of DttP*. Originally written by Charles Seavey, "Mapnews" marked the start of another mutually rewarding connection, this one between documents and map librarians. Seavey's absence when he changed positions in 1979 was covered by David Cobb with "Cooperation between USGS and Map Librarians" in the November 1979 issue. Kathleen Eisenbeis continued with "Mapnews" in 1982 and 1983. After a hiatus of several years "Mapnews" was re-introduced by Arlyn Sherwood in the March 1991 issue.

In addition to these recurring columns, *DttP* also published numerous single subject bibliographies and bibliographies specifically related to documents librarianship and government information.

GODORT FACTS AND FIRSTS

"**G**overnment Information to the People-Where We've Been and Where We're Going" was the title of the GODORT program at the 1979 annual conference. Two eminent scholars, Larkin Warner and Dee Brown, spoke about their use of government information in their research during the first of three program parts. The second session was on the "Effectiveness of GODORT," and Candy Morgan shared that discussion with Robert Wedgeworth. The third session forecast the future of GODORT as explored by Nancy Cline of Pennsylvania State University

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active GODORT members. The impetus for th

Developments." It is unfortunate that ne

Directory of Government Documents Collections and Librarians in 1974. GODORT members did the compilation and editing, and CIS paid GODORT royalties. The sixth edition has recently been published under this arrange

THIRTY YEARS

The Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) has dealt with many of the same general issues for thirty years. In 2002, GODORT works to insure public access to government information, to improve the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), to highlight local and international information, to promote itself and its concerns within the American Library Association (ALA), to organize itself and schedule meetings and programs in ways that increase its effectiveness, and to meet the needs of its members. These are the same general problems and opportunities GODORT faced in 1972, when Bernadine Abbott Hoduski and others founded GODORT, and in 1992, when Lois Mills wrote the twentieth anniversary history.

While the general issues have remained the same over thirty years, specific details of these issues and the development of newer issues reflect transformations that the founders of GODORT could hardly have anticipated. Much of the change reflects the electronic revolution in government information. For example, in 1972 GODORT members were concerned about catalog cards and microform; in 1992 most GODORT members had Bitnet addresses, and the World Wide Web was a very new phenomenon; in 2002 we worry more about electronic records and maintaining Persistent Uniform Resource Locators (PURLs). GODORT has a first class web site, there are many GODORT-created web resources, and many depositories have their own web sites.

GODORT's role in the American Library Association has led to other changes. In 1972 GODORT became independent from the Social Responsibilities Round Table; in 1992 it was struggling to participate in the ALA policy-forming process; in 2002 GODORT has its own representative on ALA Council, and ALA often turns to GODORT for expertise on government information issues.

This overview of the third decade of GODORT's history will examine how GODORT has organized itself and how it has interacted with ALA, Congress, and other institutions to achieve its goals. GODORT activities promoted public access to information and helped its members perform their jobs better.

GODORT IN THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

At the beginning of its third decade, GODORT grappled with the role it would play within ALA. The question was: who within ALA can speak for librarians about government information issues? This particular question reflected a larger debate within ALA as a whole about who would speak for the larger organization--the membership in its units and committees (the decentralized model) or the Executive Board and senior staff (the centralized model).

GODORT's concern about its changing role developed, as 1991-92 GODORT Chair Linda Kennedy said, as a result of a rise in prominence of federal government information issues within the Association and the large number of ALA units that deal

with government information issues. Ke

Relations, and Reference Services and Technology), and four special standing committees (Awards, Bylaws, Membership and Nominations). Following discussion at the 1993 Annual Conference, the proposal was further revised and published again.

The Ad Hoc Committee investigated the feasibility of becoming an ALA Division, but came to the conclusion that financially it was not an option. Jack Sulzer, member and later Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, prepared a discussion document for the 1994 Annual Conference in Miami that included a sample conference schedule under the proposed reorganization. This document was the topic for a well-attended forum in Miami. The consensus reached at the conference was to postpone further discussion of reorganization until after some of the scheduling changes suggested at the forum had been implemented.[1]

The Ad Hoc Committee on Organization existed from 1992 through 1998. During this time Steve Hayes (1992-93), Sandy Peterson (1993-94/1996-97), and Jack Sulzer (1997-98) served as Chair.

The Proposed Merger with ASCLA

In December 1995 the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) invited GODORT and the other round tables of ALA to join their division. ASCLA, an ALA division with slightly fewer members than GODORT, is composed of librarians who provide for the information needs of patrons with sensory, mental, physical, health, or behavioral conditions; representatives of multi-type library cooperatives working together to maximize library services beyond those that can be provided through one institution; and the State Library Agencies. The round tables that responded positively to this proposal were GODORT and the Independent Librarians Exchange Round Table (ILERT), a round table for librarians who provide access services outside traditional library settings.[2]

The Ad Hoc Committee was charged with considering this invitation and educating the GODORT membership about the ASCLA proposal. The Committee met several times with members of ASCLA and ILERT to discuss the proposal to form a new division, and Dan Barkley, Steve Hayes, and Jack Sulzer attended a meeting of the ASCLA Board. GODORT sponsored open forums and hearings for member discussions, opened debate on GOVDOC-L to broaden the discussion among GODORT members who do not attend ALA conferences, and issued a White Paper in July 1997 and a summary of pros and cons on the merger question (from which much of this account is taken).[3]

The advocates of the merger said that it would increase GODORT's ALA staff support for routine matters, empower GODORT with the authority to set policies and standards, provide significant training opportunities for our leaders, and increase GODORT's potential power and prestige in ALA with regard to government information policies and issues. They also felt the merger would bring government information issues to a broader audience than those already represented within GODORT.

The opponents of the merger, by contrast, felt that GODORT would lose members because of the large dues increase; would lose control of its programs, publications, budget, web page, and councilor; would give up clout GODORT already had in ALA and in Washington; and would lose focus, identity, and visibility because GODORT would be only a small part of a very diverse group with which it had not enough in common.

Bylaws Changes

In addition to the Bylaws changes mentioned above, other changes have been made. Officers were assigned new responsibilities, new committees were established, and changes were made to existing committees.

Officers and New Positions
Amendments to the Bylaws in 1992 designated the GODORT Chair-elect to be the Chair of the Program Committee and the Immediate Past Chair to be a member of the Publications Committee. It was at that time that the Immediate Past Chair assumed the responsibility for scheduling the meetings during conferences.

In 1998 the Bylaws were changed to add two positions: a GODORT Web Administrator and a GODORT Councilor (see above). The GODORT Web Administrator became the editor of the ***GODORT Policies and Procedures Manual*** and a member of the Publications Committee.

New Committees
In 1992 the Budget Committee, comprised of the GODORT Treasurer, Chair-elect, and Past Chair, was created. In 1994 the Rare and Endangered Government Publications

The 1999-2000 GODORT Chair Larry Romans, Treasurer Tim Byrne, and the Executive Committee met and made severe cuts to reduce the FY 1999-2000 and 2000-01 budgets. GODORT reluctantly dropped its membership in the Association of Public Data Users (APDU) (at which Julie Wallace was GODORT's representative) and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) (Susan Tulis was GODORT's representative). As a result of these efforts the FY 1999-2000 deficit was limited to $6,747.

Action by GODORT's leaders limited the severity of the budget problem. Without the dues increased proposed by Dan Barkley, membership revenues would have declined and without quick action by the 1999-2000 Executive Committee, expenditures would have been significantly higher. *DttP* Editor John Shuler and Advertising Manager Jill Moriearty guided a successful 18-month publication–rebuilding program that increased subscription and advertising revenues and controlled printing expenditures by limiting the number of pages per issue.

GODORT has maintained austerity budgets, so the organization has not restored many of its budget cuts. Membership revenue and *DttP*

The Steering Committee identified "anchor" meetings that seem to attract our members, especially newer and less-active members: Cataloging Committee, Education Committee, Federal Documents Task Force (FDTF) Information Update, the International Documents Task Force (IDTF) and State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF), Government Information Technology Committee, and the Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee. These meetings were scheduled in four "prime" time slots: 9:30 AM and 2 PM on Saturday and Sunday. In 2001 Chair Ann Miller designated that, to the extent possible, task force meetings would be held on Saturday, professional/policy committees on Sunday, and business/process committees on Friday and Monday.

A third effort has been to make the meeting content more interesting. Much of our committee work has to involve GODORT administrative or procedural issues, but committees can also include educational content. In 2000 GODORT started asking the committee chairs to include a presentation (not a formal program) at the committee's meeting at the ALA Annual Conference.

Membership Decline

According to Lois Mills, GODORT reached membership of 1,000 in 1976. The apparent peak was 1,132 personal members in 1989. (This number excludes library and corporate members.) Since then GODORT has experienced a small but continuing decline of membership each year. On August 31, 2001, personal membership was 845.

In recent years GODORT Chairs and Membership Committees have expressed considerable concern about this problem. However, competing responsibilities have made it difficult for GODORT to focus on membership growth. GODORT Chairs often must deal with pressing legislative issues and the Membership Committee must deal with the annual GODORT reception and the GODORT hotel for each convention.

Conference on the Future of Federal Government Information (Chicago Conference)

Hoc Committee on Restructuring the Federa

Ryan (1993), and Michael van Fossen (1994). *Library Literature* currently indexes the publication.

In 1997, *DttP* had increasing problems meeting its publication schedule. During the next two years *DttP* was not published regularly and eventually interrupted publication for over six months. Due to this irregular publishing schedule, companies withdrew their advertising, and some threatened to sue to recover advertising costs. In addition to the schedule and advertising problems, articles and featured columns submitted by authors for publication in *DttP* were misplaced in the editing and publishing processes.

To solve the existing problems in *DttP*'s irregular publishing schedule, its revenue shortfall, and missing text, GODORT officers asked John A. Shuler to serve as *DttP* Editor and Jill Moriearty to become *DttP* Advertising Manager. The new editorial staff moved quickly to establish a regular publishing schedule and locate missing pre-publication text and manuscripts.

Once *DttP* was back on a regular publication schedule, further changes occurred. A new look of the publication cover and masthead reflected the change to ALA Production Services. A title change to

sch11 r0ff ad a regular pubin

Arlyn Sherwood (1992-93) and Melissa Lamont (1994-97); "News Notes" by Helen Sheehy (1992), Kenneth Botsford (1993), and Dena Hutto (1993-95); and "New Publications" by Susan Anthes and Marcia Meister (1994-96, 1999).

GODORT Web Site

The GODORT web site has become the major source of organizational information

morning at both the ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences. It has a large attendance and it is the only GODORT meeting that some librarians attend.

In the last ten years FDTF has worked with government agencies to standardize of CD-ROMs, to revise of Title 44, on "fugitive" government publications that are not part of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), and to oppose the proposed elimination of the National Technical Information Service, among other issues. FDTF maintains an Agency Liaison Program, whose mission is to establish connections between federal agency personnel and librarians so that the agencies may develop an understanding of the needs of the depository community and users of government information.

In March 2002, FDTF established a work group on Permanent Public Access to Government Information to explore issues involved in restriction of government information. This group was charged to determine if the GODORT Principles on Government Information[12] needed to be updated in light of recent government restrictions on access to information, to identify the major issues involved in restriction of government information, and to recommend further actions that GODORT could take to protect the rights of citizens to public information. The group will provide updates and interim reports at ALA conferences and will develop a white paper by August 2003 containing its conclusions.

The FDTF maintains a web site and sponsors the "Frequently Used Sites Related to U.S. Federal Government Information" web site[13] created by Larry Romans, Kevin Reynolds, and Jennifer McMullen in the spring of 1998. The "Frequently Used" site has been a "site of the week" in *USA Today*, USBudget.com, and Librarians' Index to the Internet.

International Documents Task Force (IDTF)

The International Documents Task Force (IDTF) is smaller than FDTF, but its members are just as dedicated to making government information available to users. The IDTF focuses on foreign government and international organization information. During the last decade IDTF has organized a pre-conference in 1998 ("International Organization Information for the 21st Century") and two programs---one in 1993 entitled "The Environment and Intergovernmental Organizations: Responses to the Rio Conference," and one in 2000 entitled "International Statistical Data: Sources, Issues and Trends for the New Millennium."

In 2001 IDTF created on their web site a "Toolbox for Processing and Cataloging International and Foreign Government Documents"[14] through the efforts of three chairs: Andrea Morrison, Barb Mann, and David Griffiths. In 1996 Mercedes Sanchez presented a proposal to revive the dormant IDTF Agency Liaison Program. The intent of the program is to establish contacts between working librarians, international governmental organizations (IGOs), vendors, and non-U.S. national governments in order to provide an avenue for librarians to have influence over the development of new products, new services, and depository programs. In 2002 seventeen IDTF members served as liaisons.

Over the past decade IDTF has worked with the European Union Washington Office, the United Nations Dag Hammarskjold Library Depository Library Officer, the United

Nations Statistical Division, and with a variety of vendors of foreign and international organization products and services.

State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF)

Although small in number, State and Local Documents Task Force members have made a significant difference in the dissemination of state and local government information to the public. The "Documents on Documents" collection consists of materials relating to the acquisition, classification, distribution, listing, management and servicing of state government publications. These primary materials are largely related to the working of state depository programs, and were gathered for the years 1973 through 1995 by a working group called the "Committee of Eight." ERIC has created microfiche of this collection since the mid-1980s, and the original materials have been archived at UCLA Libraries offsite storage. Collection-level records have been created, with the ERIC numbers recorded. These documents are available for anyone to consult for assistance with such issues as writing state depository legislation, how to create outreach programs, development of state depository policies and procedures, or classifying and cataloging state government information. The Committee of Eight is still in place as a communications network, with each member representing six to seven states.

The SLDTF sponsored three ALA Annual programs: "Innovation in State Government Information Sources" (2002), "City on a Hill: Building Information Systems for the Next Century" (2000), and "Power to States and Localities: The Devolution of Government Information Dissemination" (1996). The SLDTF web site includes an extensive State and Local Documents Bibliography, compiled by Kathy A. Parsons, covering 1987-2000.

Margaret Lane was the impetus for two SLDTF-supported regional conferences developed specifically for state depository coordinators. An "East Coast" State Depository Coordinators Conference, was held in Hartford, CT in May 2000; a "State Documents Librarians' Conference: Western States" is scheduled for April 22-24, 2002, in Scottsdale, AZ.[15]

The SLDTF has worked closely with the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) in Chicago to develop a collection development policy for state government information at the Center and to determine the disposition of their holdings of state government information. Yvonne Wilson served as the liaison to CRL from SLDTF for several years. Projects currently in development by SLDTF include a handout titled "Top 25 List of Things to Know for State Documents Librarians" and the State and Local Documents Toolbox, a web resource.

COMMITTEES

Awards Committee

GODORT presents three major awards to recognize achievements by documents librarians, one award to encourage research in documents librarianship, and a scholarship for those pursuing a library science degree. The Awards Committee recommends to the

Government Information and Depository Management Clearinghouse

In 1996 Jack Sulzer donated his CIS/Documents to the People Award money to establish a Continuing Education Fund to be used for the support of projects to develop electronic and distance education resources. GODORT's Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO) and the Education Committee jointly established the Ad Hoc Committee on Continuing Education Fund, which decided to set up a web-based Clearinghouse for librarians working with government information. The $2,000 gift was used to fund eight tutorials, which are part of the Clearinghouse. The Ad Hoc Committee was chaired by Jocelyn Tipton (1996-97), Amy Spare (1997-2000), and Sherry DeDecker (2000-01) and in August 2001 issued its final report.[25]

The Government Information and Depository Management Clearinghouse[26] is an ongoing project of the Education Committee. Its purpose is to gather into one place the many tools available to government information librarians to assist in the successful management of electronic government information, and in building advocacy skills to promote access to this information.

Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO)

In 1994, the Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO) sponsored a pre-conference on "Finding Government Information on the Internet." GITCO has created other resources designed to assist documents librarians in making government information available electronically.

Web Page Template

The Government Information Web Page Template helps librarians to quickly and easily add a government information component to their library's web site. The template contains links to selected important resources in six areas: Federal Government General Information; Federal Government Legislative and Regulatory Information; State Information; International and Foreign Information; Statistical Resources; and Additional Resources. Created with the template was a separate page with step-by-step instructions for downloading and customizing the template for use on a library web site.

The template was suggested by GITCO at the ALA Midwinter Conference in February 1997, when Cynthia Jahns was GITCO Chair. Members Cathy Nelson Hartman, contains/h0.0TT[w ly 4h4 DurT14 DurT14 DurT14 DurlBT9emm with ste9ith the temp(-0.0D 14)]om0 Tyrary

documentation available via the GODORT home page, and (c) create and convey minimum-level benchmark standards for documentation.

At ALA Midwinter 1997, GITCO enthusiastically accepted the challenge. GITCO members Barbara Levergood (Workgroup Chair), Dan Blazek, Cynthia Jahns, Larry Schankman, and Jocelyn Tipton, as well as non-GITCO members Michael Cotter, Annette Curtis, Megan Dreger, Robin Haun-Mohammed, Carolyn Kohler, Lee Morey, and Carrie Ottow, volunteered to assist with the project.

The project participants determined what data to collect and from where to collect the technical documentation (the most detailed description of contents, code book information, etc.), including lists of government CD-ROMs. They discovered sites containing related materials,   diExankm, andgchmyites

Concerted efforts have been made from time to time to update the list of coordinators and to improve methods of communication within each state. In 1992 Duncan Aldrich and Dan Barkley worked on reorganizing NAAN and in 1994 Aimee Piscitelli Quinn led NAAN efforts and proposed adding regional contacts to pick at least one contact per state in a given region. In 2000 Kevin Reynolds and Debbie Madsen started revitalizing the NAAN, an effort that continues with Laura Dickson and Janet Justis.

Membership Committee

In 1992, the Membership Committee initiated a new members luncheon to welcome new GODORT members and to help integrate them into the organization. Traditionally, it has been held on Saturday, following the Government Documents Update session.

Another annual event organized by the Membership Committee is the GODORT reception. It is usually held on Sunday evening during the annual conference and in recent years has been combined with the presentation of the GODORT Awards. The 25th anniversary reception was held at the Plimsoll Club in New Orleans. GODORT's 30th anniversary celebration will be held at the 2002 Annual Conference in Atlanta at the Margaret Mitchell House.

In years past, GODORT had unofficially designated one or sometimes two hotels in a conference city as the "GODORT" hotel. Occasionally, GODORT worked with the Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) in designating a hotel. The Membership Committee's Local Arrangements Group usually visited the hotel and negotiated rates. With a few exceptions, the hotel arrangements worked reasonably well, but in 1999 ALA encouraged GODORT to designate a block of rooms within an "ALA" hotel as "GODORT" rooms. This arrangement was adopted in 2000.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's activities were expanded at the 1996 Midwinter Meeting to include responsibility for the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer nominees that GODORT submits to the ALA Executive Board. The Nominating Committee solicits nominations and curriculum vitae that are circulated to and voted upon by the GODORT Steering Committee. In response to the ALA Executive Board concern that not enough public librarians are included among GODORT's nominees, a notice soliciting nominations is now posted in American Libraries.

Program Committee

GODORT adopted a policy more than ten years ago to organize no more than two programs during each annual conference. Suggestions and sponsorship can come from any one of the GODORT committees or task forces or be of such general interest that the Program Committee becomes the primary organizer. In addition, GODORT is frequently asked to co-sponsor programs with other ALA units. Generally, GODORT lends its name for sponsorship but is not

Table (MAGERT), and GODORT was investigating if government publications could be considered "rare."

Barbara Hulyk and Jim Walsh were the fi

and distance education resources. The Committee issued a report and an annotated bibliography in February 1997.

In 1998 the Ad Hoc Committee on Mini-Legislation Day 1998 was created; Andrea Sevetson was chair. The purpose of this Ad Hoc Committee was to coordinate GODORT's participation in ALA's Mini-Legislative Day scheduled during the 1998 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Digitization of Government Information,[33] chaired by Cathy Hartman, was created in 2000. It will issue its final report at the 2002 Annual Conference.

LEGISLATION

GODORT's most important legislative issues in the last ten years were related to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and the Government Printing Office (GPO), and public access to government information. These issues have included the funding of the FDLP and GPO, their location within the federal bureaucracy, revision of U.S. Code Title 44, and the possible closing of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). The transition to electronic formats for government information and the rate and extent of the change have affected all these issues.

The ALA Legislative Process

ALA policy concerning government information is created by resolutions passed by ALA Council. Former GODORT Legislation Committee Chair Gary Cornwell states, "Throughout its history, GODORT has taken a proactive role in developing resolutions regarding government information." However, GODORT by itself cannot make official ALA policy. GODORT can initiate resolutions and recommend policies, but it does not have control over which policies or which specific wording is ultimately adopted by ALA Council.

Most key issues of government information policy are identified and discussed at joint meetings of the GODORT Legislation Committee and the Subcommittee on Government Information (GIS) of ALA's Committee on Legislation (COL). These issues are referred to joint work groups where draft resolutions are formulated. The resolutions are brought back to the two committees for final revision and approval.

At the GODORT business meeting, the GODORT membership considers the resolutions approved by the GODORT Committee. If the membership approves, it endorses the resolution "in principle" in case the exact language of the resolution is

resolutions AM-0.0002 Tw -w-0.rincipld 5 Tc -0.002518.33501 -1.14999 Td(1he m)0rBDC tgd(oDip aing, th
 resolutions r Gary Cornwell0003 -0.0002 TwODORT Committ

independently. GIS could present a resolution directly to the full ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) without GODORT approval and COL could present it to Council. Likewise, the GODORT membership could direct the GODORT Councilor to take a resolution directly to Council without COL endorsement. Such actions would be exceptions rather than the rule.

The Working Relationship of ALA and GODORT on Legislative Issues

In the early 1990s GODORT members were frustrated by the role that GODORT and its Legislation Committee played in the development of ALA government information policy. ALA did not always include GODORT in the initial stages of deliberation about ALA policy, and GODORT members were seldom appointed to the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) or its Government Information Subcommittee (GIS). The GIS and the GODORT Legislation Committee held joint update meetings at most conferences, and productive cooperation did occur. However, COL and GIS on occasion significantly changed GODORT-initiated resolutions in ways that GODORT's Legislation Committee opposed, or they adopted revisions to GODORT-initiated resolutions that challenged the very policy GODORT had proposed.

Development of GODORT's relative strength and position within ALA's policy framework was a product both of its relationship with GIS and with the ALA Washington Office. Having an active GODORT member like Fran Buckley as GIS Chair was a sign of GODORT's improved role. According to GODORT Legislation Chair Gary Cornwell, cooperation between GODORT's Legislation Committee and GIS "has not only enhanced GODORT's role in developing government information policy, but it has also provided ALA with a single voice on these issues."

GODORT's leaders helped develop testimony given on behalf of ALA at Congressional hearings related to government information, and GODORT members testified at some of those hearings. For example, Ridley Kessler was an effective advocate for GODORT and ALA at Legislative Branch appropriations hearings held in 1999 and 2000.

The Internet and the National Information Infrastructure

The early 1990s were a period of rapid development for what is now the Internet. GODORT worked with ALA and other library organizations to monitor and respond to bills and initiatives relating to the National Research and Education Network (NREN) and the National Information Infrastructure (NII). In 1988 Senator Al Gore first introduced the National High-Performance Computer Technology Act, which would upgrade and enhance the existing array of networks used mainly by technical government agencies and academic institutions, such as ARPANET, NSFNET, and regional networks. As a contribution to the discussion, a GODORT work group prepared a position paper, "National Research and Education Network and the Federal Depository Library Program."*[34]* After being re-introduced several times, the bill passed in November 1991 (PL 102-194). The law established a framework for a much broader network connecting institutions to what is now called the Internet.

While the NREN expanded the physical network called the Internet, the National Information Infrastructure (NII) encompassed a more expansive vision of interconnected elements. NII included the networks, hardware, software, and people to integrate and interconnect these components and make them useful to the public, business, schools, libraries, and other entities, as well as government.

The development of the NII was important in the early years of the Clinton/Gore administration. In 1993 the White House formed the inter-agency Information Infrastructure Task Force (IITF) to articula

Even though neither of the earlier bills passed, they helped to set the stage for the award-winning GPO Access. On June 8, 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the "Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993" (PL103-40), which had been introduced by Rep. Charlie Rose in the House and then by Senators Wendell Ford (D-KY) and Ted Stevens (R-AK) in the Senate. The law mandated that GPO establish and maintain an online directory of Federal publications in electronic format, provide online access to the *Congressional Record* and the *Federal Register*, and maintain storage for government information. It authorized GPO to charge user fees to recover costs but required free access to depository libraries. Although GPO received no additional appropriations for implementation, GPO Access was successfully unveiled as a fee-based service in June 1994, with a single Internet IP address or one dial-up account and one (non-server) workstation provided free of charge to depository libraries. In October GPO offered wide public access through depository libraries that had agreed to serve as intermediate "gateways" for off-site users. GPO provided free use of GPO Access for all Internet and dial-in users beginning December 1, 1995.

Lobbying to establish GPO Access was just the beginning of GODORT's many important legislative efforts concerning electronic information. As key members of the House of Representatives continued to pressure GPO to implement to speedy transition to a more electronic depository program, GODORT urged Congress to adopt a sensible time frame. In August 1995 GPO began a Congressionally mandated "Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program." Julia Wallace, former GODORT Chair, represented depository libraries on the Working Group, and a numbe

proposal before a revised bill was introduced in the next Congress. ALA worked with the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) to create three working documents in response.[38] GODORT 1996-97 Chair Andrea Sevetson, Legislation Committee Chair Dan O'Mahony, and others held meetings with Congressional staff members on Dec. 18, 1996, to lobby for enhanced public access to all formats of government information.

With Congress's announced intentions to take up Title 44 revision during the 105th Congress (1997-98), ALA's Committee on Legislation initiated a proactive effort to develop and articulate the library community's desires for reforming Title 44. In January 1997 ALA President Mary Somerville invited the leaders of six national library associations to appoint representatives to the Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy (IAWG). ALA Committee on Legislation Chair Patricia Schuman extended the same invitation to members of the ALA Legislation Assembly, which includes representatives from each of the divisions and round tables within ALA. Fran Buckley chaired the group until October 1997 when he became Superintendent of Documents, after which Dan O'Mahony became IAWG Chair. The thirty members of IAWG, which included at least ten GODORT members, worked to develop a consensus on the reforms most important to the library community, and drafted a legislative proposal for amending Title 44 to improve the Federal Depository Library Program. Andrea Sevetson noted that IAWG used a GODORT December 1996 wish list to form a starting point for its own objectives for Title 44 reform.

Many of the library community's concerns were addressed in the "Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998" (S. 2288), which was introduced by Sen. John Warner (R-VA), Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, on July 10, 1998. The legislation, named after Sen. Wendell Ford (D-KY), a long-time advocate of public access to government information, provided for the reform and continuing legislative oversight of the production, procurement, dissemination, and permanent public access to government publications. It explicitly expanded the scope of the FDLP to all formats of government information and included strong enforcement mechanisms to ensure agency compliance. Representatives of the information technology industry opposed the bill in Congressional hearings, and it was never brought to a vote on floor of the Senate. In 1999, at the beginning of the 106th Congress, GODORT and IAWG proposed amendments to Title 44, chapter 19, in the "Next Generation Electronic Government Access Act of 1999." Due to changes in the leadership of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the bill was never introduced in Congress.

Public Access

Public access to government information was another recurring issue. In June 1992 GODORT endorsed a resolution urging the Department of Education "to withdraw its permission to copyright the ERIC databa

information published in any media or form and that these publications be available to the public through depository libraries.

In February 1994 GODORT endorsed a resolution urging the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) to distribute Scientific, Technical, and Engineering Information (STEI) in usable formats and in a timely manner to depository libraries and that it remove access, use, and reuse restrictions for depository libraries. In January 1996 GODORT endorsed a resolution reaffirming Government's responsibility to provide federal information in a format most appropriate to public needs. Five months later GODORT passed a resolution urging federal agency compliance with Title 44.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) chaired the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, which produced its final report in March 1997 (S. Doc 105-2). On February 1, 1999, GODORT endorsed the general framework outlined in "The Government Secrecy Reform Act of 1999" (S. 22), introduced by Sen. Moynihan for a systematic declassification system for government information to ensure future public access. Another 1999 GODORT resolution opposed exempting EPA Risk Management Plans and "Community Right-To-Know" information from Freedom of Information Act requests. Such an exemption would have greatly restricted public access to the off-site consequence analysis data.

In 2001 the House Appropriations Committee voted to cut FY 2002 Energy and Water Development Appropriations (H.R. 2311), which would have eliminated PubSCIENCE, a database that contains citations and links to articles in which Department of Energy researchers report their scientific discoveries. Much of that research is produced with federal funds. Maintaining access to government sponsored research and development originally paid for by the American taxpayers has been a key issue for both the ALA Washington Office and GODORT.

President George W. Bush signed on October 29, 2001, the "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001" (P.L. 107-56). Also known as the USA Patriot Act, the law expanded the powers of federal law enforcement agencies investigating cases involving foreign intelligence and international terrorism. Security concerns resulted in the removal of "sensitive information" from federal and state web sites. A task force of GODORT and ALA's Government Information Subcommittee was created to respond to the 'take down' of Internet resources that were previously accessible to the public and to develop ALA guidelines regarding the issue. In January 2002, GODORT endorsed a resolution urging Congress and government agencies "to ensure that public access to

National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

In 1993 the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) proposed new rules relating to the transfer of scientific, technical, and engineering information to the agency. GODORT worked closely with ALA to craft the ALA response to the proposals, embodied in a letter from ALA President Marilyn Miller dated June 10, 1993. ALA urged that agency publications that NTIS received be supplied to depository libraries. During this period, GODORT and Depository Library Council officers invited the Public Printer and representatives of NTIS to occasional breakfast meetings, in hopes of supporting a closer working relationship between the two agencies.

Department of Commerce Secretary William M. Daley in August 1999 announced his plans to close NTIS at the end of FY 2000, because the agency was unable to operate on a cost-recovery basis. The proposal included shifting the NTIS archives and bibliographic database to the Library of Congress (LC) and developing a decentralized program to require each agency to post its scientific, technical, and business information on its own web site.

Larry Romans, 1999-2000 GODORT Chair, worked with Legislation Chair Kevin Reynolds and the Legislation and Steering Committees to prepare "The Proposed Closing of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS),"[39] a report prepared for ALA's Washington Office. The GODORT report asserted that given the importance of NTIS reports for national research and developm

NCLIS and GAO Studies

THE FUTURE

Thirty years from now the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) may be dealing with the same general issues - no doubt in different ways than it has in the last thirty years. Regardless of how GODORT is organized, to be effective it needs to better fulfill the functions it has served since 1972. GODORT needs to create programs, pre-conferences, projects, and resources that meet the needs of its members and promotes public access to government information. It needs to recruit members one by one and get them involved so that they remain active members and ensure that GODORT becomes a stronger organization. It needs to continue to promote a strong grassroots legislative advocacy, so that GODORT members will build lasting relationships with their Congressional representatives.

GODORT programs, activities, and educational opportunities have promoted public access to information and have helped GODORT members perform their jobs better. As government information departments merge with other library units and as some libraries drop depository status, it becomes ever more important that GODORT focus on efforts to recruit new members and keep its veterans. The most important GODORT resource continues to be the active participation and commitment of its individual members.

GODORT is a more effective organization in 2002 than it was in 1972. Although a few of its founding members remain active, most of its current members and leaders were not active in government information librarianship in 1972. In the next thirty years the Round Table can provide more opportunities for each new wave of members and leaders. If it does so, GODORT will be even more effective in 2032 than it is today.

APPENDIX A
GODORT CHAIRS

Bernadine Hoduski .(called Coordinator)......   1972-1974
Anthony Miele   1974-1976
Nancy Cline   1976-1978
Francis Buckley   1978-1980
Jeanne Isacco   1980-1982
Barbara Kile   1982-1983
Sandra Peterson   1983-1984

APPENDIX B
JAMES BENNETT CHILDS AWARD RECIPIENTS

James Bennett Childs, for many years a government documents expert at the Library of Congress, is renowned among documents librarians today for his |innovative ideas in support of activism to promote the use and accessibility of documents. Childs was the first recipient of the award that bears his name. The James Bennett Childs Award is a tribute by GODORT to an individual who has made a lifetime and significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship. The Award is based on stature, service, and publication, which may be in any or all areas of documents librarianship. The recipient receives a plaque with a likeness of James Bennett Childs.

Recipient	Year
James Bennett Childs	1976
Bernadine A. Hoduski	1977
Mary Elizabeth Poole	1978
Catharine J. Reynolds	1979
No Award given	1980
Margaret T. Lane	1981
James Adler	1982
Bernard M. Fry	1983
No Award given	1984
No Award given	1985
Francis Buckley	1986
Robert W. Schaaf	1987
Patricia Reeling	1988
Joe Morehead	1989
Judith S. Rowe	1990
No Award given	1991
LeRoy Schwarzkopf	1992
No Award given	1993
Sandra Peterson	1994
Karlo K. Mustonen	1995
Julia F. Wallace	1996
Peter I. Hajnal	1997
Lois P. Mills	1998
Virginia F. Saunders	1999
Anne Watts	2000
Myrtle (Smittie) Bolner	2001
Ridley R. Kessler, Jr.	2002

APPENDIX D
TRANSITIONS: REMEMBERING GODORT MEMBERS,

1972 THROUGH 1992

Five especially active and productive members of GODORT have died in the twenty years we have existed. They are **Arne Richards**, first Clearinghouse chair and the co-editor for the first year of *DttP*; **Catharine J. Reynolds**, early activist in government documents work and in her last years government documents librarian at the University of Colorado; **Paul Thurston**, a young and promising librarian; **George Kosman**, faithful participant at documents meetings; and **Nathan Einhorn** of the Library of Congress, who was of great help to the organizers of GODORT, particularly the International Documents Task Force. We miss them all.

1992 THROUGH 2001

GODORT lost several founding members and friends during the past decade. **Sandy Faull**, 1980 recipient of the CIS "Documents to the People" Award, died on December 3, 1992. She was a member of the Depository Library Council (1981-84).

David Rozkuszka, foreign document specialist at Stanford University for over 25 years, died on January 10, 1997. He endowed the GODORT scholarship named in his honor.

Jim Connelly, Vice President of Congressional Information Service, died on January 16, 1997. He was a loyal GODORT friend.

Bob Schaaf, International Documents Specialist at the Library of Congress, died on August 31, 1998. In June he had been a speaker at the GODORT Pre-conference on International Intergovernmental Organization Publications. He received the James Bennett Childs Award for lifetime achievement in 1987.

Beth Baur, who had been an active member of the Government Information Technology Committee, died on November 11, 1999. She was the Assistant Documents Librarian at the University of Memphis and served as 1996-97 Coordinator of the State and Local Documents Task Force.

Lois Mills, a founding GODORT member and a recipient of both the CIS "Documents to the People" Award and the James Bennett Childs Award, died in December 2000. She wrote the history of the first twenty years of GODORT.

Rosemary Little, the Law and Political Science Librarian at Princeton University for more than 30 years, died on December 23, 2001. Rosemary had been an active member of the International Documents Task Force, and a member and Chair of the GODORT Awards, Membership,

APPENDIX E
PRECONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

1992:

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Lois Mills began her distinguished career as a high school librarian at Madison, Wisconsin. Three years later she accepted a faculty position in the School of Library Science at Western Illinois University at Macomb, where she taught

[21] The winners of the W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship were 1995 - Lucie Ellen Mayeux; 1996 - Linda Chia; 1997 - Thomas Reed Caswell; 1998 - Rosalind Lee Tedford; 1999 - Amanda Wakaruk; 2000 -