

**GODORT Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee  
2005 ALA Midwinter Conference, Boston, MA  
Omni Parker House, Alcott Ball Room, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
January 16, 2005**

David Utz, Chair  
John Phillips, Secretary

**Present:** Committee Members: David Utz, Chair, August Imholtz, Geoff Swindells, Anna Korhonen, Timothy Skeers, Aimee Quinn, Chuck Malone, Jane Gillis, Sheri Irvin, Jian Anna Xiong, Stephen Sexton, Mark Phillips; Non-Members: Jim Walsh, Bill Sleeman, Gretchen Schlag, T.C. Evans, George Barnum, Mary Prophet, Susan Golding, Robin Haun-Mohamed, Yvonne Wilson, Kris Kasianovitz, Tim Fusco, Andrew Laas, John Phillips

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:36 a.m. This was followed by introductions. John Phillips agreed to take minutes, for which the Chair thanks him.

The agenda was adopted after the addition, under "New Business," of a discussion about the appointment of (external) liaisons.

The minutes from the 2004 Midwinter meeting were approved (with two minor corrections), as this had not been possible at the 2004 Annual meeting, due to the lack of a quorum. The minutes from the Annual 2004 meeting were also approved.

**Reports from Liaisons:**

The FDTF liaison reported on remarks made by Judith Russell, the U.S. Superintendent of Documents.

The SLDTF liaison reported that a program was planned for the 2005 Annual meeting concerning preservation of "born-digital" government documents. There were discussions at the SLDTF meeting concerning how *DttP* is doing, and the continuation of the State and Local Documents Toolbox. A representative from CRL discussed progress on organizing the state collections which they hold and the possibility of organizing tours at the 2005 Annual meeting in Chicago. Aimee suggested a tour of the Newberry Library for the REGP Committee. The Chair appointed Aimee and August to work on this plan for the 2005 Annual meeting.

The IDTF liaison reported that IDTF had discussed the problems facing the Canadian depository library program. There had also been a discussion of the UN Treaty Database and how to keep it up-to-date. Some treaties are not being added. IDTF plans to propose a pre-conference for the 2006 Annual meeting on the basics of finding international documents and information from foreign governments and international organizations.

PARS, MAGERT, and RBMS did not make reports.

**Web Manager's Report:**

As GODORT is migrating its Web site technology to XHTML format, the REGP Web site will come to reflect these changes. There was a discussion of the maintenance of "archival" REGP minutes on its Web site. David wants these older minutes maintained permanently on the site, as they are crucial in finding essential information concerning what the Committee did in the past.

Aimee pointed out that, in the original petition to GODORT, to establish REGP as a standing GODORT committee (preserved in the GODORT archives), an allowance for more detailed minutes was set forth. This practice (of maintaining detailed minutes) will continue. August asked whether a counter could be added to the site, and Mark will look into this suggestion. In a discussion of new content which the Committee would like the Web Manager to add to the Committee's Web site, David asked that the report of the Subcommittee for Endangered 1932-1962 Federal Documents be added. August asked that the hand-out which accompanied his remarks concerning endangered Federal documents of the "New Deal era" be added. The Committee agreed to these proposals. Aimee asked whether a "wiki," to facilitate intra-Committee electronic communication and discussions could be introduced on the site. David asked that Mark look into this possibility. Susan Golding volunteered to assist the Web Manager in this task.

### **Report of the Subcommittee for Endangered 1932-1962 Federal Documents**

The Subcommittee report on "Digitization of Federal Government Publications, 1932-1962" was presented by Geoff and Aimee. Following the presentation of the report, and the Subcommittee's six recommendations, David asked August to make his supplementary report concerning endangered Federal documents of the "New Deal era." August summarized his findings: Many executive agency reports were not printed on good paper, and substandard printing methods were often used. Many of the reports are not in the Documents Catalogue.

Following these presentations, the Committee proceeded to a consideration of the Subcommittee's recommendations. George Barnum said he had already begun collecting information on the paper stock and printing technologies used between 1932 and 1962 (the first recommendation). Trade catalogs could also be checked for this type of information. It was agreed that this task would offer an excellent opportunity to re-engage PARS in REGP's work.

Aimee moved and Geoff seconded that this recommendation be adopted by the Committee. The motion passed, 10-0. The second recommendation, to collect information on techniques to determine document brittleness and deteriorating physical condition, was discussed. This would be another area in which to re-engage PARS participation. August moved and Aimee seconded that this recommendation be adopted. The motion passed, 10-0. The third and fourth recommendations, to compile comprehensive lists of pre-existing micro-form or digital preservation projects, were discussed together. Aimee moved and August seconded that these recommendations be adopted. The motion passed, 10-0. The fifth recommendation, that REGP ask the GODORT Chair to write a letter to the U.S. Superintendent of Documents, supporting GPO's plan to establish and maintain a national clearinghouse for digital collections, was discussed. GPO suggested that, even though they are already committed to this undertaking, it would be good to have a letter making REGP's position on this issue clear. Sheri suggested that the letter to GPO should specifically mention 1932-1962 Federal documents, and point out the urgent need to preserve these materials. Geoff moved and Aimee seconded that this recommendation be adopted. The motion passed, 10-0. This request will be an "action item" at

the GODORT Business meeting. The sixth reco

of the Committee continue planning and report back at the Chicago meeting. Aimee seconded the motion, and it passed.

David asked for a motion to extend the time for adjournment until 12:45 p.m. Aimee so moved, and Anna (Korhonen) seconded it. The motion passed.

The Committee discussed how difficult it has been to get appointments of liaisons from LITA. David mentioned REGP's prior consideration of this problem (see 1998 Annual and 1999 Midwinter REGP minutes), which occasioned a discussion of establishing a liaison with GITCO. As the discussion was taking a lot of time, there was a motion by Anna (Korhonen) to table further discussion of these issues until the 2005 Annual meeting. Geoff seconded the motion, and it passed. The same problem (lack of any appointment) applies to the two PARS liaison positions. David and Aimee agreed to work to solve this problem, which is a more serious hindrance to the Committee's work.

**Announcement:**

David reminded people to attend the tour of the Boston Public Library's Government Documents Department at 3:30 p.m.

Chuck moved that we adjourn. August seconded the motion, and REGP adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David A. Utz, Chair.