

## **TLA GODORT Meeting Minutes November 7, 2003**

The TLA GODORT meeting was held at the Jessie Ball duPont Library at the University of the South, Sewanee, TN on November 7, 2003 from 10:00 am to 3:55 pm.

### Welcome

Everyone present introduced themselves to the group. There were 24 in attendance. Tom Watson, Director of the University of the South Library, welcomed everyone to the conference.

### From Campaign to Capitol: Resources for Election Information [handout]

Stephen Patrick from ETSU and Kevin Reynolds from University of the South presented an annotated bibliography of Web sites good for election information. They include most used sites, free sites, pay sites, government sites, organizations, and local sites. Many of the sites are linked through [library.sewanee.edu/sept/reference/election.html](http://library.sewanee.edu/sept/reference/election.html). They are planning to do a program in the spring at TLA on this.

### Legislative Issues Update

- Handouts:
1. "Do You Know Where Your Government Information Is?"  
by Mary Mallory
  2. CRS Letter to House Representatives from ALA
  3. Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools  
Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act (USA PATRIOT Act)
  3. Electronic Security, Privacy and YOU (E-Spy) USA PATRIOT Act
  4. ALA Office of Government Relations, 2003 Copyright Agenda
  5. ALA Office of Government Relations, UCITA Flash Report: November  
2003

Larry Romans, from Vanderbilt University, reminded us of the newly created GODORT page for Tennessee, which should be linked to the TLA site soon. The address now is: [www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/tngodort](http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/tngodort). For legislative updates tracked by ALA, go to [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) and click on government information. Other handouts were from a session at the recent TLA CULS meeting.

Not much legislation is predicted to happen this year due to it being an election year. Most issues related to government information are not legislative issues. They are policy regulations, policy issues, or something of that nature. There's a pilot project co-sponsored by OMB and GPO to contract out publishing starting around FY 2005.

One issue of concern is the Right-to-Know issue. It is more difficult to access some information since 9-11, but this is a public safety issue. The ALA office in Washington is meeting with some Senators to modify some of the national security regulations. Some 'sensitive' information has been removed from government sites, but part of that has been brought back online. Mary Mallory's article (handout) refers to this matter.

Some of the other issues at the TLA CULS retreat included the insertion of politics into science. Some information is not released, while other is released after it's been 'massaged.' The ALA office in Washington is monitoring groups involved in this process.

The Department of Education completely revised its Web site. Some of the information is now in the archive section, and some is not to be found at all. The ERIC clearinghouses and partnerships are being dropped.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) was a program available though some Congressmen's Web sites, but has not been withdrawn. It was a pilot project, and not a part of the depository program. ALA's letter encourages that this be re-instated.

The USA PATRIOT Act and copyright issue are currently 'hot' topics. Refer to the handouts from TLA CULS.

#### Conserving Your Collection: A Snapshot of Preservation and Conservation Practices

- Handouts:
1. Government Information: Conservation Survey
  2. Types of Protective Enclosures for Government Documents

Gretchen Dodge, from Vanderbilt University, and Annie Armour, from University of the South, presented an overview of a 'condition survey' project conducted on the physical collection at Vanderbilt. Every tenth document was removed from every fifth shelf, which totaled about 320 items. Documents were placed on book trucks to be reviewed in the office.

The survey found that most damage was done from fading and yellowing. De-acidification should be done on those items needing it. Protective materials such as a portfolio cover, or making your own wrapper with 2-ply conservation board will help preserve the deteriorating items. Binderies, such as Mid-Atlantic Bindery, may also make boxes specific for the needs of the material. Some documents had 'red rot.' Cellugel, a pre-mix from Gaylord, keeps the red from further coming off.

#### Panel Review of Depository Library Conference and General Discussion

Several librarians represented Tennessee at the DLC in Washington, DC in October 2003. Janette Prescod shared some thoughts and comments from the conference. About 95% of the depository material should be in electronic format within 5 years. GPO is redefining the entire library program. The Depository Library Council suggested that each library is supposed to review their collections and determine what's important to them. Microfiche is planning to be phased out by GPO.

The legacy collection may be digitized someday. GPO is prioritizing the digitization project, and item records are cataloged and housed on GPO Access servers. GPO wants to build a tangible collection.

The 'Super Regional' depository library concept may have problems of just what the mission of the library is, and funding. Just how many copies will GPO distribute in the future?

There was a brief discussion about GPO's revenue problems. The bookstores are closing. What is the carrot for depository libraries to stay in the FDLP? Most agreed that it's the free access to databases.

Regina Lee added that Bruce James, Public Printer, also wanted librarians to think about the issues of authentication and version control.

Janette said that MARCIVE was talking with GPO about cataloging pre-1976 publications. The holdup is with GPO's catalog. MARCIVE is looking at the National Union Catalog.

#### Regional Meeting Review and Discussion of Statewide Issues

Sandra Williams briefly discussed the need for Title 44 to be revised. Some amendments have been proposed. We should make better use of shared collections, and maybe not require piece-level records.

In a letter from Judy Russell, Superintendent of Documents, the role of the regional depository libraries was outlined and incentives for staying in the FDLP. As an exercise,

strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) should be listed, both internal and external. Weaknesses should be turned into strengths, and threats into opportunities.

Digitization projects should be prioritized, but who is going to do them?

Sandra suggested that we don't wait for GPO's cataloging record.

Training provides positive services and attitudes through tutorials, conferences, and state organization meetings. Not all regionals are equal. GPO is considering the idea of regional consultants to travel around to selective libraries for support and training.

Larry Romans posed the question of how to make all electronic resources available in an easy way, possibly through a Web site. One idea is to develop a cooperative Web site, and put your specialty area with some logical organization to it.

Sandra is concerned about the lack of preservation. A preservation plan should be developed for older documents, however the problem is a lack of expertise in this area. Somehow, there's a need to attract people to this field.

Janette asked if any administrators have asked about incorporating documents with another department. Very few in attendance had. UT is doing much less government documents reference. Most reference involves the older documents, that aren't cataloged.

Sandra asked everyone to identify Tennessee's needs, as well as our needs. Amy Stewart-Mailhiot expressed an interest in training regarding Web sites, especially specialized sites such as climate data, and census data.

#### TLA GODORT Business Meeting

Janette Prescod, TLA GODORT Chair, discussed the survival of GODORT. You must be a member of TLA to be a member of GODORT. There are currently 14 members on the list. According to our bylaws, there must be at least 25 members. Janette will send a reminder on joining GODORT. We need more discussion on our listserv. Maybe replying to the entire list will generate more activity. Everyone needs to be an ambassador of GODORT!

Stephen Patrick discussed state documents and state depository libraries. There are 5 state depository libraries in Tennessee. Each library gets two copies of documents, but more is coming in electronic format now. Web pages and information comes and goes with change in administrations. It's difficult to tell if any are being archived. There's a need to review the 1990 report *The Tennessee State Documents Depository System: A Report by the Government Documents Task Force* and develop a state plan to provide permanent access and preserve State information in electronic format.

Everyone needs to review our Web page for GODORT and send comments to Larry Romans soon. It should be linked soon to TLA's Web page.

A presentation idea on the U.S. Serial set has already been submitted to TLA for the spring conference. It was moved, seconded, and passed that GODORT will also sponsor a presentation on election information and one on American FactFinder.

Janette asked everyone to review our bylaws on the Web page.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Regina Lee,  
Secretary