

## From the Chair

John A. Stevenson

What has GODORT been up to since Orlando? GODORT is participating in strategic planning for ALA. At the Round Table Coordinating Committee meeting in Orlando, the Library Support Staff Interest Round Table (LSSIRT) and GODORT were selected to represent round table interests at the ALA 2010 fall planning retreat. Those who responded to the ALA member survey may note that this meeting is part of the second phase of planning. More information is available from the ALA 2010 Web site <http://www.ala.org/ala2010>. James L. Hill, LSSIRT chair, and I attended this strategic planning retreat in Skokie, Illinois, held September 17–19. We can expect broad discussion of the strategic plan at the 2005 Midwinter Meeting, with the goal of ALA Council adopting the plan at the 2005 Annual Conference in Chicago.

GODORT and ALA responded to several issues raised by the Government Printing Office (GPO) and sent letters regarding their draft plans for a Collection of Last Resort, Decision Framework for Federal Repositories, Managing the FDLP Electronic Collection, and a National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications. Like most of GODORT's work, the letters are posted on the GODORT Web site (<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT>).

Concerns have been expressed about the July 22 order to depository libraries, conveyed by the Superintendent of Documents from the U.S. Department of Justice, to destroy five documents. The order was later rescinded. Many people working with the FDLP expressed concerns that the titles in question were being pulled from the program as intended for "administrative use only" even though two titles were in their second editions in the FDLP. During the time between GPO's announcement of the order and the order's subsequent rescission, there was intense discussion on the ALA council list regarding this order, some of it apparently on purely ideological grounds. Because depository distribution is governed by law, responsibility is borne by both agencies and libraries to ensure that the public has access to government information unless that information has been determined to be inappropriate for public distribution. GODORT wants to ensure continued agency participation in the FDLP and the public's access to information. The Superintendent of Documents Policy Statement 72 from 2002 (SOD72) [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/pubs/sod72\\_policy.pdf](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/sod72_policy.pdf) outlines the process for withdrawing titles from the program and will be reviewed for the protections it affords all parties. With an effective date nearly a year after the 9/11 attacks, SOD72 addresses withdrawal issues but may need minor adjustments to ensure that the procedures work as intended. GODORT is working with the ALA Washington Office and GPO to determine what the best course of action should be.

GODORT is making plans for the Midwinter Meeting in Boston, which will feature a visit to the Boston Public Library to see some of their unique

collections of public documents. Expect announcements for this special opportunity later in the fall.

Next summer's ALA Annual Conference will be held in Chicago, a favorite city for many. GODORT's program will be "Cataloging and Preservation of Digital Government Information: Classification, Capture and Curation of Resources at Risk." Focusing on state and international documents, this program received broad endorsement from GODORT task forces and committees. GODORT will also be hosting a Thursday preconference at Northwestern University titled "Demystifying Government Sources: Government Information for the Rest of Us," intended for library staff whose major responsibilities do not include government information but who would like a good orientation to build skills on.

Finally, with the 2004 calendar running down, it's not too late to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship, GODORT's annual \$3,000 award to benefit a library master's degree candidate who is currently working with government documents in a library. It's wonderful to meet the recipients in person and to realize that some have gone on to become active GODORT members. For example, Mark Phillips received this year's scholarship at the GODORT reception in Orlando and serves on the Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO). He works at the University of North Texas Libraries. 2001 scholarship winner Kris Kasianovitz now works at UCLA, serves on the Education Committee, and writes for *DttP*. Information about the scholarship is available at the GODORT Awards Committee Web page <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/awards>.

Checks to support the scholarship may be sent to GODORT Treasurer, Ann Miller, Public Documents and Maps, Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0177.