2010 Education Annual Minutes

From GODORT

GODORT Education Committee Minutes
ALA 2010 Annual Meeting
Washington Marriott - West End A
Sunday, June 27, 1:30-3:30 pm
Linda Spiro, Chair
Lori Lester, Recorder

Education Committee Members Present: Linda Spiro, Robbie Sittel,Tom Twiss, Lori Lester, Annie Cobleigh, Dorothy Ormes, Lynda Kellam

Guests Present:
Cass Hartnett, John Hernandez, Marilyn Von Seggern, Kristina Boke, Marcy Bidney, Rebecca Hyde, Karen Hogenboom, Michael Karabinos, Linda B. Johnson, Linda Whitaker, Kathy Brazee Bayer, Chris Granatino

I. Welcome and Introductions
A. Introductions – Linda Spiro welcomed committee members and guests.
B. Attendance Sheets

II. Agenda (approved online)

III. Discussion session: GIS Usage at Public, Special, and Academic Libraries led by Marcy Bidney, Head, Maps Library, Penn State University; Michael Karabinos, Map Librarian, National Geographic Society; Robbie Sittel, Government Documents Librarian, Tulsa City-County Library
2010 Education Annual Discussion Questions

Michael Karabinos from a special library discussed teaching National Geographic staff members introductory GIS courses and showing them how to use GIS for their own research. He found the free ARC GIS Explorer version is a good learning tool. **Robbie Sittel** mentioned her public library changed from GIS being available to the public to a fee-based service which provides or customizes data for clients. One way she uses GIS is to provide visual data for grants. **Marcy Bidney** re-established a GIS focus when she came to her academic institution which has a large physical map collection. She is focusing on innovative ways to provide GIS services to campus personnel.

In response to a question, the presenters warned about the tendency to trust a map more than other forms of data. They want people to think about what maps do not show as well as what they reveal. Michael gave the example that voter data maps by states look very different than voter maps by counties.

The room layout and number of attendants were conducive to having one group discussion instead of breaking into smaller groups.
Key points from the discussion about the challenges of using GIS data include that there is a large learning curve. GIS is also cost prohibitive for some libraries. Having GIS centrally located in the library can be a benefit to other departments and is a neutral location. If it is located in a non-library department, there can be reluctance to pull employees off department projects to send them out to help other departments with GIS needs.

All speakers felt it was helpful to have other people in the organization know GIS. Marcy can refer people to a GIS phone number on campus for support from IT staff. She also uses the number as her personal GIS helpdesk. Michael says others at his institution who know GIS are a big help. Robbie's state has a GIS council that was especially helpful for staff training when her library decided they wanted to establish a GIS program.

Panelists mentioned the time and expense involved in teaching someone how to make their own maps with GIS tools. It often makes more sense to use a map that already exists.

Linda Whitaker asked panelists if they used GIS for administrative purposes. Robbie has. Marcy has been approached by people in her library asking how this could be done. She has used GIS for way finding in the library by providing maps of the call numbers and stacks. That has been very popular with the students who previously were frequently lost in the stacks.

Robbie will provide a list of her favorite GIS sites to link on the GODORT wiki's Education Committee page. Marcy likes many government sites and praised Robbie's choices. Government agencies are starting to create their own mapping services now. Marcy recently discovered the Army Corp of Engineers sites and likes Data.gov and Geodata.gov. The European Union also has a geospatial portal now. The fall depository conference will have a presentation on data mapping.

Panelists mentioned that Bing is becoming more popular for maps than Google. It gives aerial and birds' eye views and has better directions.

Regarding publicizing GIS services, Marcy made a display about how maps can be used in each discipline and constantly looks for outreach opportunities. Michael's organization is all in one building, making it easier for him to network with others about GIS.

IV. Approval of Minutes - Midwinter 2010 Minutes - Approved online as written.

V. Outreach Update
Kathryn Brazee Bayer, Outreach Librarian, GPO Education and Outreach
OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries) provides the FDLP community the means to conduct interactive meetings or presentations online in real-time through voice chat, text chat, slideshows, and synchronized Web browsing. Space is usually limited to 100 first-come-first-serve participants. Archived sessions are also available. Kathy urged the FDLP community to create live or canned presentations.

GPO is also making available brief (under 5 minutes) close-captioned informational and educational videos on various topics related to the Federal Depository Library Program. Currently linked from the FDLP Desktop page is an instructional overview of the the relaunched WEBTech Notes application with tutorials on the FDLP Desktop and the Community site to follow soon.

The Interagency Depository Seminar will be held in Washington, D.C. July 26-30, 2010. Although it has been known as the "boot camp" for new depository staff, experienced staff are also encouraged to attend for updates on changes in Federal Government information dissemination practices.

The FDLP Desktop has many helpful resources. Under the Outreach section FDLP staff can request participation from GPO to provide training on FDsys or other GPO services, present at a depository anniversary event or meeting, and present or consult about depository management issues. The tutorials section under the Help tab includes a tutorial for new depository coordinators. An update to the voluntary Self-Study of a Federal Depository Library is complete.

In addition to exhibiting at ALA Annual, GPO was recently at PLA and SLA and will be at AALL. Kathy encouraged us to contact GPO about depository management questions and ideas for new GPO or FDLP educational materials.

VI. Liaison Reports
A. FDTF (Lori Lester) – No action items.
B. SLDTF (Robbie Sittel) – SLDTF added a list of state organizations to the wiki.
C. IDTF (Tom Twiss) – IDTF has formed a committee to add a set of international competencies to the existing

federal competencies document. However, they do not want to hold up the approval process for the federal competencies.

D. Education Assembly (Dotty Ormes) – Most of the meeting concentrated on discussion of two MLS programs that are threatened with closure as reported by Linda Smith from the University of Illinois and Beth Poskov from Louisiana State University. LSU seeks letters of support for continuing their program sent to SLIS@LSU.edu.

E. Literacy Assembly (Aimee Quinn) – Aimee emailed her report since she could not attend ALA. She encourages GODORT Education Committee members to contact her if they are willing to volunteer even virtually for programs and projects sponsored by the Literacy Assembly and the ALA Committee on Literacy. They are still interested in participating in a program about government literacy and citizenship.

VII. Old Business

A. Competencies for government information specialists

The committee discussed the best format for the competencies and agreed a PDF that won't be accidentally changed is the best format for the main section. We will still create a site on the wiki for the best resources section which will need to be updated frequently and lends itself to the wiki format of many editors.

B. Online programming for GODORT

On ALA Connect Linda will post a link to a draft document outlining possible ways of organizing online training in order to generate discussion among committee members. Cass suggested we think about what GODORT could do that GPO would not offer free through OPAL. GODORT would like for some of the training to be offered for a fee since we need money-making projects. A module could be targeted to political scientists. Linda Whitaker also suggested collaborating with the Society of American Archivists on a training. Another collaborative opportunity could be with ACRL's LPSS (Law and Political Science Section) since they have active learning modules housed in a repository.

VIII. New Business

A. Geoffrey Swindell, the new GODORT Chair, asked each committee to discuss the consequences of not meeting at a conference. In particular, we should consider the technological obstacles and the organizational obstacles.

1. Organizational implications

A guest said the Education Committee meetings are very useful and interesting since we have a discussion session. It's not the kind of thing you can get online. Another point was that if fewer people come to Midwinter, ALA may not hold Midwinter anymore so what might seem like a temporary decision could become permanent. Younger librarians, however, might prefer technological attendance especially when they don't have travel money. The conferences serve as a natural place to get people interested in GODORT, but with budgets as they are, we'd still have Annual for this purpose. One suggestion was to have half the members agree to come to both Midwinter and Annual.

2. Technological implications

One possibility would be a conference call perhaps using GoToMeeting. Much of the business could be transacted using ALA Connect if people remember to respond to the invitation.

B. If anyone is interested in offering an online tutorial to show members how to use the GODORT wiki and ALA Connect, please contact Linda. This is in response to a suggestion on ALA Connect.

At 3:30 p.m. Dotty Ormes moved to continue the meeting in order to finish the discussion. Tom Twiss seconded. When discussion finished shortly thereafter, Tom Twiss moved to adjourn. Dotty Ormes seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Back to Education

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