

LLA/GODORT Meeting

1999 Louisiana Library Association Conference

CIS/GODORT Breakfast: Changes in the Teaching of Documents Librarianship

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

19th March 1999, 8 O'clock a.m.

Minutes

Mary DeMajo called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m., and welcomed all the 37 librarians who were present. She thanked Jim Drummond and the Congressional Information Service for sponsoring the Breakfast.

The current officers were introduced:

- Lillian Purdy, Vice-chair/chair elect
- Georgia Chadwick, 2nd vice-chair
- Val Power, secretary

Since some members had to leave the meeting earlier, it was agreed that the LLA GODORT Business Meeting would start first, before Dr. Shiflett's speech.

Dolores Owen gave the report of the LLA History Committee. She informed that Dr. Alma Dawson and graduate students from LSU compiled the document by researching old LLA Bulletins, which will be given to libraries for free.

Smittie Bolner gave the report on the ALA Conference on behalf of Frances Skiffington. She gave the good news that the motion to merge GODORT and ASCLA failed by 4861 votes against. Even with the missing issues of DDTP, they will be sent regularly in the future. ALA will take over on distribution of the DDTP issues. The Legislature is revising the Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Smittie attended a program at ALA on "To merge or not to merge with Reference or Technical Services."

GITCO is providing a government document template set up in order to make it easy for librarians to create their web pages. The field 856 in the MARC Record will handle more online documents. In order to accommodate the change that the year 2000 will bring, the SuDocs number will change after the colon from 999 to 2000. Smittie also reported that 20 depository libraries dropped the program in the U.S.

Lillian Purdy introduced the speaker Dr. Lee Shiflett from Louisiana State University. He gave the speech entitled "Changes in the Teaching of Documents Librarianship."

He started his speech by describing the history of teaching government documents. In 1895, it used to be an elective three-hour course. It was a separate course of government documents, or a separate entity in library science. The collection was usually segregated and disembodied, and there were separate bibliographies. There were three approaches to teaching according to some syllabi:

- 1) training government documents librarians as a specialization
- 2) treating as a specialized area of reference. It was useful information, but not enough to dedicate one full-time government documents librarian
- 3) advocacy. Librarians would become advocates of issues.

In 1970s, it started to change. Government documents was changing its format to electronic. There were mandates at the federal level to produce more electronic documents than in print format. Some problems arised as the assumptions of the nature of government documents. There are certain classes of information, and kinds of documents, which are not appropriate for electronic distribution, for instance, recipes from the Agriculture Dept.

Nowadays there are fewer government documents courses than ten years ago. Twenty accredited schools teach government documents classes. The course is taught sporadically or included in other courses. The majority of government documents teachers are over a certain age, and they will retire soon. There is no younger group of professors. Several library schools did a curriculum revision, which excluded government documents.

There is a major change in library schools with the movement in distance education format. It breaks the chain of teacher, student and documents. It turns into the Internet format, a web based type of instruction. Usually those classes have 25-30 students.

Lori Smith gave the report of La. Advisory Council on State Documents. She stated that the cataloging of state documents is in the planning process, and they are looking at grant funding possibilities. It is important to know who is cataloging what. She said that the Hill Memorial Library at LSU is doing the most.

Stacey Hathaway-Bell gave the report of the Recorder of Documents, and of the La. Federal

Depository Library Council. She stated that in 1998, they received 4,223 state documents. There are a total of 76,000 state documents. She said that the shipping lists are distributed through e-mail.

John Conover gave the report on the Federal Depository Library Council in October 1998 in San Diego, California. The theme of the conference was technology. He attended panels about electronic information such as "Where we are now? And in the Future?" GPO Access increased the usage of government databases and is planning to continue providing more.

The committee chair Georgia Chadwick gave the Margaret T. Lane Award to Catherine Lemman who is an electronic reference librarian.

Georgia Chadwick will write a draft of a resolution in order to make it possible for people to vote electronically.

New Business

Mary DeMajo informed that our section is getting a web page. Its address is: <http://www.leeric.lsu.edu/lla/godort>

The committee chair Val Power reported on the LLA GODORT Mission Statement. She read the new mission statement to the members present. Fifteen voted in favor of the Mission Statement.

Mary DeMajo will try to change the number of member necessary to make GODORT a section. She will ask them to lower it, or to make two sections free for LLA members so they can join GODORT.

Please give programming ideas for next year to Lillian Purdy.