GODORT “Buddy” Program – To be Piloted Annual Conference 2009

Purpose: To provide a more personal introduction to GODORT and recruit new members and encourage them to become active in the Roundtable.

Description: GODORT volunteers will be paired up with new members/participants to serve as a “buddy” for one conference. They will tell participants more about the organization, introduce them to other members, give them the inside scoop on what GODORT activities they should attend or might want to become involved in and answer any questions the participant has.

For Who: New ALA attendees, new librarians, new documents librarians, library school students and anyone who has an interest in learning more about, or becoming active in, GODORT.

GODORT volunteers will:
- Be asked to commit to the program for one conference
- Need to arrive before Friday evening’s GODORT Reception
- Touch base with assigned buddy before conference via phone or email
- Meet with buddy just prior to/at Reception on Friday evening
- Introduce buddy to other GODORT members at Reception
- Give advice/information on GODORT meetings (such as which ones they like to attend, have attended and what they are generally like. What might be a good committee/Task Force for their buddy to become involved in. Who to talk to if they are interested in becoming involved with a certain committee or would like to know more.)
- If possible, make a commitment to meet at least once more with buddy at the conference, to touch base with them on how the conference has gone and answer any questions. This could be coffee, lunch, at GODORT Happy Hour, etc.

Membership Committee will:
- Send out a call for GODORT volunteers & for people who would like to be assigned a buddy approximately 2 months prior to the Annual Conference
- Match volunteers & participants. Send contact information to both parties.
- Send volunteers expectations before conference (see above) & provide them with GODORT literature, schedule, etc for their buddy.
- Set up meeting time and location for all buddy pairs just prior to Friday night’s Reception.
- After conference send surveys to all involved to evaluate usefulness of program & how things should be changed &/or improved. (Different surveys will be created for GODORT members volunteers and for buddy program participants)

Places the GODORT Buddy program may be advertised:
- GODORT-L
- GovDoc-L
- NMRT
- Regional listservs in Conference area
- Library schools in Conference area