GODORT Publications Committee Meeting
ALA Annual Conference June 27, 1997
San Francisco Hilton, Union Square #22
3 - 5:30 pm
Ann Miller, Presiding and Recording

Ann Miller called the meeting to order at 3pm.
The committee approved the agenda and the minutes of the ALA Midwinter meeting.

Notable Documents Panel
Ann presented the proposed list of the Notable Documents Panel to the committee. Edward asked for clarification on the terms of office. It was determined that the Policy and Procedures Manual doesn’t specify terms of office for members of the panel. After some discussion the committee determined that previously a recommendation had been made for Notable Documents Panel members serve 3 years plus the option of extending for one additional year. In order to preserve rotating membership the committee amended the earlier recommendation to propose a two year term of office with the possibility of one two year reappointment. Current members of the panel appointed in 1995 will be asked to serve a single three year term to so that the rotation may begin. Ann will submit the proposal for the Policies and Procedures Manual at the second Steering Committee meeting. The committee then approved the membership of the current Notable Documents Panel.

Documents to the People
The committee discussed how to reimburse vendors for advertising in the September and December 1996 Documents to the People. Maurie Kelly, the Advertising Manager, has indicated that she has not billed vendors for advertising for these months. She suggested a 10% cut in the rate offered to each advertiser. The committee approved the action, pending approval from the Steering Committee. Approval is required as the additional discount effects the GODORT budget as a whole. In addition, the committee will draft a letter of apology to advertisers for the delay in publication.

Edward noted that advertising rates for Documents to the People had not been reviewed in some time and requested that a discussion of the rates be put on the committee agenda for Midwinter in New Orleans.

The committee discussed the Distribution Manager position. Ann noted that the applications she had received seemed to be from individuals seeking a salaried position. She has received no response from a letter explaining the situation and requesting a confirmation of continuing interest. Lisa Beinhoff, attending the meeting, noted that she was interested in the position. After discussion the committee requested that she submit a letter of application and vita to Ann.

The committee also discussed the vacant columnist positions at DttP. Andrea Morrison, also attending, expressed an interest in the cataloging column. Edward will discuss the position with her further.

ASCLA merger
The committee discussed the proposed ASCLA merger. Members of the committee expressed concern for what might happen to long standing relationships with publishers, the ability of GODORT members to propose publications and have them accepted, the effect of ALAs right of first refusal, and whether increased competition with other sections in ASCLA would effect GODORT publications. At the same time it was noted that merging with a division would provide ALA support for publications including
Andrea Morrison, a contributor, noted that there had been some difficulties with CIS proposed advertising copy for the new publication. The authors objected the wording proposed and noted that the same concern had been expressed during the publishing of the first edition. After email and personal discussion the copy has been amended to the satisfaction of both parties. Andrea requested that the committee address providing complimentary copies of the publication to developing nations. Several developing countries which provided assistance have requested copies. The committee discussed what had been done with the previous edition. Mike Macaffrey-Noviss, also attending, will provide a list from International Documents Task Force of developing nations. The committee will explore the mechanics of providing copies and who will bear which costs.

Future of Documents to the People
Edward requested that committee members be thinking of what they would like to see Documents to the People become. The committee briefly discussed various directions. In general, there was agreement that DttP should provide more practical documents information and provide an avenue for GODORT members to publish. It was suggested contributions from members be cultivated via postings on GOVDOC-L and other methods.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.