GODORT Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee Minutes
ALA Annual Conference, Orlando, FL
June 27, 2004,
Renaissance Orlando Resort, Nomeus Room

Present: Committee Members:  David Utz, Chair, August Imholtz, Anna Korhonen, Timothy Skeers, Jane Gillis, Charles Malone; Non-Members:  John Phillips, Mark Phillips, Yvonne Wilson, Judy Russell, Carol Wheeler, Jaleh Fazelian, Diane Smith, Andrew Laas, Mary McInroy, Janette Prescod, Jim Walsh, Bill Sleeman, Sandra Groleau, Lynne Newell, Grace Ellen McCrann, T.C. Evans, Stephen Sexton, Cheryl Truesdell

Meeting was called to order at 8:12 a.m. This was followed by introductions. John Phillips agreed to take notes for which the Chair thanks him.

David Utz announced that the Committee did not have a quorum. Those present agreed, by consensus, to meet as a "Committee of the Whole," but no votes were taken, nor were there any action items to present.

Two additions were made to the Agenda. A report concerning the Serial Set hard copy inventory was added under Old Business, and discussion of a statement concerning the new Archivist of the United States was added under New Business. This amended Agenda was adopted by consensus. Approval of the minutes from the Midwinter meeting in San Diego was postponed until the 2005 Midwinter meeting, due to the lack of a quorum.

Report from Task Force Representatives:

- FDTF - No report.
- SLDTF - Florida's PALMM project was discussed, as was the AALL state survey. A possible tour of the Boston Public Library was mentioned, which would be open to all GODORT members. The report concerning the state and local toolbox was postponed until the 2005 Midwinter meeting.
- IDTF - The discussion at the IDTF business meeting centered on the UN's program to make their general documents available in a digital full-text format, although print documents will still be available. The UN depository program will be reviewed. There was also a discussion of the digitization of foreign dissertations, most of which are from Western European countries. The future of the Canadian depository program is in limbo, although it looks as though it will continue for the near future.
- RBMS - Jane Gillis was asked for a definition of a rare government document. For the United States, the defining date is 1820. State documents will have different defining dates.
- PARS - No report.
- MAGERT - Mary McInroy made a proxy report. There will be a map conference at the Library of Congress in May, 2005. The topics for the sessions have not been established. Various Federal agencies will make presentations. Mary mentioned that the University of Florida (Gainesville) is looking at digitizing soil surveys.
Report from the Sub-Committee for Endangered 1932-1962 Federal Documents:

This Sub-Committee was established, following the Midwinter meeting in San Diego, to study a concern that government documents from this time period should be considered for early digitization, as they were originally produced using paper stock and printing technologies that did not lend themselves to producing a publication of extended longevity. A written report was distributed, although neither member (Geoff Swindells and Aimee Quinn) of the Sub-committee was present. There was consensus that a letter be written to the Superintendent of Documents showing support for their plan to establish a National Clearinghouse for digitization projects. Judy Russell spoke about GPO's work on this, and she mentioned that they are committed to doing this.

On a related matter, August Imholtz distributed a handout on materials published during the New Deal, listing both printed and mimeographed publications. He mentioned that the number of documents printed is also a measure of rareness. He will be conducting an inventory of these publications, while he is working at the NARA.

Old Business:

REGP's pre-conference proposal for the 2005 Annual meeting was voted down by the Steering Committee. David mentioned that, at its second meeting in San Diego, GODORT's Steering Committee had given preliminary approval for the pre-conference. However, final approval (at Steering I in Orlando) was to have been dependent on meeting four conditions: (1) a complete budget, (2) a marketing plan, (3) anticipated paid attendance of at least 50 persons, and (4) 50% of the net revenue would go to the GODORT treasury. In the end, the Steering Committee felt that the pre-conference proposal was too esoteric to attract a large subscription base, and, perhaps, too closely reduplicated by the topics of other recent pre-conferences. August talked about what the program had to offer, and provided more detail concerning the content of individual presentations. The program may be presented in a different venue.

David distributed an abstract for a possible GODORT program concerning rare and endangered local documents, which might be co-sponsored by the State and Local Documents Task Force. Another possible partner that was mentioned was ALA's Urban Libraries Council. This idea will go on the Midwinter Agenda.

The plan to produce a monograph on the subject of the Serial Set was discussed. Aimee Quinn and Donna Koepp are talking about co-editing the publication. Diane Smith volunteered to help, as did Jim Walsh.

There was a break from 9:45 to 10:00.

August discussed the status of the Serial Set hardcopy inventory that currently "resides" at Harvard. The system crashed while loading a new set of inventories. The system will be back up by the end of the month. The inventory will serve as a checklist of the holdings of bound sets, as there is no single complete collection.
Anna Korhonen reported on the activities of the GPO in their digitization efforts concerning Federal government publications.

There was a discussion of "priority lists" for ranking Federal government publications for digitization. Lists have been compiled, and the GPO would like these publications to become ranked. Rankings will be aggregated by type of library as well as an overall ranking. REGP was asked to review the work on these lists. A list of pre-existing lists was distributed at the meeting.

**New Business:**

There was a consensus of those present that there should be a tour of the Boston Public Library during the 2005 Midwinter meeting.

David suggested that a discussion take place concerning the appointment of the new Archivist of the United States, but that no action items concerning this matter could go to the GODORT Business meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Minutes submitted by David A. Utz, Chair