

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and the Government Documents Round Table

Statement revised for ALA Annual 2019

GODORT and its membership celebrate equity, diversity, and inclusiveness. We are committed to creating and maintaining an open environment that fosters a dialogue with diverse groups and people working with and accessing government information. Access to government information touches all user groups, and impacts library stakeholders in many contexts. Access to government information is a public right that must not be restricted by economic, social, physical, technical, or administrative barriers.

By creating pathways to increase a sense of belonging for current and potential future members, GODORT hopes to grow as a community that supports and includes a variety of voices and perspectives about the government information ecosystem.

Proposed Actions

Together, we will build GODORT into an organization that is an open and welcoming space for people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and life experiences. These proposed actions are intended to support engagement with [equity, diversity, and inclusion \(EDI\)](#) as defined by the American Library Association

- Actively engage with the many ways in which government documents, including tribal documents, are created, accessed, collected, described, and preserved; and invite participation in discussing issues of equity and inclusion, focusing on encouraging diverse voices to inform the exploration of these issues.
- Reorganize the Annual “GODORT 101” session to move away from an organizational structure focus and toward a global view of government information and its impact, applicability, and value.
- Organize mentoring for new and current GODORT members, and focus on outreach and support for students.
- Reach beyond the Round Table to establish beneficial relationships with individual and institutional partners who share mutual goals, including those whose primary work does not include government information, but who may benefit from government information knowledge and practices.
- Collaborate with ALA units, including BCALA, REFORMA, APALA, AILA, SRRT, GLBTRT, and others, to support access and use of government information.
- Create and encourage space for education and discourse related to issues of equity and inclusion, including opportunities within GODORT forums to share resources.

- Work with the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) to create resources for GODORT members, including bystander training¹, and create a section of the GODORT website to include self-hosted and outside resources.
- Work with the ALA Office of Public Policy & Advocacy to seek appointment of a GODORT member to the ODLOS Implementation group.

Statement prepared by the GODORT Ad Hoc Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in January 2019, and last updated April 22, 2019. Comments and feedback are welcome directly to GODORT Immediate Past-Chair Shari Laster (shari.laster@gmail.com).

Committee Roster

Allan Van Hoya
Bernadine Abbott Hoduski
Hayley Johnson
Sarah Erekson
Sean Buckner
Shari Laster

¹ Active bystander intervention includes immediate, directed responses to harassment as well as unwanted comments of a racist, homophobic, or transphobic nature. For more on how this training model works, see: <https://osapr.harvard.edu/bystander-intervention>.