

GODORT Legislation Committee
2021 Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CDT

Attendees: Shari Laster (chair), Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Valerie Glenn

Guests: Dominique Hallett, Susanne Caro, Simon Healey, Roberta Sittel, Lynda Kellam, Carla Pritchett, Sinai Wood, Jennifer Castle, James Jacobs, Michael Alguire, Kathy Stroud, Angela Bonnell, Jennifer Manning, Andie Craley, John Elson, Scott Matheson, Josh Cochran, Aimée Quinn, Samatha Hager

Excused: Deborah Yun Caldwell, Kay Cassell, Rachel Seissler

Minutes: Michael Alguire / Shari Laster

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Due to a scheduling miscommunication, a committee quorum was not present for most of the meeting. Therefore, no votes were held and all items passed forward to Steering were moved forward by the Legislation Committee's ex officio representative to Steering.
2. Memoria resolutions (see Appendix)
 - a. Latanya Jenkins (with the assistance of Ray Pun; in collaboration with BCALA)
 - b. Anita Schiller (with the assistance of James Jacobs; endorsed by SRRT)
3. FDLP Advocacy Plan for GODORT (see Appendix)
 - a. Valerie Glenn and Shari Laster drafted the FDLP Advocacy Plan for GODORT based on an advocacy proposal put forward by Bernadine Abbott Hoduski earlier this spring.
 - b. Discussion focused on various points of the plan, including creating sample advocacy letters to inform Members of Congress about the FDLP that could be sent by librarians or other advocates, either on behalf of their institutions or as citizens. Because these letters would not be written on behalf of ALA and speak on behalf of an individual rather than the association, the committee can ask the ALA Public Policy & Advocacy (PPA) office for advice but they do not need formal endorsement.
 - c. Outreach to librarians can help them connect work they are already doing to support their communities with a better understanding of this program and how they can support it. Those present agreed that asking the GODORT Education Committee to take on developing relevant programming within ALA fits the committee's mission. One possible topic to consider hosting a webinar or preconference: education/training on how to submit comments/testimony for budgets and other pieces of legislation. AALL hosts similar trainings so may be a resource for planning.

- d. Advocacy events could also tie in with GODORT's upcoming 50th anniversary, which coincides with ALA's plan to host its 2022 Annual Conference in Washington, DC.
 - e. Updating the GODORT FDLP "one-pager" based on current promotional materials from GPO will be an easy first step for the Legislation Committee. This will be an action item for the committee once the new roster is convened.
 - f. Those present agreed that once the Advocacy Plan is adopted by GODORT Steering, it may be shared with COL-GIS for their feedback and suggestions.
4. General discussion points raised for future consideration
- a. ALA could become more active in its support with the Transparency Caucus. Shari will ask COL-GIS for an update on this.
 - b. GODORT could put forward a resolution in support of GPO's appropriations. We usually see a short analysis of how the FY22 budget will impact libraries from the PPA but this has not come out yet. Shari will follow up with COL-GIS.
 - c. A few possible ideas for future Friday chats include connecting popular media with government information (this could also be a DttP article).
5. Meeting closed at 2:05pm CDT.

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Latanya N. Jenkins

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), and the academic library community lost a valued colleague on April 13, 2021, with the death of Latanya N. Jenkins;

Whereas Latanya Jenkins served for 8 years as the Reference Librarian for Government Information and African American Studies at Temple University, where she made a lasting impact as a librarian, scholar, teacher, and mentor within the Temple community;

Whereas Latanya Jenkins earned a Master's in Information Science and Library Science degree from Drexel University, later followed by a Certificate on Adult Organizational Development from Temple University; and served as a diversity fellow at Purdue University, before working as a reference librarian at Bowie State University and Morgan State University;

Whereas, among many professional accomplishments, she was a participant in the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians (MIECL) from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups, an International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) fellow, an Association of Research Libraries (ARL) diversity scholar and mentor, and an Emerging Leader for the Reference & User Services Association (RUSA);

Whereas, Latanya Jenkins served as a member of the Library Freedom Project (LFP); and was an active member of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), and an active member of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), including its African American Studies Librarians Section (AFAS);

Whereas she was a talented speaker who was always willing to share her knowledge with others, contributing her scholarship and research on government information, and diversity, equity and inclusion, to the ALA community and beyond through presentations;

Whereas her scholarship was recognized by GODORT with the co-award of the Margaret T. Lane & Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award in 2019;

Whereas Latanya Jenkins was a passionate leader who tirelessly advocated for diversity and inclusion in librarianship, and a cherished colleague and mentor whose compassion and excellent humor made an impression wherever she went, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the remarkable achievements of Latanya N. Jenkins and mourns her loss; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family.

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Anita Schiller

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the library community lost an acclaimed and valued colleague on January 23, 2021, with the death of Anita Schiller;

Whereas Anita Schiller made a lasting impact as a librarian, scholar, teacher, and mentor within the library community and beyond;

Whereas she worked at the University of Illinois Library Research Center and as a visiting scholar at Rutgers University before moving to University of California San Diego (UCSD) in 1970, where she served as a Reference Librarian, Social Sciences bibliographer, and Data Services Librarian until her retirement in 1991;

Whereas she served on the California Council for the Humanities from 1987 – 1991;

Whereas she was the first person to document a pervasive pattern of gender inequality within the library profession in her foundational 1968 study “Characteristics of Professional Personnel in College and University Libraries;”

Whereas she served as a member of the ALA Council, the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Feminist Task Force, the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), the President's Task Force on Better Salaries and Pay Equity for Library Workers;

Whereas she was a great friend to the government documents community, participated in the founding of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), and for many years was a fierce siren for the public right to information and warning against the private takeover of public information;

Whereas she received the ALA Equality Award in 1985 and ALA lifetime honorary membership in 2007, ALA's highest honor;

Whereas she was a committed library leader and advocate, cherished colleague, and mentor whose intelligence, compassion, and humor made a lasting impression on all who knew her, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the remarkable achievements of Anita Schiller and mourns her loss; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her family and friends around the world.

FDLP (Federal Depository Library Program) Advocacy Plan for GODORT [REVISED DRAFT]

Updated June 1, 2021

Each section in this advocacy plan includes a stated purpose or goal, the audience for the effort, the proposed initial action, and the proposed committee to take the lead on the effort.

Reach Members of Congress

Purpose / Rationale / Goal: Educate about the FDLP's purpose and mission of "Keeping America Informed." Informing members of the U.S. Congress about the Federal Depository Library Program is essential because we need their support for funding the program, appointing new FDLP libraries, etc.

Audience: Members of Congress and Congressional staff

Action: Work with the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy office to update a fact sheet on the FDLP for members of Congress.

Responsibility: Legislation Committee

Expand Advocacy for the FDLP

Purpose: To initiate and focus advocacy on the part of government information professionals to Members of Congress

Audience: GODORT members / Depository Librarians

Action: Work with the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy office (and potentially other ALA units) to develop programming that will educate GODORT members on advocacy and effective in-person messaging. Encourage members to identify local opportunities for advocacy (ie, campus legislative offices, local offices for Members of Congress). Develop an outreach plan and draft sample letters for GODORT members to use when communicating with their Members of Congress.

Responsibility: Legislation Committee

Encourage Library Support for the FDLP

Purpose / Rationale / Goal: Increase the visibility of federal government information collections and FDLP services available to all.

Audience: ALA Members

Action: Plan and execute programming that raises awareness of FDLP collections and services. Encourage GODORT members to replicate these programs in their regions (ie, state/local conferences).

Responsibility: Education Committee

Raise the Public Profile of the FDLP

Purpose / Rationale / Goal: Encourage outreach that will increase the general public and media awareness of library services supporting access to government information.

Audience: GODORT members / Depository Librarians

Action: Work with GPO to develop an outreach toolkit, including material such as sample letters to the editor, newsletter articles, appropriate social media topics/posts, etc.

Responsibility: Legislation Committee

Proposed by GODORT Legislation Committee, June 2021