

## Chapter 29: Interest Groups

### I. Purpose

An Interest Group is an informal group welcoming all ALA members for participation in discussions on a specific subject area.

### II. Organization

Interest Groups are created, changed, or discontinued by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee must approve a statement of each interest group's purpose and duration for inclusion in the PPM (*Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 5*).

In accordance with the GODORT *Bylaws (Article IV, Section 1)*, all appointments begin at the start of new business at the Steering Committee meeting of the Annual Conference.

A. Officers: Interest Group Leader

### III. Interest Group Leader and Duties

See Chapter 1: Conferences; Chapter 2: Communication & Correspondence

A. Interest Group Leader:

1. Is appointed by the GODORT Chair for a term of one year, two years, or three years; and may be reappointed for one or more additional terms.
2. Defines discussion topics, coordinates discussion and reports back to GODORT membership as appropriate.
3. Is required to have an active ALA Connect account for communication with the GODORT membership.
4. Have activity updates posted to GODORT membership following the Steering communication schedule (*PPM, Chapter 3*).
5. Is required to contact and coordinate with the GODORT Past Chair for the purposed scheduling of face to face sessions.
6. Prior to Annual Conference: Have the agenda/topic ideas for committee meeting posted to the website by the Technology Committee.
7. Best practices – suggestions for new Interest Group Leaders:
  - a. Supply the GODORT Past Chair with relevant keywords to increase findability in ALA scheduling system.
  - b. Solicit participation from other units of ALA.
  - c. The Interest Group Leader will be on the same schedule as all other GODORT committee and task force chairs with respect to room scheduling and topic selection. These are face to face sessions, therefore getting scheduled for space at the conference is critical and puts the group on the same schedule as all other committees and task forces scheduled by the GODORT Past Chair.

- d. During the session, have prepared questions to guide the discussion.
- e. Suggest brief but relevant readings in advance, but do not assume attendees will have read them.

#### **IV. Duration**

Interest Group are ongoing entities, until such time as the GODORT Steering Committee deems that they no longer serve their stated purpose.

#### **V. Meetings and Communication**

- A. Interest group meetings shall be held at Annual Conferences and Midwinter Meetings; and may be held virtually throughout the year.
- B. It is recommended that all Interest Groups establish and maintain a “discussion” section on the main GODORT node of ALA Connect to allow all GODORT and other ALA members a chance to participate.
- C. All Interest Group information to be shared with GODORT members should be submitted to the Technology Committee for inclusion on the GODORT website.

#### **VI. Federal Information Interest Group (FIIG) [created 2018]**

##### **A. Purpose**

The Federal Information Interest Group (FIIG) provides a forum for the sharing of knowledge regarding U.S. federal government information, and is open to those who have an interest in any and all aspects of federal government information.

Meetings of this interest group will provide an opportunity to discuss:

- Discuss current trends, challenges and concerns
- Provide educational opportunities to the ALA community regarding U.S. government information

#### **VII. State and Local Interest Group (SLIG) [created 2019]**

##### **A. Purpose**

The State and Local Interest Group (SLIG) provides a forum for librarians and others working with, or interested in, state and local government information.

Meetings of this interest group will provide an opportunity to discuss:

- Discuss current trends, challenges and concerns
- Provide educational opportunities to the ALA community regarding state and local government information

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