

# From the Chair

Aimée C. Quinn

In writing this, and reflecting on GODORT's recent work, I am amazed at how much we have accomplished as a volunteer organization! We began an examination of the role GODORT played over the past thirty-plus years and are now looking at what we should do in the twenty-first century. We moved the GODORT web pages to the ALA server and each of the committees and task forces made significant improvements to the content on their web pages, leading to an incredibly rich and robust site. Our councilor, Cathy Hartman, following on the good work and leadership of Larry Romans, worked very hard with her colleagues to change the rules of council representation and secured GODORT's continued representation on council.

GODORT hosted a popular program at the Depository Library Council meeting in Seattle titled "Capturing Digital Government Information: Views from the Northwest." Summaries and handouts are available at [www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortprogram/dlcseattle.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortprogram/dlcseattle.htm).

But the work goes on. We continue to work closely with GPO and the Depository Library Council in their work to create a new vision for the Federal Depository Library Program. Next year, with the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., we will take full advantage of this location and are developing a preconference focused on international documents to be held at the World Bank headquarters, as well as a program on early Americana not found in the *Serial Set*.

At this writing, GODORT is gearing up for Annual Conference in New Orleans. One of our biggest challenges this year is the revenue shortfall that resulted from the very difficult decision to cancel our annual preconference. We also need to find the funds to continue to develop the W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship, GODORT's \$3,000 award to benefit a library master's degree candidate who is currently working with government documents in a library. While we continue to raise funds for the scholarship through our successful silent auction, we need to find a way to fully endow this scholarship. The New Orleans Conference program "Information Literacy Is the Destination, Government Information Is the Road" will focus on using government resources to help with information literacy. Karen Hogenboom deserves special thanks and praise for working tirelessly to pull this program together. The Cataloging Committee will examine Library of Congress changes to AACR2 and how they may impact our daily work. A work group is currently developing the first in a series of web seminars for those of you who desire professional development but cannot attend ALA Annual. In creating this educational series, we really could use your input. So please, let us know what you are interested in learning or teaching!

I am deeply honored to be entrusted to carry on the work of my predecessors, Arlene Weible and John Stevenson, who began the difficult task to honestly examine the role of GODORT in the lives of our members. In her last column, Arlene wrote of the need for a "fundamental reevaluation of GODORT's mission, goals, and organizational structure." I sincerely agree and will do my best to continue those efforts. As such, the incoming members of the GODORT Steering Committee have been charged to start talking with their counterparts and colleagues across the Association, with the idea of developing a vision for the twenty-first century, to discover what exciting things we can do.

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to Arlene and John for the excellent example they set and to challenge each of you to think of what it is you expect from your membership in GODORT.

Also, I would like to extend my thanks to Patrice McDermott for all her work, good humor, and advice. For those of you who may not know, Patrice leaves the ALA Washington Office to work with OpenTheGovernment.org, a coalition of journalists, consumer and good government groups, environmentalists, labor, and others united to make the federal government more open in support of our democratic principles. I wish her good luck in her new work and want her to know that we will miss her.

I look forward to working with each of you over the next year. Please let me hear from you. GODORT needs your new ideas!