

# Default Report

GODORT Legislation Committee survey

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## Q2 - What

role should GODORT play with regard to advocacy for government information?

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role should GODORT play with regard to advocacy for government informa...
To ensure that Agencies retain all publications available "online only."
GODORT should definitely advocate for government information, through outreach to the Government Documents librarians community (those of us who don't belong to GODORT* can follow through GOVDOC-L and other groups) and ALA, so we can communicate with our fellow librarians, library users/patrons, and local, state, and Federal government officials.
GODORT should advocate for free and open access to all government information - both via depository libraries and freely available on the Web, at the state, national, and international levels.
GODORT should advocate for, and support, legislation that promotes and protects both preservation and access to federal government information for the American people, including continued access via Federal Depository libraries, and free, open online access for all, regardless of physical location.
Provide information and advocacy points of view to the ALA Washington office, and share the information with other divisions within the Association.
Influence ALA to strongly advocate for open and transparent government and free public access to government information.
Coordinate advocacy by libraries & librarians, provide contact information for key decisionmakers
To inform members of advocacy opportunities and to provide a collective voice.
Advocate for continued access to government information by the public
Our round table should weigh in on all federal legislation that may affect GPO or the FDLP.
GODORT should lead the ALA's efforts to advocate for the free access to government information in support of an informed citizenry. We should be pressing ALA to do more than react to what happens in DC and to develop a proactive position for libraries of all types in the dissemination, use and preservation of all government information.
GODORT should play a central role when advocating for government information. As the section of the ALA dedicated to government information, it is in a key position to organize people and resources, disseminate information, and advocate for the continued free access and conservation of government information.
Access to information issued by/released by a federal government unit.
Act in a leading role to keep government information freely available.
free access. open records laws.
We should actively advocate for open access to and preservation of all unclassified government information.
GODORT should be active on govdocL and other list serves advocating ALA's positions on issues. There are dozens of ALA resolutions that cover most situations. GODORT should have government policy statements covering issues

<p>already endorsed by ALA Council to hand out at all kinds of meetings. Former members of GODORT leg committee have written a number of issue papers that could be used.</p>
<p>I'm not sure.</p>
<p>I think Legislation is the lead committee for advocacy in GODORT. They are the heart of the organization. Legislation is more than writing resolutions, it is where GODORT should be putting its energies in persuading and pleading (i.e. advocating) the cause and purpose of government information. It is through our work as government information professionals we educate all others, whether it be other librarians, administrators, Congressional delegations &amp; staff, Legislators, other government officials, educators, and the community the value and importance of the FDLP and our work. This committee is where all other committees seek advice. Only does the Steering Committee have such a large representation and connection both within GODORT and to ALA proper. It is vital for GODORT to continue with Legislation as the premier advocacy voice.</p>
<p>Leadership role in determining the most important issues.</p>
<p>GODORT should continue to advocate for forward-thinking, reasonable, and intelligent legislation.</p>
<p>GODORT is the ONLY fully informed and committed group that knows and care about this issue. To NOT play a role is to fail in GODORT's mission</p>
<p>Monitoring information which will have an impact on libraries and education.</p>
<p>Provide government information for community, readily and easily available. No partisanship.</p>
<p>GODORT should be very active in advocating for the long-term availability and protection of all government information.</p>
<p>Lead, promote, connect.</p>
<p>GODORT has a role in advocating best practices and identifying current directions and future trends for government information access.</p>
<p>A very large one. I appreciate that ALA is taking a lead on issues related to federal legislation, but GODORT needs to play a stronger role as well.</p>
<p>Ensuring that non-national security or personnel government information is accessible to the public and preserved on a non-partisan basis. Unfortunately, my 27+ years as a Government Information Librarian, demonstrates GODORT and ALA are very sanctimonious about denouncing withholding of government information by Republicans but absolutely silent when done by Democrats as occurred during the Clinton and Obama Administrations.</p>
<p>Support sunshine laws and preservation efforts. Also, anything that makes government information easier to find and use.</p>
<p>GODORT should ensure that the ALA membership is aware of the ongoing efforts to preserve content and ensure discovery and access to government information as a public good. Recent events have raised awareness outside of GODORT to the challenges. GODORT should continue to a leader in this area.</p>
<p>Strong advocate for collection and retaining government information, and making it available to the public.</p>
<p>To ensure funding of the FDL program through lobbying Congressional and executive office members. Advocate open government through online resources for the citizens of the US.</p>
<p>Historically GODORT has examined legislation as it arose when it wasn't good for the public as interpreted by librarians and information specialists. with the current administration we've an all out assault on the government where it is seen as the people's enemy. we need librarians need to be organized and start monitoring legislation and administrative behavior that is counter to our democratic goals. Trump has already demonstrated quite clearly that he believes and is implementing practices of secrecy. this must be fought.</p>
<p>Both a strong group advocacy role in collaboration with ALA legislation, ARL, and other associations, and an equally strong individual role by members in conversations with policy makers.</p>
<p>Strong Advocacy--Should be more visible at the ALA Washington Office and not play 2nd fiddle to others. This is evidenced by the recent ALA Legislative Day, where GPO funding was not even considered an issue. Yes, there</p>

were many important issue, but GPO and Archives should have been a strong part of the mix. Depository Libraries were sorely under-represented. One wonders, why, ALA Washington does not have the same level of vigorous support for those programs. Hopefully, GODORT can fill in some of the muscle and also push the Washington Office into more active round the calendar advocacy.

It should be ALA's early warning system about threats to government information and should promote free, open access to government information whenever possible.

Monitor developments regarding access to government information  
Recommend positions on issues and alert GODORT members

As the government documents round table of ALA, GODORT should be one of the primary groups that advocates for government information.

Help to inform documents librarians nationwide about issues with and threats to government information access, as well as offer suggestions for contacting representatives.

GODORT should make sure that the ALA Washington Office is well informed about government information issues and participate in any advocacy efforts needed. Big ALA has a stronger voice than little GODORT, and should take the lead in large scale advocacy activities. I see GODORT as more as a partner and perhaps sometimes watchdog to make sure the ALA Washington Office keeps government information issues on their radar.

GODORT should advocate for the information and transparency of our federal and state governments for both current information, historic information, and access to unclassified govt. records

### Q3 - What do you think the GODORT Legislation Committee does? What do you think the Committee should or should not be doing?

What do you think the GODORT Legislation Committee does? What do you think...

Writes resolutions that go to ALA Steering and get changed and watered down.

probably more of the same, but hopefully articulating clearly the GODORT rational for any resolution (not that they don't do that now).

I think the committee is doing what I mentioned in Question 1, and I believe it should continue to do so.

Notifies members of proposed legislation and/or executive orders and rules which impact the availability and discoverability of government information.

Advocate on specific issues and legislation.

monitors current & forthcoming legislation affecting government document depository libraries & the availability of government documents to the public. The committee should coordinate advocacy to key decisionmakers.

I think the committee identifies issues and tells the membership. What I don't know is how the committee interacts with the Washington Office.

According to the GODORT P&P manual:

"[t]he purpose of the Legislation Committee is to identify issues requiring action; prepare or advise on resolutions for the membership, Steering Committee, task forces and committees; assist the ALA Washington Office on issues affecting federal government legislation; and assist and coordinate legislative action with other ALA bodies." That seems to cover it well.

This committee is GODORT's way to address any federal legislative initiatives that may affect GPO or the FDLP.

In my experience, the GODORT Legislation Committee doesn't do anything until they arrive at conference and then they react to what is or should be considered by COL during that meeting. After conference, they are dormant once again. They should be developing a framework of advocacy and a focus on what libraries of all types need in order to incorporate government information into their missions. They should identify the legislative, regulatory and policy that supports libraries' use of government information and recommend changes to all three of these components in order to improve the way libraries find, get and use government information.

Since I am not too familiar with the GODORT Legislation Committee, I'm going to combine my answers. This is both what I think they do and what I think they should do: represent libraries and their users' interests in discussion regarding the creation, dissemination, and preservation of government information; advocate via communicating with legislators on the federal, state, and local level regarding government information; collaborate with other interested and invested parties to educate and mobilize others towards matters that affect or threaten free access to government information

As it is an arm of an association, there is a concern that a GODORT committee/member might advocate for an issue/legislation beyond our professional concerns (of access to information).

Identifies laws and policies that affect the free flow of government information to the people.

advocate

I'm not actually sure. I assume it's the GODORT version of ALA's Committee on Legislation and that there's a liaison between the two who can bring GODORT's priorities up to "big" ALA. So I assume our committee drafts GODORT's official responses to key legislation that impacts the distribution of, access to, and preservation of government information.

The committee should foster GODORT wide discussion on the dangers to government information programs.

GODORT leg should continue to sponsor a meeting at the DLC conferences on issues that GPO staff can not advocate for. Legislation should organize mini workshops for GODORT members about how to advocate and invite WO staff to participate. The WO will have a new director and a new staffer assigned to government information issues.

I know they have the scholarships and awards every year. I don't really know that much because I have not been able to participate in ALA events.

I have not seen Legislation doing as much advocacy or taking on as much leadership with ALA as it used to. I would like to see GODORT Legislation work create better alliances within ALA and with outside organizations including C-SPAN, Digital Government Information, and other organizations.

I would like to have Legislation Committee create more immediate responses and post them on GOVDOC-L.

I think they discuss issues brought up by members and Depository libraries and others interested in Govt Information and should continue to do that.

One important job the Legislation Committee does is to bring legislative-related resolutions to the GODORT membership for discussion and moving forward if approved by GODORT members.

Originally the GODORT legislation Committee WAS the leader in insuring the ALA policy and it's Washington Office activities protected access to government information, informed the members of Congress and kept government information and its issue in the forefront of ALA. Lately it seem to have avoided any real activity that takes work. Avoids issue requiring resolution that confirm or develop ALA policy or that move ALA to real Action.

Should do: take PROACTIVE role in information policy on all levels -- local, state, federal and International ; inform and "lobby" Congress -- I suspect they are unaware of the Depository system and no longer listen to Librarian -- at one time we were key constituents that could kill Congressional action due to our lobby efforts, now I suspect Congress would say "GODORT what?"; Re-ESTABLISH a leadership role WITHIN ALA on Government information -- this has been co-opted by other ALA unit without GODORT depth of knowledge/background; DO SOMETHING OTHER THAN AVOID RESOLUTION WRITING AND WORK.

I have been appalled at the lack of active leadership Legislation Committee has had for the last decade.

The Committee should keep the membership informed about legislation which impacts libraries and education so that we can lobby for or against.

Is concerned with the role of GPO in government publishing of documents for FDLP libraries.

I think the Legislation committee advocates for or supports legislation that protects the availability and protection of government information. The committee should participate in all activities that promote those objectives.

To ensure GORODT has proper policies and procedures follow, working with all Committees/Taskforces to make sure all practices of GODORT run legally.

working with other ALA groups on legislative activities. Often it is a weathervane to trends that are not seen by others

The Committee highlights legislation that ALA should address as a body. The Committee should be more pro-active in its advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Being a former committee member, the committee tends to compose wordy resolutions that are "preaching to the choir", instead of tightly composed and succinctly written advocacy to relevant policymakers.

I'm not really sure. I work with documents 1/5 of the time or less.

Monitor legislative activities for possible threat to public access to government information. The title of the committee suggests that regulatory activities is out of scope, but this might be an area that should be monitored for possible threats.

Lobby for open government information.

Not sure what the Legislation Committee does. I would hope that the committee would be rallying the troops for advocacy of open government and creating legislation proposals to accomplish it.

what the Committee has done in the past was fine given the previous administrations but it must now be ready for an onslaught. it should organize librarians who will volunteer to review legislation and monitor agencies so that

the Committee can be ready to act by contacting Congress and responding to Federal Register proposed regulations.

Should be examining and commenting on federal executive and legislative initiatives, and also as appropriate state, local, and international information initiatives.

A lot! Importantly, continue pushing the powers that be within ALA to be more proactive in promoting GPO and Archives!

I believe the Legislative Committee monitors legislation about government information and makes recommendations for action to "Big ALA" Committee on Legislation. Comparing GODORT recommendations with those resolutions that manage to be reported out of the Committee on Legislation, I feel there are times where things are lost in translation.

The committee should monitor issues related to access to government information and bring these issues to the attention of ALA when warranted. The committee should recommend positions or action for ALA members.

I don't know specifically what the Legislation Committee has been doing but the Committee should be doing exactly what they are charged with doing - identify issues requiring action; prepare or advise on resolutions for the membership, Steering Committee, task forces and committees; assist the ALA Washington Office on issues affecting federal government legislation; and assist and coordinate legislative action with other ALA bodies.

Raise awareness of legislative issues affecting government information. It should continue to raise awareness among members, task forces, etc. In consultation with members, task forces, committees, it should take a position on legislation that has the potential to restrict access and advocate against any such legislation.

Back when I was active in GODORT, the Legislation Committee primarily focused on resolution writing (helping to establish position statements on government information issues) and coordinating efforts with the ALA Committee on Legislation. I don't hear much about GODORT currently being active in these arenas, but assume they are as appropriate. I think it is probably more important to have a GODORT member represented on the ALA Committee on Legislation than it is to have its own standing committee.

For the good of our democracy they need to be examining the information policies of federal and state governments with a goal of advocating for information transparency.

## Q4 - What

types of advocacy or issues do you think the GODORT Legislation Committee should be looking at?

What
types of advocacy or issues do you think the GODORT Legislation Commit...
Restrictions on access to government information. Government information disappearing from websites. restrictions on information and research related activities of government agencies.
To continue the type of work I've mentioned in the previous questions, and to advocate strongly for the broader library-related issues such as funding for IMLS, LTSA, and net neutrality. These all affect libraries' abilities to continue to provide open access to government information.
Copyright, NetNeutrality; Freedom of Information
Free and open access to government information. Give strong support to ALA principles on inclusion and diversity and oppose legislation which goes against those principles.
funding of libraries, availability of government agencies' information, availability of government document archives online
Issue: permanent public no-fee access to government information from all three branches of the federal government! Types of advocacy: letter writing campaigns, coordinating with ALA Washington Office
N/A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Preservation of born-digital content.</li><li>2. Comprehensive identification, description, cataloging, and persistent linking of ALL government information products.</li><li>3. Integration of government documents into discovery services, abstract and indexing services, electronic dissemination services, and preservation networks.</li><li>4. Identification of law, regulation, policy and practice that supports the cooperative promotion of government information to communities through libraries - where is it working and how can other Agencies do better?</li><li>5. Funding and support for FD-Sys to be the comprehensive digital repository for all federal government information products at no cost to producing agencies.</li></ol>
Preservation of Government Information, both in print and online
The recent issues with the EPA and other agencies have shown (once again) that our current online environment makes information of great use vulnerable. At the same time, the frequency with which others struggle to locate copies of cataloged resources indicates that there are other issues with preservation, such as information being "trapped" in outdated formats (i.e. microfilm, CD-ROM)
Digitization of Government Information
Although this may seem contradictory to what I said above, digitization projects are necessary to reach users. Digitization projects in libraries also help to ensure the information is well indexed and freely accessible to all users.
Freedom of Access: Government information should be freely accessible to all, but increased costs of production push publications to publishers with a pay-for-access model (i.e. ProQuest with the Statistical Abstract of the United States).
Access to information issued by/released by a federal government unit.

To identify and make aware of any Congressional or Executive bills, policies or laws that promote the suppression and removal of born-digital government information.
At any level of government, any legislation, regulation or executive action that impacts government information (both beneficially and negatively).
The current danger to the funding of government information and publishing programs should be priority. For example USGS and EPA are facing cuts to funding for information sharing and libraries.
I noticed a posting on GOVDOC-L about the Government Information Online (GIO) service. I think it is an important service and found out that since Jim Shuler passed away that the service has been coordinated by University of Hawai'i at Mānoa . GPO has been paying the \$2,000 subscription service, but they will not be able to do that in the future. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is not able to assume the responsibility of the costs of the software and has stated that unless another library or group of libraries agrees to cover the cost, the GIO service will sunset on June 30, 2017. That is just 4 weeks from now. She said that it might be possible to coordinate such a service through GODORT and I agree that it would definitely be a good service to advocate. This message went up at 10:54am yesterday and I have not seen any responses. I am planning to respond after this survey. I think this is an important service to continue.
Reliability of government information; responses to the assault on regulations and all the executive orders; push back on the defunding of most of the federal agencies
The preservation of govt information including paper and digital. Lack of funding for special govt libraries such as the EPA libraries. The continued free access to information and the continued legitimacy of govt information.
With the present administration, the list grows longer every day. The issues should be of national importance rather than state focused. Climate change, immigration, etc. come immediately to mind.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Congressional outreach and making them aware of the key role of government info to business, economy, ...</li> <li>2) Protect and protest the removal of government information and data from websites -- taxpayer dollars creates this information how dare the current administration simply remove it.</li> <li>3) Gag order preventing agency people from speaking, researching etc. Gov Info is key!!!</li> <li>4) Kick ALA's ass to protect these activities by the Administration and aided by the republican Congress.</li> </ol>
Privacy issues, technology, education, copyright
Make government documents readily available in convenient and easy to use forms for the public.
Access, preservation, protection
GODORT policies and procedures
access to information by the public, sharing of information between the private entities and public and NGO institutions
All of them. Government information and the very notion of truth are under assault at the federal level.
<p>Recommending that born digital information be permanently preserved for future scholars.</p> <p>Recommending that public access to Congressional Research Service reports be provided by the Library of Congress in a manner that doesn't breach personal confidentiality.</p> <p>Urging producers of government information to make wise use of taxpayer dollars by not pursuing fantasy investigations such as the hysterical nonsense over Trump campaign and administration "collusion" with Russia.</p>
Data and statistics, congressional information, GPO support.
Getting more government information retained for future generations.
Open government; advocacy for timely government document releases; support of the Census Bureau's data collecting; government agency document distribution to the GPO.
hard to say at this time since we're only 4 months into this administration. as time goes by we can expect more secrecy.
Tongue in cheek - it would be interesting to examine the use and MISUSE of social media by the executive branch.



GPO funding, Archives Funding.

Threats to government information, efforts to politicize government science, promoting open, free access whenever possible.

Government information literacy

Access to government information

Preservation of government information

preservation and data rescue

Title 44 revision

There could be many things to look at but any type of attempted restrictions to dissemination of federally funded research is probably one at the top of the list.

Advocacy around cuts to federal programs that produce valued government information, such as Census and other statistics programs.

Advocacy supporting GPO's digital preservation efforts and pushing for more reform in the Federal Depository Library Program.

Helping state level organizations with advocacy for local government information issues.

Not suppressing federal or state information for political purposes.

**Q5 - What types of advocacy have you seen work for other organizations, such as at local, state, regional, or national communities or organizations?**

What types of advocacy have you seen work for other organizations, such as...
Grassroots campaigns - solicit support and emails, phone calls, etc from members and non-members on important issues.
It seems to me that partnering with groups that have similar goals strengthens voices and resources. Also, mobilizing the public and raising awareness as to how their lives may be affected is also very important.
Organized campaigns to email Senators and Congressmen on specific legislation, with suggested wording and contact information.
word of mouth by extremely assertive & persuasive individuals in positions of power & influence
coordinated letter/postcard writing campaigns
N/A
I think the UN Depository program worked until they started changing it. I also think the early NASA and even EPA depository agreements were more effective than the FDLP. GPO needs a new "contract" with its depository institutions that focuses on the use of government information within the communities that they serve.
I do not feel I have enough experience or knowledge to answer this question.
n/a
In addition to official statements, statements on social media and well-placed interviews or other coverage in mainstream media.
Members of other organizations engage their members in lobbying on a regular basis, not just once a year. The League of women voters has volunteers who visit members of congress every month with a specific message. ALA has GODORT members in DC or near DC who could visit with staff. Of course WO staff should be included in such visits and the visits coordinated with WO staff. GODORT should insist that librarians who know a lot about government information should be sent as witnesses at hearings. Committee on House Administration had a hearing about GPO and ALA did not even ask for a librarian witness.
Mixed - there is a lot of discussion about what to do and looking for leadership. GODORT could offer this leadership. PNLA and MPLA are both directing some leadership as is FGI.
The end of term project and data refuge projects are both projects where GODORT should have led the charge and failed. GODORT Legislation could have been instrumental in a campaign writing to Congress urging the EPA not shut down its site and work with scientists and the city of Chicago to protect that information. There should be better coordination.
Reinstating many of the EPA libraries after the threatened closure. Continued funding of libraries.
Sorry, I haven't seen anything that has been truly effective. However, political campaigns have used images effectively such as the Daisy campaign 50 years ago <a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/09/07/daisy-girl-political-ad-still-haunting-50-years-later/15246667/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/09/07/daisy-girl-political-ad-still-haunting-50-years-later/15246667/</a>
Jeez what type of question is this. Indiana and local in Indiana has a very active political groups working on the issues you would expect -- health care, etc.
INDIGO used to have an active committee but less so lately

The information that I mentioned in the previous question.
Inform communities of the role of your work in providing government information and documents.
????
recent activities to save the IMLS and LSTA grants have been very effective.
Getting individuals to contact Representatives and Senators is the best way to make a difference. (Though I have my doubts that they listen unless there's money behind it.)
Building and sustain relationships with relevant policymakers and their staffs.
Unending letters, emails, faxes, and phone calls.
Generally, lobbying of state representatives. They have the money.
we can examine various professional groups, i.e. scientists, historians, political scientists, and environmental groups as examples.
Not sure
Meeting with legislators and/or their staffs. Having legislators/staff tour libraries to better understand what we do and why funding needs to be there. Advocacy to continue printing our core documents. Making sure GPO remains committed to preservation/access. To make the larger ALA community aware of the need and importance of depository libraries and the greater government documents community.
Lots of grassroots calling to elected representatives.
Advocacy-related events like Open Access Week with a number of events and activities under an umbrella ALA social media campaigns, especially using hashtags or Instagram -- take a picture of/with/related to an issue
writing and calling campaigns to Congressional or legislative leaders
social media campaigns
The use of paid lobbyists is effective as are campaigns encouraging individual members to contact their elected officials.
I think gathering stories to influence decision-makers is always an effective way to advocate for specific issues. I think GODORT could do more to tell stories about barriers to access to government information and services to those who struggle with online access. Not to go back to paper, but to make sure that agencies think about their customers when they makes changes to the way their information is accessed and provide training to library staff so they can help citizens navigate their services better.
The American Indian Library Association advocates for more and better funding for tribal libraries and tribal college libraries, to success with Pres. Obama but those promised gains may erode quickly under Pres. Trump.

## Q6 - Do you have any other comments for us?

Do you have any other comments for us?
Thank you for your work, and for conducting this survey.
ALA and GODORT need to be especially active now to uphold our principles.
thanks for asking and thanks for all the work you do!
No.
n/a
Good luck!
GODORT Legislation should ask our ALA councilor to speak up frequently about what GODORT is doing particularly when the committee on legislation reports at the Tuesday morning session. Legislation should ask for discussion of the issues at the GODORT membership meeting.
I thank you for this opportunity.
Keep up the good work. The atmosphere of "fake news" is very troubling. Librarians need to continue the fight for understanding and recognizing the truth.
no
yeah -- do something!! and do something between conferences....
No
no
n/a
Keep up the good work!
Government information access should be a non-partisan issue. GODORT and ALA should quit advocating for non-library leftist causes and focus on library issues only.
no
as Samuel L. Jackson says in Jurassic Park before he reboots the down system: Hold on to your butts.
Nope, but good luck.
You are doing well. I know that with the foundation, you can do even more!
I think you all work very hard and are underappreciated by Big ALA.
No - fight the good fight!
Do everything you can to work with the ALA Washington Office ... rather than trying to go around them. The staffing changes their offer an opportunity to establish better relations ... I hope GODORT take advantage.
The work you do is for the health of our democracy.