

State Local Annual 2009 minutes

From GODORT

GODORT State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF) Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 11

8am to 10am

Palmer House Hilton, State Ballroom

Kris Kasianovitz, Coordinator

Suzanne Sears, Coordinator-Elect

Annelise Sklar, Secretary

Jennie Gerke, Web Coordinator

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes): All introduced themselves. Kris outlined the agenda.

A. Icebreaker - What's in your budget?

5 minutes, in groups of 4.

Attendees divided into groups of four and discussed the current budget situations in their libraries and states. Common themes included having low state and local government information materials budget to begin with; cuts to student support and technical services; vacant positions frozen or eliminated; cuts to state agencies who produce, distribute, and catalog material; more collaboration between the libraries and local agencies and/or campus departments on grants and projects, especially in obtaining GIS data and in digitizing print collections; cuts to binding budgets. Oklahoma has a deal with LexisNexis where they provide cataloging of IIS documents in exchange for a free subscription to the IIS fiche and LexisNexis funding the salary of the technical support staff person who does the cataloging.

B. Kris circulated the attendance sheet.

II. The agenda was adopted. Kris suggested tabling new business items since person who added those items was not able to attend.

III. Minutes from the State and Local Documents Task Force meeting at Midwinter 2009 were approved.

IV. Liaison Reports (2 minutes) Reports from Committees that have met and only items that are of direct interest or affect SLDTF; Liaisons please post reports to this section of the wiki)

- Legislation – no report
- Membership – no report
- Program (2009 Chicago Annual Meeting Program specifically ties in with SLDTF)

Met yesterday from 4-6. The pre-conference was very successful both topic-wise and financially. The GODORT Program is on Monday and covers government resources for kids. Please try to attend. Kris also suggested that attendees consider putting forth program ideas in the future, especially thinking about how they can tie into the interests of non-GODORT groups. She noted that there is quite a long timetable, so a program suggested now would be at least a year away. One can get speakers later but will need a list of potential speakers and some fleshing out of the idea in order to present it. Costs of the program is an issue: think about the area where the conference will be held and available people who are already in that city.

- Cataloging

Meets tomorrow and will talk about what moves to the wiki and what stays on University of Delaware server. The cataloging toolbox has cataloging information for all 50 states.

- Bylaws

Amy West wants to start a group on communication, specifically, what GODORT information goes where: the ALA site, the GODORT wiki, ALA Connect, etc. The group should look at who is putting what where for GODORT and what ALA's requirements are.

- Education

Meets tomorrow. They will be talking about providing statistical and data information literacy for patrons, competencies for government information specialists, and online projects.

- GITCO – no report
- Publications – no report
- Rare and Endangered Government Publications – no report

V. Old Business

A. Inventory of Projects Preserving State Government Information (Karen Hogenboom) (10 minutes)

Outcomes:

1. Participants are given an update on what the project is, the wiki, and participation thus far.
2. We will have more volunteers from other states. There is a working on a project to collect project information about collections of digitized state documents. Anyone interested should talk to Karen. There is a template shell up on SLDTF wiki. California, Alabama, and Illinois all have some content.

This project is somewhat a state equivalent of GPO's registry of projects. There was discussion of whether oral histories could fit into this, perhaps as an add-on to the official documents.

There was also a suggestion that a good program topic would be to explore the connection between government publications and special collections, especially relating to collecting the papers of local politicians and working with historic documents collections. Society of American Archivists would be a good partner.

B. Wither the Committee of 8 (Kris Kasianovitz, Barbara Miller) (15-20 minutes)

Outcomes:

1. Participants are given a brief background of the C8 and their function.
2. Decide if the C8 structure should continue, be reconfigured, reconvened or dissolved.

The Committee of 8 was started by Margaret Lane in the pre-electronic environment as a way to quickly disseminate information to all state documents librarians through SLDTF. Each of the eight librarians was responsible for contacting a librarians throughout a few of the 50 states, usually through a telephone tree or letters. It evolved to a model where the SLDTF coordinator-elect would run it. Now we have Govdoc-1 for communication and perhaps do not need it.

Barbara wants to write an article for DttP on the history of the Committee of 8 and is hoping someone else who was around when it was strong can fill in the gaps with additional information. She have enough for a “whereas” statement in the resolution on Margaret Lane. It was an early attempt to get people who don't come to ALA involved with projects. It was suggested that Barbara consult the minutes in old issues of DttP.

Kris suggested that it sounds like we don't need to continue on the committee of 8 with our current means of electronic communication. It was pointed out that we do need someone who will report on issues for each state. Kris suggested that maybe it evolve into a liaison for each state and noted that there is potential for virtual participation. There are several projects on wiki where someone has adopted each state and it is still worthwhile to have some sort of network of contacts. Reconstituting it can be a project for for Midwinter.

Also asked: How are we dealing with territories? Tribal libraries?

VI. Remembrance of Margaret T. Lane (Kris and group) (10 minutes) This discussion was combined with the discussion on the Committee of 8.

VII. Discussion - Statistics and Data Session (Kris Kasianovitz, Annelise Sklar, Berencia Vejvoda) (60 minutes)
Outcomes

1. Participants understand the difference between statistics and data, aggregate data, microdata
2. Participants are introduced to use of statistical information and/or data in library instruction and research
3. Participants gain experience in evaluating statistical information
4. Participants learn components of statistical tables
5. Participants are able to bibliographically describe statistical tables
6. Participants have a packet of information that they can use when providing library instruction

Attendees broke into 5 groups and completed two exercises, sharing some of the answers with the larger group:

Exercise #1 – What does it all mean? (Berenica, 15 minutes)

Scenario: You are going to give a brief talk to an undergraduate Sociology course who will be working with the Decennial Census. At this first meeting you want them to understand the difference between three basic terms – statistics, aggregate data, and microdata. How would you explain this to them?

Exercise #2 – How do you define local? (Annelise, 10 minutes)

1. Discussion: what are all of the possible geographies you can think of that would be considered local?
2. Discussion: Who produces statistics and/or data at these geographies?

VIII. New Business (this probably won't happen) SLDTF Projects

Outcomes

1. Participants know about the projects hosted by SLDTF
2. Participants have an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the projects and use of the wiki to manage projects.

3. Ideas for new projects are proposed for consideration.

New business was not discussed.

IX. Recap of any action items, next steps, etc.

X. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

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