

What a pleasure it is to be writing a column again and to have the bright, airy feeling of the Anaheim conference to look back on. Both of our pre-conferences, on elections data and Web 2.0 applications, were resounding successes, as was our program on local government resources for business and our GODORT Update. Speakers contributed their expertise and eloquence, and attendees walked away better educated and ready to try out new tricks when they returned home to tend their libraries and websites. Certain speakers have stayed in my mind, and I don't even need to consult my notes:

personal level, when individuals find our preferences, programs, updates, online resources, and published materials of high value and spread the word. Our message has to be something about which we can freely say that we think it, we speak it, and we hold it dear. What's our GODORT message? Is it our Bylaws? Our Procedures Manual?

No, our message, which we will refine together in our strategic planning process, comes from our very existence, the need that led to our founding nearly forty years ago. We are part of the American Library Association. Our focus is libraries. We are more than an affinity group for those with a fetish for yellowing microfiche and dusty pamphlets. We are more than a loose affiliation of people who value cataloging, accurate record-keeping, and blogging. We are more than quaint types who believe that the most profound American literature comes

from the Serial Set and congressional hearings. Sure, it is fun to look at ourselves, but as Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski and others have pointed out, we are not the American Librarians's Association. We represent our libraries when we participate in ALA and in GODORT. So GODORT's special spark—the name we get to guard together—is the intersection of government information and libraries. Ten years ago, we would have called “government information in libraries.” But because the government information we steward, preserve, describe, teach about, and provide access to cannot and will not be contained within any library's four walls, we have got to state it as the crossroads of government information and libraries. We've got to keep an eye on, but that's our special, GODORT-guarded name. And when you're a name-guarder, the idea is to keep the light shining. Let's do just that.

Managing Electronic Government Information in Libraries: Issues and Practices



Written by government information practitioners, this practical guide to managing electronic government information is a must-have for librarians, library administrators, scholars, students, researchers, and other information professionals. This volume details the benefits, challenges, and best practices of managing digital government information for librarians in academic, public, special, and school libraries.

ALA Edition