

Report of the GODORT Special Committee on Reorganization (2025/2026)

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Committee members:

Julia Ezzo, GODORT Chair

Shari Laster, Chair, GODORT Development Committee

Emily Rogers, Chair, GODORT Awards & Conference Committee

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Introduction and Acknowledgments

Per GODORT Bylaws (rev. 2018), “The Steering Committee will conduct a periodic review to ensure that all groups continue to serve their purpose” (Article VIII, Section 6). In November 2025, GODORT Steering convened a Special Committee on Reorganization with a charge to evaluate the committees and programmatic activities, identifying strengths, inefficiencies, redundancies, and opportunities for improvement, and to recommend a revised structure that enhances sustainability and aligns with ALA’s Strategic Plan. The Special Committee began its work in December 2025 and concluded in March 2026.

The Special Committee would like to thank GODORT Treasurer Valerie Glenn for gathering and interpreting information related to current Round Table revenue and expenses.

Background

Following the completion of the ALA Program Assessment in spring 2025, ALA determined a need to conduct a comprehensive review of all member groups (committees, sections, interest groups, etc.) in the association and evaluate all ALA awards. The ALA Executive Board approved the following motions on May 15, 2025:

Motion #1: Direct ALA units, including Divisions and Round Tables, to conduct an audit of their member committees, interest groups, and other member groups with recommendations to continue or sunset to aid in future budgeting decisions to the Executive Director of the Association by September 30, 2025; and

Motion #2: Direct ALA units, including Divisions and Round Tables, to conduct an audit of their awards, scholarships, and grants with recommendations to continue or sunset to aid in future budgeting decisions to the Executive Director of the Association by September 30, 2025.

After the conclusion of the 2025 ALA Annual Conference, GODORT Chair Julia Ezzo led GODORT Steering through the process of completing a rubric provided by ALA. The results of this exercise suggested that nearly all GODORT committees and groups should be reviewed for retention or recommended to pause and sunset. At the same time, many awards and grants received a rating indicating a need to preserve and invest; as an additional exercise, the same rubric when completed for key products and ongoing activities also returned indicators of the value of these efforts to GODORT members.

The incongruity between a perceived lack of value in GODORT committees and the acknowledged value in the products and outputs of these groups (including awards!), gave rise to an interest in acting holistically on these findings. By mapping relationships between GODORT’s structure and programming, and then investigating the alignment of current activities

with respect to available resources, the Special Committee intends that its recommendations will set GODORT on a sustainable path to continue building member participation and satisfaction.

Evaluation of Committees

The Special Committee on Reorganization evaluated each standing committee using three sources: the ALA rubric ratings (as determined through GODORT Steering Committee discussions), observations of committee rosters, and related findings. Interest Groups and Task Forces were excluded from the evaluation.

Awards and Conference Committee

The Awards and Conference Committee plays a vital role in GODORT by administering all awards, scholarships, and grants, as well as planning the Awards Reception at the Annual Conference. However, recruiting and appointing members and a chair to this committee have proven difficult. The committee has had one to two vacancies consistently since 2023 and received a rubric rating of “Pause or Sunset.” Planning the Awards Reception presents additional challenges, primarily due to insufficient funding. Although GODORT often secures a vendor sponsor for the event, identifying and confirming sponsorship is an annual effort that requires significant time and coordination with the Development Committee. Furthermore, coordinating payments to award winners through ALA has become increasingly difficult in recent years.

Cataloging Committee

The Cataloging Committee discusses issues in cataloging government information and maintains three toolboxes in LibGuides that are updated by volunteers. It received a “Sunset or Replace” score in the recent evaluation due to low member demand, limited adaptability, and lack of distinctiveness from other groups. This is reflected in ongoing challenges: difficulty appointing a chair and recruiting volunteers to update the toolboxes, and competing against similar cataloging-focused groups that exist within ALA (e.g., CORE’s Cataloging sections) and externally (e.g., Online Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC)).

Development Committee

The Development Committee is responsible for all of GODORT’s fundraising initiatives and vendor outreach. This work of this committee is increasingly critical given both GODORT and ALA’s financial situation and it scored “Preserve and Invest” in the rubric. Appointing members is consistently difficult for this committee; in the past three years at least one slot has remained unfilled each year. It can be difficult to recruit a chair with the experience needed to confidently lead fundraising and donor communication programs.

Education Committee

The Education Committee identifies needs and issues related to educating users of government information and proposes projects to address them. It serves as a conduit for sharing education resources across audiences. With volunteer support, the committee maintains the Voting and Elections Toolkits in LibGuides, which provide state-by-state and national resources for navigating elections and voter information. The committee also collaborates with the Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian webinar series to deliver programming, such as webinars for Sunshine Week on open government and transparency topics. This committee received a rubric score of "Review for retention."

Government Information for Children (GIC) Committee

The Government Information for Children Committee promotes government information to engage K-12 students in learning about history, civics, science, and other subjects by creating and sharing educational resources for teachers and librarians. Its primary work product is the Educational Resources from Government Agencies LibGuides page (maintained by volunteers), which curates government-produced documents, databases, primary sources, and other materials suitable for K-12 classrooms. In the recent committee evaluation, GIC received a "Pause or Sunset" rubric score, driven by low membership interest and operational challenges. Recruiting members and a chair has been consistently difficult: the committee had three vacancies in 2024-2025 and four vacancies for 2025-2026.

Legislation Committee

The Legislation Committee identifies issues requiring legislative action related to government information and public policy. It prepares or advises on resolutions for the membership, Steering Committee, task forces, and other committees; assists the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office (formerly Washington Office) on federal legislation affecting government information; and coordinates legislative efforts with other ALA units. This committee received a rubric score of "Review for Retention."

Membership and Nominating Committee

The Membership and Nominating Committee coordinates nominating processes by nominating and recruiting candidates and preparing information for the ALA ballot and Depository Library Council. They are also tasked with planning an informal GODORT Happy Hour at ALA Annual Conference, though in some recent conferences this has been deferred in favor of coordinating with the Politics, Policy, and International Relations Section (PPIRS). In practice, nearly all of the work of soliciting nominations and planning events is done by the GODORT Past-Chair, who serves as chair of this committee. It received a rubric rating of "Pause or Sunset."

Programming, Help!, and Kenya Flash Lecture Series Committee

The Programming, Help!, and Kenya Flash Lecture Series Committee proposes, plans, and implements GODORT programs to support professional development and engagement within

the government information community. A key ongoing responsibility is organizing the Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian webinar series, often in collaboration with the Education Committee or other GODORT committees. The committee also plans, publicizes, and implements the annual Chair's Program, a juried program (if selected), and any associated preconferences held during the ALA Annual Conference. In collaboration with PPIRS, the committee supports the Kenya Flash Memorial Lecture Series, contributing members to the joint planning effort for this memorial lecture initiative. This committee's rubric score was "Pause or Sunset," primarily due to its lack of financial sustainability related to speaker honoraria and conference-related expenses. For 2025-2026, this committee has two member vacancies, including the role of Coordinator for the Help! Series.

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee serves as the de facto publisher for GODORT, including for *DttP* and other works published by GODORT, and also maintains the Notable Documents Panel for the promotion of government publications within ALA. Their rubric score was "Pause or Sunset" mostly due to the expenses from the publication of *DttP*.

Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP) Committee

The Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP) committee seeks to identify and support the preservation of rare, unique and/or endangered government publications, in all formats and from all levels of government. This committee garnered significant interest after January 2025 and received a "Review for Retention" rubric rating. Prior to this resurgence, however, the committee faced recruitment difficulties, with the chair position remaining unfilled throughout the 2024-2025 term due to challenges in securing volunteers.

Social Media, Technology, and Outreach Committee

The Social Media, Outreach, and Technology Committee promotes GODORT's activities, members, and government information resources by managing its social media accounts and keeping the GODORT website current and accessible. While essential for member communication and visibility, the committee received a "Pause or Sunset" rubric rating, driven by ongoing volunteer shortages—especially for the chair role. For 2025-2026, it has three vacancies, and several eligible members chose not to continue.

Recommendations

The Special Committee on Reorganization recommends that the purpose of GODORT's Standing Committees adhere to the definition set forth in Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws: "Standing committees shall be created to perform the ongoing work of the Round Table." Noting the challenges in recruiting committee members and chairs, the Special Committee also recommends that GODORT streamline its standing committees to efficiently combine responsibilities.

Based on these factors, the proposed Standing Committees are:

- Development and Awards Committee
 - This committee would combine the work of the Awards and Conference Committee and the Development Committee. If needed, this committee could convene and oversee a panel for Awards.
- Educational Initiatives Committee
 - This committee would combine the activities of the Education Committee and the Programming/Help/Kenya Flash Lecture Series committees. The Educational Initiatives Committee would be responsible for all GODORT-sponsored webinars.
- Legislation Committee
 - Remain as-is.
- Publications Committee
 - Remain as-is.
- Outreach and Engagement Committee
 - This committee would combine the activities of the Social Media, Technology, and Outreach Committee and the member engagement duties of the Membership and Nomination Committee.
 - The Website Administrator will remain an ex officio member of this committee but will not be required to serve as chair.

If these recommendations are accepted, nominations for the Depository Library Council and GODORT elected positions would fall under the purview of the Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair of GODORT.

The Special Committee further recommends converting the three existing committees not addressed in the preceding sections—Cataloging Committee, Government Information for Children Committee, and Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee—into Interest Groups in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws. The work of these committees is topical in focus, concentrating on specific subject areas or specialized functions within government information rather than fulfilling broad, ongoing governance, policy development, or operational responsibilities for the Round Table as a whole. As a result, they do not meet the current Bylaws criteria for a Standing Committee (which are reserved for essential, enduring roles in GODORT's governance structure).

Converting these committees to Interest Groups would achieve the following benefits:

- Better align their structure with their specialized, issue-driven nature.
- Enable flexible, interest-based participation by members with relevant expertise, without the formal membership, reporting, or appointment requirements of Standing Committees.
- Streamline GODORT's committee structure by reserving Standing Committee status for groups with core, Round Table-wide duties (e.g., legislation, development, outreach).

This adjustment would promote more efficient use of member time and resources while preserving dedicated spaces for collaboration, discussion, and advancement on these valuable, specialized topics in government information.

There are no recommendations or suggested modifications to the two existing Interest Groups (Federal Information Interest Group and State and Local Documents Interest Group) and the International Documents Task Force.

While the Special Committee on Reorganization streamlined GODORT's committees to address financial strain and declining member engagement, this committee recommends that future Steering Committees continue evaluating all GODORT activities to strengthen long-term sustainability. This evaluation should explicitly include setting clear priorities for programmatic activities.

Proposed Standing Committees

The following section offers proposed scopes for the recommended Standing Committees, intended to guide future revision of the GODORT Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM).

Development and Awards Committee

Purpose:

The Development & Awards Committee is responsible for stewarding GODORT's awards program and supporting the financial health of the organization through fundraising. This is achieved through the following activities:

- The committee shall publicize the annual awards nominations and make recommendations to the Steering Committee for the recipients of Round Table Awards, convening an awards panel if necessary to carry out this responsibility.
- The committee shall plan and coordinate local arrangements for GODORT including relations with ALA and host city information for the Annual Awards Reception.
- The committee shall be responsible for establishing new awards, including obtaining ALA approval, developing criteria, and writing and/or designing the citation and/or plaque.
- The committee, in conjunction with other GODORT entities, shall create and implement a Development Plan that identifies and solicits external funding sources, maintains a list of potential individual, corporate, and foundation donors, develops fundraising projects to support the scholarship endowment and subsidize events, speakers, and programs, organizes fundraisers for GODORT activities, assists the Chair with solicitations as needed, and coordinates with the ALA Development Office.

Activities and Projects:

- Solicit, evaluate, and select Awards recipients
 - To preserve the integrity of GODORT Awards, meetings to discuss solicitation, evaluation, and selection of Awards recipients are closed and confidential. No minutes are taken and no votes should be recorded.

- Annual Awards Reception
 - Planning the Annual Awards Reception includes identifying local arrangements, coordinating with ALA and local host institutions, seeking vendor sponsorships, providing relevant information to the Outreach & Engagement Committee, and serving as hosts for the arrangement and presentation of awards.
- Rozkuszka Scholarship Fundraiser
 - The Rozkuszka Scholarship Fundraiser is sponsored by Readex and is a silent auction featuring two properties, one in Naples, Florida and the other in Chester, Vermont.
 - The committee works with a Readex representative to conduct and conclude the Silent Auction, and with the GODORT Treasurer to complete the donation process.
- Annual GODORT Appeal
 - Coordinate with ALA for an annual appeal to GODORT members for support of a selected GODORT program or initiative.
- Other fundraising activities

Educational Initiatives Committee

Purpose:

The Educational Initiatives Committee shall identify needs and issues concerning the education of users of government information and propose projects and programs to meet these needs and resolve these problems. This committee is committed to amplifying diverse voices through programming and projects, and critically examining the systemic racism and all other forms of systemic bias present in historic and contemporary government information. The goal of this committee is to act as conduit for information regarding education resources in using government information to four audiences:

- Users and potential users of government information
- Government information librarians and staff
- Librarians who do not work directly or primarily with government information
- Library school students and faculty

Activities and Projects:

- Annual Conference Programs
 - The committee plans, publicizes, and implements the annual program(s) and preconference(s), if any, held at the Annual Conference. This involves identifying topics for future programs and identifying speakers and setting up current programs.
 - The committee seeks opportunities to propose or cosponsor preconferences that support the mission of GODORT.
 - Subject to Steering Committee approval, the Educational Initiatives Committee may collaborate with another committee on one additional program (not its main program) sponsored by that committee.
- Additional GODORT programs

- Organize the ongoing GODORT Help! Webinar series covering topics related to the full range of government information at the international, federal, state, and local level.
- Appoint three GODORT members to serve on the Kenya S. Flash Virtual Lecture Series Committee.
- Other projects
 - Create and maintain appropriate educational materials and LibGuides, including the Voting and Elections Toolkit.

Legislation Committee

Purpose:

The Legislation Committee shall identify issues requiring action; prepare or advise on resolutions for the membership, Steering Committee, task forces and committees; assist the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office on issues affecting federal government legislation; and assist and coordinate legislative action with other ALA bodies.

Activities and Projects:

- GODORT Resolutions, including ALA policy resolutions, memorial resolutions, and tribute resolutions.

Outreach and Engagement Committee

Purpose:

The purpose of the Outreach and Engagement Committee is to effectively and efficiently promote, in a timely manner, membership in ALA and GODORT, participation of GODORT members in ALA activities, GODORT efforts, the activities of GODORT members, and relevant government information. The committee also maintains all GODORT social media accounts, maintains and updates GODORT's website, manages account access to GODORT's LibGuides accounts for current and outgoing committee members, and creates and maintains guidelines, timelines, and best practices for GODORT's online platforms.

Activities and Projects:

- Solicit and distribute content for GODORT social media accounts; recommend to GODORT Steering when there is a need to update or change platforms in use.
- On behalf of GODORT committees, publicizes upcoming events and announcements through ALA Connect, govdoc-l, and other venues as appropriate.
- Supports the Website Administrator, who serves as an ex officio committee member.

Publications Committee

Purpose:

The Publications Committee serves as the de facto publisher for GODORT, including for DttP and other works published by GODORT, and maintains the Notable Documents Panel for the promotion of government publications within ALA.

Activities and Projects:

- DttP: Documents to the People
 - Manages and serves as publisher for GODORT's journal.
 - Responsibilities include selecting and advising the Editor(s), and supporting the work of the Editorial Board.
- Other publications submitted to be published, distributed, or endorsed by GODORT
 - These publications can be produced as a stand-alone publication from ALA GODORT, a work published under the auspices of ALA GODORT, through ALA Editions, or by another publisher.
- Notable Documents Panel and List
 - The Notable Documents List is developed from community submissions by a panel of experts and endorsed for publication in American Libraries.
- Occasional Papers
 - Serves as publisher for occasional works deemed relevant to GODORT audiences but that do not meet format criteria for DttP.

Additional note about GODORT Officers

In the process of updating the PPM, all GODORT Officer duties should be reviewed to ensure they are updated and current. As noted above, a selected GODORT Officer should have assigned responsibility for leading the nomination process each year. GODORT Steering retains authority to charge a time-limited ad hoc or special committee to assist with nominations needs, if this support is desirable.

Additionally, we recommend that the Website Administrator serve ex officio on the Outreach and Engagement Committee but not be required to serve as chair.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Article VII, Section 2, of the [GODORT Bylaws \(rev. 2018\)](#) describes the role of the Steering Committee with respect to standing committees:

Standing committees shall be created to perform the ongoing work of the Round Table. Standing committees are created, changed, or discontinued by the Steering Committee. Committees can be created by the Steering Committee, or by the submission of a

proposal with twenty-five supporting signatures of personal members. The Steering Committee, upon the recommendation of the concerned body, may discontinue or change the status of a committee. A statement of the functions and membership of a new standing committee shall be written into the PPM at the committee's creation. Membership changes shall be approved by the Steering Committee and the PPM updated. New committee chairs (with the exception of the position for Publications Committee Chair) shall be appointed by the GODORT Chair with the concurrence of a majority of the Steering Committee members. Committees can appoint subunits for specific tasks. No member of a standing committee shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms on the same committee. Policies of standing committees shall be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval and inclusion in the PPM.

The GODORT Steering Committee therefore has the authority to create, change, or discontinue standing committees. We note that this authority is not subject to a vote of GODORT Membership; however, all actions taken should be open for discussion for a reasonable period of time prior to the vote, so that due consideration may be made and feedback provided to GODORT Steering members.

The recommendations described above may be accomplished with the following process:

1. GODORT Steering votes to accept the report of the Special Committee on Reorganization, thereby thanking and discharging the Special Committee.
 - a. A failure to accept the report would need to return instructions for revision to the Special Committee, which would continue its work for an additional period of time.
2. GODORT Steering votes *in principle* to act upon the recommendations, or a portion or subset of the recommendations.
 - a. This vote should follow ample discussion and consideration, including with GODORT Membership.
 - b. A failure to approve *in principle* action on the recommendations would close consideration on reorganization at this time.
 - c. Per Article V, Section 5, GODORT meetings are subject to parliamentary procedure. We advise that care is taken on the part of presiding officers to follow clear procedures during all meetings.
3. Following a vote approving action upon the recommendations, GODORT Steering votes to charge a new Special Committee on Revised Policies and Procedures to draft PPM revisions necessary to accomplish the recommendations as approved by Steering.
 - a. We advise that this new Special Committee include the following GODORT officers:
 - i. GODORT Immediate Past Chair – responsible for guiding timely completion of this work.
 - ii. GODORT Chair – responsible for communication with GODORT Steering and past committee chairs; supports soliciting and nominating new committee officers and members.

- iii. GODORT Assistant Chair/Chair-Elect – responsible for soliciting and nominating new committee officers and members.
- iv. GODORT Bylaws and Organization Coordinator – responsible for performing administrative tasks associated with PPM updates.
 - 1. Potential Bylaws revisions may surface as part of this work; these may be noted by the Special Committee as advisory to GODORT Steering, for future action as addressed in Article XI.
- v. With approval of Steering, other GODORT members may volunteer to assist in the work of this Special Committee.
- b. The new Special Committee should consult with recent committee chairs to request PPM updates already in progress, so that these can be incorporated into the revised versions.
- c. The new Special Committee should be given adequate time to revise all affected PPM chapters.
- 4. When the new Special Committee completes its work, GODORT Steering will conduct votes to formally reorganize GODORT and adopt the revised PPM chapters. GODORT Steering should then immediately vote to appoint new committee officers and members as nominated. Finally, GODORT Steering should vote to thank and discharge the Special Committee.
 - a. Following these votes, the reorganization is now in effect.
 - i. The GODORT Chair should notify all new or renewed appointees of their status in a timely manner, following the completion of the vote, and the new PPM chapters should be published to the GODORT website.
 - ii. We advise that the GODORT Chair or Immediate Past-Chair contact any members who had been serving on a discontinued committee and who are not yet appointed to a newly created committee, in order to engage them in the process of forming interest groups.

Proposed Timeline

March 2026: The Special Committee on Reorganization presents their Final Report. GODORT Steering votes to accept the Final Report. The Special Committee on Reorganization is discharged.

April - June 2026: Discussions and feedback with GODORT Steering and Membership. Steering votes in principle to act upon a slate of recommendations following Membership discussion. Steering also votes to charge a new Special Committee on Revised Policies and Procedures.

July - October 2026: Special Committee on Revised Policies and Procedures works to revise affected PPM chapters.

November 2026: GODORT Steering votes to formally reorganize GODORT and adopt the revised PPM chapters. New committee officers are nominated and appointed. The Special Committee on Revised Policies and Procedures is discharged.

January 2027: New committees and interest groups meet during Virtual Winter Meetings.

Appendix 1: Rubric Findings

Program Name Columns B-G Require Scores in a 1-5 range where: 1 = Weak 3 = Moderate 5 = Strong	Strategic Fit	Member Demand	Impact vs. Effort	Financial Sustainability	Distinctiveness	Adaptability	Final Score	Recommendation
Awards and Conference Committee	4	3	4	3	3	3	3.4	Pause or Sunset
Cataloging Committee	2	2	3	3	3	3	2.55	Sunset or Replace
Development Committee	5	4	5	5	4	4	4.55	Preserve and Invest
Education Committee	5	4	5	3	4	4	4.25	Review for retention
Government Information for Children	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	Pause or Sunset
Legislation Committee	5	3	5	5	5	4	4.45	Review for retention
Membership and Nominating Committee	5	2	2	4	2	3	3.2	Pause or Sunset
Program/Help!/ Kenya Flash Committee	5	5	5	1	5	5	4.4	Review for retention
Publications Committee	5	3	3	2	5	3	3.55	Pause or Sunset
Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee	4	4	3	5	5	3	3.95	Review for retention
Social Media/Technolo gy/Outreach Committee	5	2	3	5	3	3	3.6	Pause or Sunset

Appendix 2: Special Committee on Reorganization Charge

The GODORT Steering Committee requests the creation of a Special Committee on Reorganization to evaluate GODORT committees, identifying strengths, inefficiencies, redundancies, and opportunities for improvement, and to recommend a revised structure that enhances sustainability and aligns with ALA's Strategic Plan.