

# GODORT Connection



## Moderator's Corner

Welcome to another edition of *The GODORT Connection!*

It is an honor for me to be serving, once more, as Moderator of the Government Documents Round Table. The last time I served in this office was 1995-1996. Obviously, a lot has changed in the world of government documents since then. One quick example: GPO now stands for the Government Publishing Office, not the Government Printing Office. However, rather than looking back nostalgically, I am hoping to work with the GODORT officers and membership, and the Alabama Library Association Executive Council to further this round table's mission as stated in the [GODORT Bylaws Objectives](#): "to provide a forum for librarians working with government documents; to provide the availability, use, and bibliographic control of documents; and to promote communication between documents librarians and other librarians".

This newsletter was established last year by Paula Webb (U. of South Alabama), now Past-Moderator of GODORT, and I am hoping to follow in her

creative footsteps in producing *The GODORT Connection* this year. Please also welcome Kelly Wilson (Troy University), who is the brand-new editor of the newsletter, Dr. Stephanie Rollins (Air University) who is serving as Moderator-Elect, and Barbara Hutto (Birmingham Public Library) who is serving as Secretary-Treasurer. These plus yours truly (at Auburn University) are your new GODORT officers. Please see our profiles on page 2 for a little more information about us.

We look forward to producing more issues of *The GODORT Connection* this year. Best wishes for happy reading and a happy summer.

Tim Dodge  
ALLA GODORT Moderator



### Inside this issue

ALLA GODORT Steering Committee.....	2
Importance of Collection Continuity Among Federal Depositories in Alabama.....	3
An Introduction to Holocaust-related Government Documents.....	4
The Federal Election Commission: Beleaguered Defender of Election Integrity.....	5-6
Questions for the Community.....	6

# Officers



## Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator 2018 - 2019

He has been employed at Auburn University Libraries since 1992 starting out as a government documents reference librarian. Since 2000 he has been serving as History and since 2008 as Political Science Subject Specialist in the Reference Department at Auburn. Tim held previous positions as a special collections librarian and archivist, serials librarian, and reference librarian at the University of New Hampshire (twice) and at Barry University (Miami, Fla.). Tim has held numerous offices in the Alabama Library Association including President (2004-2005) and Moderator-Elect

and Moderator of GODORT in 1994-1996. He has also held numerous offices in the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries including President (2000-2001 and 2008-2009), and is currently President-Elect of the Southeastern Library Association. Under the name Dr. Hepcat, Tim Dodge has hosted the Golden Oldies radio show on WEGL – Auburn FM 91.1 since May 1998. His radio career extends back to 1975, and Tim is the author of *The School of Arizona Dranes: Gospel Music Pioneer* (Lexington Books, 2013).

## Dr. Stephanie Rollins, GODORT Moderator—Elect 2018 - 2019

Dr. Stephanie Rollins is the Chief of Information Services at Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center (MSFRIC). She is also an adjunct Digital Reference and Collection Development professor for the University of Alabama. Stephanie serves on both regional and state library committees,

and she has 22 years of experience in academic and special libraries. She holds a BA in English from Auburn University, a Master’s Degree in Library Service and a Doctorate in Public Administration (both from the University of Alabama).



## Barbara R. Hutto, GODORT Secretary 2018—2019

Barbara has been a Birmingham Public Librarian for 20 years. For the last three years she has served as the Government Documents/ Patent and Trademarks Librarian. She

holds a BS in Psychology/ English from the University of Alabama with a MEd. in Education from UAB and an MLS from the University of Alabama.



## The Importance of Collection Continuity Among Federal Depositories in Alabama

Kevin W. Walker, PhD, The University of Alabama Libraries

“An educated, enlightened, and informed population is one of the surest ways of promoting the health of a democracy.” - Nelson Mandela, 2003

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) sits at the intersection of values central to both democracy and librarianship. Free and open access to information is the hallmark of healthy democratic communities and high quality library services. Through its network of depository libraries, the FDLP provides free and open public access to a wide variety of federal documents that act as a formal record of the business of our government, as well as showcase the pinnacle of expertise cultivated by this nation’s civil service.

Nationally, there are 1,138 depositories within the FDLP that have been in operation, on average, for 69 years. This number is exceeded by Alabama’s depositories, which average 77 years in service. In fact, six Alabama depositories have been in service for over 110 years; four have been in service for over 80 years; eight exceed 50 years in service; and the final four average 38 years in service. Of course, the longer a depository has been in operation, the more historic, interesting, and important its collection—meaning Alabama can boast a regional collection as rich in history as any other.

As the coordinator for Alabama’s oldest depository (established in 1860), and the second oldest regional depository in America, I can attest to the historical richness of older depository collections. While walking the stacks, I can find something truly interesting on any shelf I inspect. My greatest fear lies in the potential loss of these collections. Information, in both tangible and digital forms, is not as permanent as the average non-librarian believes. Tangible pieces, in particular, are at risk of complete loss—whether by theft or age-related degradation—the longer they are in circulation. For this reason, collection security/continuity is of central concern to me. Fortunately, at a national level, great strides are being made toward preserving depository collections.

Several organizations are working diligently to digitize at-risk historical documents. Between the work of public organizations, like the [GPO](#) and [National Archives](#), and non-profit entities, such as the [Internet Archive](#) and [Hathi Trust Digital Library](#), tens of millions of documents of historical significance are being preserved for the benefit of future generations. The federal document collection accessible through Hathi Trust is impressive. Woven together from the most prestigious and long-standing depositories in America, this collection makes millions of public domain documents freely accessible to the general public. What’s more, these documents have been made keyword searchable and downloadable. Hathi Trust is not only helping to

preserve historical documents, but is also making them more accessible, discoverable, and usable. From the comfort of home or office, one can access volumes held in the depositories of Harvard, Princeton, the University of Michigan, and the University of California at Berkeley (just to name a few).

While the health of depository collections seems quite good at the national level, it is important for us to remember that such progress begins at the local level. Without robust local collections, digital libraries like Hathi Trust would not be possible. Moreover, considering the historical richness of Alabama depositories, it’s likely that our depositories have something to offer these national efforts. For this reason, document disposition (i.e., the process of withdrawing/reallocating depository materials) is of particular importance. Unfortunately, managing this process is easier said than done, as a visual verification that documents can be found on our shelves is required to ensure we hold each item listed up for offer. We cannot simply rely on our online catalog, as volumes may have gone missing without our knowledge. In addition, disposition requests have increased tremendously in recent years, as libraries are repurposing collection spaces to meet user demand. As one can imagine, these issues have coalesced to create an unwieldy disposition process that requires significant investments of time and energy on the part of regionals—to the point at which we must assume some documents are slipping through the cracks. Nevertheless, disposition remains an important and necessary tool for selectives. Further, the new FDLP eXchange system, in conjunction with the well-established ASERL Documents Deposition Database, makes it possible to cast a wider national net in search of new homes for these documents.

Moving forward, I hope to facilitate greater collaboration among Alabama’s depository libraries to establish a plan that ensures the historical richness of our collections is preserved. I am currently in the process of piloting a digitization program for depository materials held at the University of Alabama. With some luck, we hope to contribute interesting volumes to the Hathi Trust project. Of course, it may be the case that similar, rare volumes are found elsewhere in the region. Therefore, it seems a good next step to work with other Alabama depositories to audit holdings across our region. Only then can we say we’ve done our best to ensure the continuity of federal depository collections.



## An Introduction to Holocaust-Related Government Documents

By Kelly Wilson, Troy University

Want to know more?

Additional Federal Government Information on Net Neutrality:

1. American Library Association: Net Neutrality—<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/telecom/netneutrality>
2. Communications Act of 1934—<https://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/Communications%20Act%20of%201934.pdf>
3. Telecommunications Act of 1996—<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-104publ104/pdf/PLAW-104publ104.pdf>
4. Open Internet Order of 2015—[https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-24A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-24A1.pdf)
5. Restoring Internet Freedom Order—<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-restoring-internet-freedom-order>
6. Save Net Neutrality, 163 Cong. Rec. H10406—<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CREC-2017-12-21/pdf/CREC-2017-12-21-pt1-PgH10406-5.pdf>



Wall of Remembrance at the U.S. National Holocaust Museum, Washington, D.C.

From 1933 to 1945, a series of terrible and inhumane acts were committed upon the Jews of Eastern Europe. Today, this Holocaust is remembered worldwide both in honor of those who were killed and as a symbol of what can happen if one person is given too much power. Thousands of books and articles have been written about the Holocaust and many have been published by the Government Publishing Office (GPO). This article will focus on a few of those unique resources that can be found in both print and online government document collections.

Let's start with an overview of some government websites dedicated to Holocaust Remembrance and research. The [United States National Archives](#) has a page dedicated to the Holocaust, which provides a variety of information about the Holocaust and World War II including, but not limited to: blogs, video resources, links to research resources - including galleries, and links to those presidential libraries which contain records relating to the Holocaust. The U.S. Department of State created the [Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues](#) in 1999. The purpose of this office, according to their homepage, is to “develop and implement U.S. policy to return Holocaust-era assets to their rightful owners, secure compensation for Nazi-era wrongs, and ensure that the Holocaust is remembered and commemorated appropriately” (U.S. Department of State). Finally, the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), located in Washington, DC, has a website dedicated to the museum with links to multiple free resources. This site provides information about the events of the Holocaust as well as information on numerous victims and survivors.

In addition to online resources, there are many print documents freely available online. One of the most unique documents I came across was entitled “Teaching about the Holocaust. A Resource book for Educators”, published in 2001 by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This document contains guidelines, suggested topics, the chronology of the Holocaust, and an annotated bibliography for further reading. Another truly fascinating document is from the Center for Cryptologic History, a subset of the National Security Agency. This document, entitled “Eavesdropping on Hell: Historical Guide to Western Communications Intelligence and the Holocaust, 1939-1945”, contains information on such topics as the Western Communications Intelligence System during WWII, sources of cryptologic records relating to the Holocaust, and information on refugees around the world including Japan, Hungary, France, and Palestine.

To the left of this article, you will find links to the documents listed in this article as well as other notable resources. This list is by no means comprehensive, and I urge you to delve into the [Catalog of Government Publications](#) and the [GPO](#) as well as the [FDLP LibGuides](#) in order to discover the multitude of documents on the Holocaust which have been created by the U.S. Government and its agencies.



Holocaust exhibit from 2015 housed at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

# The Federal Election Commission: Beleaguered Defender of Election Integrity

By Tim Dodge, Auburn University

In this era of the *Citizens United* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, political polarization and voter anger and apathy, and with an election year upon us, it is worthwhile noting there is a government agency whose stated mission is “To protect the integrity of the federal campaign finance process by providing transparency and fairly enforcing and administering federal campaign finance laws.”<sup>1</sup> The FEC was established in 1975 in the wake of the Watergate scandal but the need for such an agency has existed as long as money has been a factor in federal elections.

History has shown problems with the influence of money on federal elections. Campaign expenditures were minimal until the election of 1832 when the Bank of the United States, feeling threatened by the populist rhetoric of Andrew Jackson, who was running for reelection as President, spent significant sums to support his opponent, Henry Clay.<sup>2</sup> Clay lost the election and so did the Bank; Jackson having vetoed its charter in 1832 prior to the election.

The corruption of the 1896 election which saw banks and corporations supporting William McKinley for President, led to the 1907 Tillman Act that prohibited such financial contributions for federal election campaigns.<sup>3</sup> Congress continued to pass campaign finance-related laws over the next several decades including the 1925 Federal Corrupt Practices Act, the 1939 Hatch Act to regulate primary elections and limit contributions to Congressional election campaigns, and the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act that barred labor unions and corporations from contributing to federal elections. The 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act followed by the 1971 Revenue Act were important legal landmarks. These acts required full reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures but did also provide for the creation of political action committees (PACs) by corporations and unions as entities that are *separate* from the official federal office campaign operations themselves.<sup>4</sup> Finally, in the 1974 amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, provision was made to establish the Federal Election Commission.

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is an independent agency having the authority to write regulations and monitor compliance. The President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate each appoint two Commissioners who serve for a six-year term. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House serve as non-voting *ex officio* Commissioners. The FEC currently has 300 employees as well.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, ever since its creation in 1975, the FEC’s authority to perform its mission has been weakened thanks to a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions. The most notable decisions are outlined below.

In *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976), the Court ruled to overturn expenditure limits of federal campaigns. The most devastating setback was the *Citizens United v. FEC* decision of 2010 which ruled the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act violated the First Amendment rights of corporations by prohibiting independent campaign contributions and electioneering communications.” In other words, corporations must be considered to be people when it comes to federal campaign contributions. In *Carey v. FEC* (2011), the Court ruled that the FEC could no longer enforce provisions of the 1971 law forbidding contributions of unlimited amounts by groups (such as unions and corporations) considered to be separate from the actual campaigns themselves. Finally, in *McCutcheon v. FEC* (2014), the Court ruled that limiting the amount of money an individual could contribute to candidates for federal office, to political parties, or to PACs was also a violation of such contributors’ First Amendment rights. Obviously, this latter ruling has opened the floodgates to billionaires who wish to influence federal elections. Is money free speech? If so, those who have a lot of money would appear to have more free speech in federal elections than you or I.

(continued on pg. 6)

## Alabama Library Association GODORT

Provides a forum for librarians working with government documents. Objectives also include the promotion of availability, use and bibliographic control of documents; and the promotion of communication between documents librarians and other librarians. GODORT is an affiliate of the American Library Association. Membership is open to any member of the Association who subscribes to the objectives of the roundtable.

## Submit Your Work

Do you have an interesting experience with local, state or federal government information? Write up an article and share it with us!

You can send it to:

**Tim Dodge:**  
dodgeti@auburn.edu

**Kelly Wilson:**  
kelly.m.wilson2011@gmail.com

(continued from pg. 5)

In a 2012 Congressional hearing, Senator Richard Durbin (Democrat – Illinois) testified to the far reaching changes brought about by the 2010 *Citizens United* decision. In the 2006 federal elections outside groups accounted for 1% of the contributors to federal election campaigns to the tune of \$70 million. In the 2010 federal elections outside groups (“secret donors”) accounted for 44% of the contributors to federal election campaigns to the tune of \$294 million.<sup>6</sup> The percentage and dollar amounts in 2018 are likely to be much higher than the alarming numbers provided by Senator Durbin for the 2010 elections!

It is easy to become cynical and discouraged in these times but the FEC is still standing in 2018, despite attempts over the past four decades-plus to weaken it. Maintaining as much of the integrity

of federal elections as possible is crucial for the engagement of the American electorate. One very helpful function of the FEC is to compile and make publicly available federal election campaign fundraising and spending information. Click on the FEC’s “[Campaign Finance Data](#)” link and you can view detailed financial information about candidates for federal office. We may not always be able to “vote the rascals out” but, thanks to the FEC, we do have access to at least some of the information we need to know about who is influencing whom and this can help us, the private citizen, become a more informed voter.

It is not my place to endorse or criticize candidates for office in this article, but I strongly encourage you to exercise your right and responsibility as an American citizen and VOTE.

## *References*

1. Federal Election Commission. Accessed June 6, 2018. <https://www.fec.gov/>.
2. United States. Federal Election Commission. *Twenty Year Report*. Washington, D.C.: Federal Election Commission, 1995. 2.
3. *Ibid.*, 2.
4. United States. Federal Election Commission. *The Federal Election Commission: The First 10 Years 1975-1985*. Washington, D.C., 1985, 2.
5. *Ibid.*, 2 and Federal Election Commission. Accessed June 6, 2018. <https://www.fec.gov> (Click on “Leadership and Structure” link).
6. United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary. Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights. *Taking Back Our Democracy: Responding to Citizens United and the Rise of Super PACs...Hearing July 24, 2012*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2012. 2.

## *Sources Consulted:*

Federal Election Commission. Accessed June 5-7, 2018. <https://www.fec.gov/>.

## Questions for the Government Documents Community!

In this new section of the newsletter, for each issue I will be proposing questions to the community from the community. To get the ball rolling, I have posed my own question. Your answers and questions are completely anonymous! Both of these questions will be set up in the same Google Form, the link to which will be embedded in the newsletter. Let’s get started!!!

Question: [Merging Government Documents](#)