

# Editor's Corner: Keep Shining

Elizabeth Sanders

As I noted in my editorial in our Spring 2025 issue, the current federal administration's actions have been troubling, with large impacts throughout the government information landscape. At that time, I encouraged readers to focus on the lights in the darkness and how small efforts could culminate into larger impacts.<sup>1</sup> I would like to extend that message of hope to this editorial as well.

Within *DttP*, I am proud that our Summer 2025 issue helped shine light on contemporary efforts to resist censorship<sup>2</sup> and to connect users to government information and data rescue projects<sup>3</sup> as federal information becomes increasingly removed and fragmented. I am equally proud that, in this issue, we have the privilege of sharing student papers on AMBER alerts, election fraud, and government surveillance in U.S. libraries. These students' early engagement with government information shows a spark that we will hopefully encourage to grow.

I would also like to highlight some recent resources that highlight how we must continue to stay abreast of new developments related to government information in the current administration. First, the Union of Concerned Scientists published a report indicating that 182 final rules from six science agencies have "bypassed the public notice and comment period," which are legally required.<sup>4</sup> Second, *Nature* published an article highlighting efforts from scientists, including grant tracking and letter writing, made in response to changes in the federal government.<sup>5</sup> Third, Pride in Exile (PIE) maintains a list of restored government information and Trump administration information related to equal access employment for LGBTQ+ individuals.<sup>6</sup> Finally, a draft report from the Department of Energy, *A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate*,<sup>7</sup> led to published criticism from both scientists and legislators<sup>8</sup>; the panel that produced this draft report has been disbanded.<sup>9</sup>

To conclude, I would like to once again encourage our engagement with contemporary government information and challenges, both within GODORT and beyond. I acknowledge that doing so can be stressful or difficult, both personally and professionally. We may be legally limited in what we are able to say or do. We may be able to concentrate on only one, small area. We may need to disengage, for a time, to protect our well-being. None of these situations, however, diminish the importance or potential impact of our efforts. Let us keep shining, in whatever means we can.

*The views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), the American Library Association (ALA), Lamar University, or any other entity.*

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## Notes

1. Elizabeth Sanders, "Editor's Corner: A Light in the Darkness," *DttP* 53, no. 1 (2025): 2-3, <https://doi.org/10.5860/dttp.v53i01.8452>.
2. Lisa Schiff, "Resisting Censorship and Defending the Integrity of Federally Supported Information," *DttP* 53, no. 2 (2025): 9-14, <https://doi.org/10.5860/dttp.v53i2.8521>.
3. Olivia Ivey, Jessica Breen, Sarah Gilchrist, and Gwendolyn Reece, "On the Same (Web)Page: Using LibGuides to Connect Researchers to Government Information and Data Rescue Projects," *DttP* 53, no. 2 (2025): 15-18, <https://doi.org/10.5860/dttp.v53i2.8522>.
4. Darya Minovi and Alexander Choiniere. *Access Denied: How the Trump Administration Is Eliminating Public Input*, Union of Concerned Scientists, September 9, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.47923/2025.15971>.
5. Dan Garisto, Max Kozlov, and Heidi Ledford, "Scientists Take on Trump: These Researchers Are Fighting Back," *Nature* 645 (September 10, 2025): 298-300, <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-02811-4>.
6. "Information," *Pride in Exile*, <https://www.prideinexile.org/>.
7. Climate Working Group, U.S. Department of Energy, *A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate*, U.S. Department of Energy, July 23, 2025, [https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOE\\_Critical\\_Review\\_of\\_Impacts\\_of\\_GHG\\_Emissions\\_on\\_the\\_US\\_Climate\\_July\\_2025.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOE_Critical_Review_of_Impacts_of_GHG_Emissions_on_the_US_Climate_July_2025.pdf).
8. Andrew E. Dessler and Robert E. Kopp, eds., *Climate Experts' Review of the DOE Climate Working Group Report*, accessed September 16, 2025, <https://sites.google.com/tamu.edu/doeresponse/home>; "Whitehouse and Murray Demand DOE'S Sham Climate Report Be 'Withdrawn in Shame,'" *U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works*, press release, September 5, 2025, <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2025/9/whitehouse-and-murray-demand-doe-s-sham-climate-report-be-withdrawn-in-shame>.
9. Jeff Tollefson, "Trump Team Disbands Controversial US Climate Panel," *Nature*, September 11, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-02942-8>.

# From the Chair

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Julia Ezzo

I first joined GODORT in 2013 when I was a baby librarian. Having earned my MLIS from Wayne State University in 2011, my experience was limited to a single role as an Assistant Copyright Librarian before embarking on my government information journey. The ALA behemoth was intimidating, yet I was eager to find my place. While I had been active in the New Members Round Table, I yearned for a true professional home—and I found it in GODORT.

When I went to my first GODORT meeting in Chicago at ALA Annual 2013, I was nervous. My knowledge of government documents was minimal, since I had only been in the government information role for less than two months, and I feared being excluded and treated as an outsider. Instead, I was met with warmth and inclusion. The GODORT community embraced me, making me feel valued and connected. At its core, GODORT is its people—dedicated members united in our mission to ensure free access to government information, regardless of jurisdiction or format.

This year has posed unprecedented challenges for government information in the United States. While we've always grappled with helping people find and access information, while preserving it for the future (as is evidenced by the existence of GODORT's Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee), this year has been especially challenging. The transition to a new Presidential Administration in January 2025 brought alarming removals of government websites and datasets, threatening our collective history. Yet, in the face of these challenges, our community has shown remarkable resilience. From preserving access to advocating for the future, we've leaned on each other to safeguard what matters most.

While government information professionals have always excelled at collaboration, this year has highlighted our strength in unity. Through partnerships like the End of Term Archive with the Internet Archive, grassroots initiatives like the Data Rescue Movement, and even unconventional efforts on platforms like the Data Hoarders subreddit, we've utilized every available network. We've worked our networks, and searched for more partners to help us, any way we could. While not all of us have the technical expertise or resources to preserve data and information ourselves, we've used our collective voice to raise awareness and rally support for protecting critical government information.

This collaborative spirit not only strengthens the resilience of our documentary heritage but also reinforces the vital role of information professionals in upholding democratic accountability. We won't sit idly by watching the erasure of history and knowledge. Though challenges may arise, and things may seem bleak, our united GODORT community stands strong, committed to protecting, preserving, and ensuring free access to government information at every level. This is a pivotal moment in history, and GODORT continues to play a vital role. I'm looking forward to my role as GODORT Chair and guiding us through what lies ahead.

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