ILA Conference Preview

The 2012 ILA Annual Conference will be here soon. This year’s conference will be in Dubuque, Iowa from October 10-12, 2012. GODORT will be well represented at the conference. Our group will sponsor two programs. On Thursday, from 3:30 to 4:20, Mickey Ebert will speak about her work on Docsteach, part of the National Archives. Visit their site at http://docsteach.org/. On Friday from 11:20 to 12:10, Gary Krob from the State Data Center will discuss Iowa Population Trends. Gary spoke at the GODORT Workshop this summer and I think this program will be different enough that we should draw a good group to his presentation.

The GODORT business meeting this year will be from 5:15 – 6 p.m. on Thursday. We will discuss new officers and programming ideas for 2013. Please bring your ideas with you. No breakfast this year but I hope we can draw a larger crowd with no extra fee to pay.

2012 Election year

Living in Iowa, many of you know you can expect to hear a lot from our political candidates. The other day, President Obama came to Iowa City to give a speech. Streets were shut down, crowds gathered, and it was pretty exciting. Meanwhile, I noticed a large RV marked by the Romney/Ryan ticket circling the area and many of Romney’s supporters were on campus.

Finding good, unbiased information during the election period can be challenging. My colleague Marianne Mason has put together an informative Elections LibGuide at:
Among objective sources that provide detailed analysis, you might try these.

- Fact Check
- Project Vote Smart.
- Roll Call Politics

If you find yourself getting overwhelmed by mailings, television and radio ads, and phone calls remember that the election is just a few weeks away. And if we’re lucky, the 2016 field will be descending on Iowa in a few months.

**News from the Middle East**

This fall there has seen an increased emphasis on news from the Middle East. The murder of the US Ambassador to Libya, the distribution of an American film about Islam, general unrest from the Arab Spring countries, the continuing crisis in Syria, as well as tense negotiations between Iran, the US and other countries has made lots of news to keep track of. You might consider checking out the UN (United Nations) [News Centre](http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/elections) as a source of news on the region. The UN has a global reach with offices that span the globe. You might discover some new points of view that your library users might find of interest.

Brett Cloyd  
Research and Instruction Librarian  
University of Iowa Libraries.