GODORT Newsletter

#91, March 2013

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GODORT Summer Workshop

Friday, July 19, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m

State Library of Iowa

Des Moines, Iowa

The Annual GODORT Summer Workshop will be held on July 19. The focus will be on using State of Iowa experts to help provide government information.

Schedule

10:00 – 10:30. Coffee, Registration and Meet and Greet.

11:00 – 12:00. Chris Nilles, Iowa Workforce Development. Chris will talk about the Iowa Workforce Access Point database in libraries and how to use it to assist job seekers.

12:00 – 12:30. Catered Lunch.

12:30 – 1:00. GODORT Business Meeting.

1:00 – 2:00. Leighton Christiansen, Iowa Department of Transportation. Leighton will discuss Department of Transportation Library Services and how the library is positioned to provide information to government agencies and the public.

2:00 – 3:00. Bill Fuhr and Michelle Richmond, Davenport Public Library. Bill and Michelle will talk about patents and trademarks, recent developments at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and introduce participants to the AcclaimIP database.

Morning coffee, desserts and lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Registration fees

- $10.00 for GODORT members and SLIS students
- $15.00 for ILA members
- $20.00 for non-members

Mail registrations to:

ILA GODORT Summer Workshop
Iowa Library Association
525 SW 5th Street, Suite A
Des Moines, IA 50309
Do-it-Yourself Divorce

In May 2007, Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus signed an order that allows Iowa residents with no minor children to implement an uncontested divorce without an attorney.


Second is the Petitioner Pack. This pack contains all the forms necessary for the petitioner. Completing all of the forms in this pack may not be necessary to complete the divorce. This will depend on variables such as how the other person is to be contacted and whether or not they respond.

The third set of forms is the Respondent Pack. It is for the person whose spouse filed for divorce. It contains the necessary forms for the respondent to move the divorce process along. If the respondent does nothing, it will make it considerably more difficult for the petitioner to obtain a divorce. By filling out the Respondent Pack, the respondent will also have a say in the settlement of property and debts.

It is important to make patrons aware of the need to follow the instructions in the guide. A lot of individuals think they can get by with printing just the Petitioner Pack, not understanding that the Respondent Pack is also needed to complete the process.

The link to these forms in .pdf file format is: http://www.iowacourts.gov/Court_Rules_and_Forms/Family_Law_Forms/
**Freedom of Information Act**

In 2007, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was amended to define "a representative of the news media" to include "any person or entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience." This greatly broadened the traditional definition of the news media. A library may now encounter patrons who wish to submit FOIA requests on behalf of their own newsletter, website, blog, Twitter feed, or other social media account. As these new media avenues become more prevalent, information professionals need to become familiar with the procedures for submitting these requests.

For Federal FOIA requests, patrons can be referred to the website [http://www.foia.gov/index.html](http://www.foia.gov/index.html). On this site, they can locate the government organization they wish to make a request to, learn how to make the request and where to send it.

For State of Iowa requests, patrons can go to [http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/open_government/index.html](http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/open_government/index.html). This site has very general guidelines regarding the state’s public records laws, and refers users to the Iowa Freedom of Information Council for more information.

**Virtual Training Sessions on Government Information**

Link to virtual training sessions from the Government Resources Section of the North Carolina Library Association and sharpen your searching skills.