
THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE – *Keeping America Informed*

The Government Printing Office (GPO) keeps America informed. For nearly 140 years, GPO has produced and distributed Federal Government information products. Whether providing public access to Government information online, or producing or procuring printed publications, GPO combines conventional technology with state-of-the-art methods for supporting nearly all the information needs of the Congress, Federal agencies, and the American public.

Role in Government

GPO is part of the legislative branch of the Federal Government. The Public Printer, who serves as GPO's chief officer, is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. GPO operates under the authority of the public printing and documents chapters of Title 44 of the U.S. Code.

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Created primarily to satisfy the printing needs of Congress, GPO today is the focal point for printing and information dissemination for the entire Federal community. In addition to Congress and the White House, approximately 130 Federal departments and agencies rely on GPO's services. Congressional documents, Federal regulations and reports, IRS tax forms, and U.S. passports—all are produced by or through GPO. At one time, GPO's mission was accomplished through the production and procurement of traditional ink-on-paper printing. Today, after more than a generation's experience with electronic printing systems, GPO is at the forefront in providing Government information through a wide range of formats, including printing, microfiche, CD-ROM, and online technology through **GPO Access** (www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess).

Facilities and Personnel

Carrying out GPO's mission today takes the skills and dedication of a workforce of more than 3,100 employees nationwide. Most are based at GPO's central office facility in the Nation's Capital, making GPO the largest industrial employer in the District of Columbia. Also located in the National Capital area is a warehouse for paper and publications. Across the country, a printing plant in Denver, 20 regional and satellite procurement offices, a distribution facility in Pueblo, CO, and 24 bookstores—each located in a major metropolitan area—complete GPO's overall structure.

Funding

Unlike most Federal agencies, GPO operates just like a business—it is reimbursed by its customers for the cost of the work it performs. However, GPO receives two modest appropriations, one to pay for the cost of congressional printing, and the other to fund the distribution of Government documents as required by law. These funds are provided through the annual legislative branch appropriations bill, and together they comprise about 4 percent of total legislative branch appropriations. In FY 2000, GPO's revenues totaled \$807.5 million. GPO finances are audited every year by an independent auditor, and every year they receive an "unqualified" opinion—the best that auditors can issue.

Procurement Services

More than 70 percent of GPO's printing revenue is from agencies for work procured by GPO from the private sector printing industry. GPO has a long-standing partnership with America's printing industry to provide for the Government's printing needs. GPO competitively buys products and services from more than 12,000 private sector firms nationwide in one of the Government's most successful procurement programs, assuring the most cost-effective use of the taxpayers' printing dollar. Major procured products include Census materials and IRS tax forms and instructions, in addition to a wide variety of Government books, pamphlets, forms, and other information products.

In-Plant Operations and Information Technology

GPO's in-plant facility provides sophisticated electronic information systems and state-of-the-art production technologies to fully support the information product needs of Congress and Federal agencies. GPO produces the *Congressional Record* overnight when Congress is in session, and bills, hearings, documents, reports, and committee prints are all produced in time to support Congress' legislative needs. Also produced in-plant are the *Federal Register*—the Government's official listing of proposed rules and regulations—as well as the *Code of*

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Federal Regulations and other key Government documents, such as the *U.S. Budget*. In FY 2000, GPO's in-plant operations produced more than 8 million U.S. passports for the State Department, and nearly 165 million postal cards for the U.S. Postal Service.

In FY 2000, GPO either used or supplied to customer agencies more than 26,500 tons of paper, and more than an estimated 100,000 tons of paper were used by private sector contractors performing work for GPO. With few exceptions, GPO and its contractors use paper that meets Federal recycled paper requirements and all GPO printing inks utilize vegetable oil.

Beginning in the 1960's, GPO was one of the first printing organizations nationwide to pioneer the use of electronic typesetting systems in place of traditional practices. Since then, successive generations of technology have been deployed by GPO to develop electronic databases of Government information products from which publications in both print and electronic formats are produced. New computer-to-plate technology has further updated GPO's capabilities. GPO has also been a leading producer of CD-ROMs for more than a decade.

Today, GPO uses electronic information technology to increase efficiency in its print production

processes, facilitate e-commerce in its printing procurement and documents sales programs, improve administrative and communications capabilities, and expand public access to Government information via the Internet and other electronic means.

In 2000 as well as 1999 and 1998, GPO was named the top in-plant operation in the country by *In-Plant Graphics* magazine.

Superintendent of Documents

Today, through its Superintendent of Documents' programs, GPO disseminates the largest volume of U.S. Government publications and information in the world: more than 46 million printed publications were distributed in FY 2000, and there were more than 200 million downloads of Government online information from **GPO Access**. To keep America informed, GPO makes Government information available in a variety of ways.

For those who want to purchase Government publications, GPO's documents carry an average price of \$16, although many are low-cost consumer publications. Approximately 9,000 titles are available for sale at any given time, and GPO sells publications in print, CD-ROM, and other electronic formats. Publications are sold principally by mail, telephone, and fax order and through 24 bookstores located in Washington, DC, and around the country. Documents can be securely ordered through GPO's Online Bookstore, at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. Publications are also sold through the Consumer Information Center in Pueblo, CO. More than 2,500 sales orders are processed every day.

Government information in both print and electronic formats is also made available by GPO to more than 1,300 Federal depository libraries nationwide for the free use of the public. In operation since 1813, the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is the public's primary source of free access to the published information of the Federal Government, and has been called "America's first freedom of information act." Federal depository libraries are designated by Members of Congress or by law. Many are college, university, and law libraries, making the FDLP a key component of the Nation's education system. Federal depository libraries serve an estimated 9.5 million people each year (not counting

those who use **GPO Access** outside the libraries). In FY 2000, GPO distributed 12.2 million copies of about 29,000 tangible products in print, microform, and CD-ROM formats to depository libraries. Virtually every depository library also has access to the vast range of information made available online via **GPO Access**.

Under other programs, GPO distributes U.S. Government publications to nearly 70 nations around the world through an International Exchange Program administered by the Library of Congress. Superintendent of Documents programs also catalog and index Government information, distribute publications as required by law, and provide a reimbursable distribution service for other Federal agencies.

GPO Access

At the forefront of GPO's electronic information dissemination capabilities is **GPO Access**. **GPO Access** is one of the few Government Web sites established by law and one of the longest running, beginning operation in 1994. It is virtually the only Govern-

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ment Web site that provides easy, one-stop, no-fee access to information from all three branches of the Government.

Today, **GPO Access** links the public to more than 200,000 individual titles on GPO's servers as well as on other Federal web sites. Overall, more than 1 billion documents have been retrieved by the public from **GPO Access** since 1994. By the end of FY 2000, monthly document retrievals averaged more than 26 million, the equivalent of 1.3 terabytes of information, or about 637 million pages of typewritten documents.

In FY 2000, GPO assisted the Supreme Court in the development and release of its widely-heralded Web site. The site, which resides on GPO's servers, was hit for a total of 1.1 million page views in the hours just before and just after the Court's historic decision in the Presidential election case in December. Early in the year, GPO drew praise from educators and others for making the popular *Ben's Guide to*

U.S. Government for Kids available on **GPO Access**, at <http://bensguide.gpo.gov>.

GPO Access has consistently drawn praise from the Government information community. In 1999, it was selected as one of the top 50 legal research web sites for the year by *Law Office Computing* magazine, and was named best research site for laws and best Government site overall by the newsletter *legal.online*. It was chosen as the first recipient of the American Association of Law Libraries' Public Access to Government Information Award.

In 1998, **GPO Access** was named one of the 15 "Best Feds on the Web" by *Government Executive* magazine. The internationally recognized management firm of Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., called **GPO Access** "one of the Federal Government's largest and most active web sites" and said that the site "has been highly successful in making Government information easily available to the public." In 1997, **GPO Access** and the Commerce Department jointly earned a Hammer Award for creating the electronic *Commerce Business Daily*, known as *CBD-Net*. Other awards have included the prestigious 1995 James Madison Award from the Coalition on Government Information and a 1994 Technology Leadership Award.

For further information about GPO, contact GPO's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at gpoinfo@gpo.gov, or call 202-512-1991.

To order Government publications, phone 202-512-1800 (local) or 866-512-1800 (toll free), fax 202-512-2250, mail orders to Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, or order online from <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>.



