

GPO's electronic technology capabilities, as well as staff expertise, are facilitating the re-engineering of information products and processes to satisfy the changing information requirements of the Government and the public. GPO strongly supports the increased dissemination of Government information in electronic formats. Our online service, *GPO Access*, is one of the largest and favorite Federal sites on the Internet. In FY 1997, the number of online documents used and downloaded per month increased 226 percent to over 6.5 million items in September 1997, for a total of nearly 46,000,000 items retrieved during the year.

The **Graphics System Development Division** continued to play a significant role in the development of electronic information dissemination services under *GPO Access*. Significant accomplishments included the creation of a system for producing the *Commerce Business Daily* electronically. Notices are now accepted electronically and made available on-line immediately.

Significant progress has been made converting production databases to Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Development of the SGML search capabilities continued. A Document Type Definition (DTD) and a 73-megabyte SGML database of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's decisions were received and indexed using OpenText. A "Technical Supplement" SGML database was created and indexed for Library Programs Service. Development required to enable the display of Portable Document Format (PDF) files resulting from OpenText searches has been completed and a large portion of the 104th Congress *Congressional Record* is now online on a test basis. The *Code of Federal Regulations* and the Extensions of Remarks in the *Congressional Record* are being produced from SGML data.

The **Electronic Photocomposition Division** was also a major partner in the development and implementation of the *CBDNet* project. As a result of GPO's on-line CBD service, agencies can now submit their own notices electronically, thus reducing the \$18.00 manuscript charge per notice to a \$5.00 electronic submission charge per notice. This change has led to significant savings for the Federal Government.

The Division's Unix systems are used to maintain its vast array of databases indexed with the WAIS software. This information, in both ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) and PDF formats, is made available free to Congress, all government agencies, and the general public through the WWW. GPO's archival Unix systems are backed up in Owensboro, Kentucky. An important achievement was the increase in the number of databases available through the WWW and to WAIS clients. This year GPO added more titles and volumes of the *CFR*. At year-end GPO nearly completed its goal of having all *CFR* titles and volumes available online. Because of the heavy use of its systems, GPO expanded to 17 DEC Alpha 1000A servers dedicated to making databases available not only to the public, but also various countries around the world.

Coordination among the **Congressional Printing Management Division**, the **Production Department**, and the **Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services** has resulted in the online availability of numerous congressional products in either text or PDF format via *GPO Access*, including the *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Record Index*, *History of Bills*, *Public Laws*, *Congressional Directory*, *United States Code*, House and Senate Business Calendars, and all versions of bills, reports, and documents that lend themselves to electronic dissemination. GPO also supplies the *Congressional Record*, bills, and reports in electronic format for the Library of Congress' THOMAS online service.

OEIDS experienced rapid growth and improvements in FY 1997. *GPO Access* continued to be a popular source for electronic Government information. The many new databases that have been added to this free service, such as the *CBDNet* and a number of titles from the *CFR*, have led to a dramatic increase in usage of the *GPO Access*. The *CFR*, online via *GPO Access*, was introduced in the fall of 1996 and is already GPO's most popular database. Efforts are being made to ensure that *CFR* volumes are added to *GPO Access* concurrent with the release of the paper editions. When revised, *CFR* volumes are added and prior editions will remain on *GPO Access* as an historical set.

GPO established an alliance last year with the Department of Commerce to make the *CBDNet* available online via *GPO Access*. GPO's first year of handling all facets of the day-to-day operation of the *CBD* was very successful. *CBDNet* allows for the posting of notices electronically through the WWW, e-mail, and traditional manuscript formats. This online service provides free, real-time public access to the information contained in the *CBD*. Until *CBDNet* was created, the only official access to this important information was through a paid subscription to its printed version, or through free reference use of the printed copies distributed to depository libraries. Since its introduction in January 1997, retrievals of information from *CBDNet* have averaged 10.9 percent of the total *GPO Access* retrievals per month, consistently placing it as the second or third most popular of GPO's computerized databases.

The popularity of *CBDNet* is also apparent in the increasing number of electronic notice submissions. More and more agencies are seeing the tremendous financial advantage to directly submitting notices electronically and are abandoning the traditional manuscript method. For example, in its first month, *CBDNet* received 82 percent of notice submissions electronically. By April 1997, that number rose to over 93 percent. As more agencies gain access to the Internet and realize the cost savings available to them, the number of electronic submissions is expected to increase further.

LPS introduced its "Core Documents Collection." The "Core Documents of U.S. Democracy: An Electronic Collection" went live in June 1997 and gave users direct online access to the basic Government documents that define our democratic society. This core group of current and historical U.S. Government publications is now available for free. Availability can be obtained through *GPO Access* @ http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/coredocs.html

LPS continued to develop applications for the FDLP Administration Page on *GPO Access* as the principal channel for official communications for the FDLP. Depository Library Council Web pages were added in 1997. Included are the dates of and minutes from its meetings as well as its mission, history, and a list of current and former members.

The most successful new administrative online service in 1997 was the development and implementation of the "Amendment to Item Selections" form. The 1998 Annual Update Cycle was completed in July 1997. Nearly 65,000 transactions were performed by over 1,000 libraries on the "Amendment to Item Selections" on the FDLP Administration Page.

In FY 1997, a change was made to the Browse Electronic Titles page. All titles are now entered in a comprehensive list organized in alphabetical order by agency and sub-agency. The original single page has now been split into many pages, thus reducing the time required to pull up a page. Retention of titles on the "New Additions" page increased from one week to four weeks.

The Item Lister, which created an online list of a depository library's item number selection profile, was launched during FY 1997 and has proven to be a very popular product. Located on the FDLP Administration home page on the WWW, the Item Lister reflects the depository library's item selection profile in the latest update to the Depository Distribution Information System, and allows a library to download a copy of its selections. The application has already saved time and money, as LPS no longer needs to annually print out each library's profile for the update cycle. Libraries can pull down this information from the Web site as needed.

In January 1997, LPS began uploading shipping lists to the FBB. At the same time, in cooperation with the University of Texas-Arlington, and the State University of New York-Buffalo, all shipping lists are now available via the WWW. Members of the depository library community have long requested electronic access to shipping lists.

Electronic versions of significant GPO publications about the FDLP were added to the FDLP Web site, including ongoing issues of Administrative Notes and Administrative Notes Technical Supplement. Pathway Services are available on the Internet via the *GPO Access* Web site. The URL is http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces760.html

Services which assist users in locating Government information products on the Internet continued to expand during FY 1997. The Pathway

Indexer was indexing as many as 150,000 pages at one point. However, the Indexer has been placed in maintenance mode awaiting the implementation of the Advanced Search Facility. The Advanced Search Facility, a software procurement funded by the Commerce Department, is expected to provide sophisticated Internet information discovery capabilities. A "Search the Federal Government" page was created to supplement the Pathway Indexer by linking to the GovBot and agency-specific search engines. The page is also linked to the Superintendent of Documents home page.

The Browse Topics page currently has 138 of the 157 topics finished and updated regularly. Thirty-four of the completed topics have been prepared by 29 volunteers from the depository library community. A Browse Federal Agencies page has been added through a service partnership with Louisiana State University. This site is based on the agency entries in the *United States Government Manual* and links users to agency Internet sites. This "service partnership" demonstrates how leveraging the skills of the depository library community can enhance FDLP services. The URL is http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/agencies.html

The transition to a more electronic FDLP is proceeding in tandem with agency development of information products in electronic media. The number of tangible electronic products, virtually all CD-ROM titles, continues to grow in the FDLP. In 1997, 741 electronic titles were distributed to depository libraries. New CD-ROM products include USAPat Facsimile Images of United

States Patents, the *Federal Acquisition Regulation* CD-ROM, and the *World Factbook* on CD-ROM.

Online titles available in the FDLP electronic collection increased by 15,432 in FY 1997, compared to the distribution of 44,820 titles in print medium to depository libraries. Cumulatively, the number of electronic information products on GPO servers and agency websites amount to 78,309 titles at the end of FY 1997. Two online services continued to be quite popular with the Federal depository libraries. Over 800 libraries are currently registered to access the STAT-USA databases via the WWW, and a new online service, CenStats, became available for depository access at no charge to the library. Beginning in March 1997, patrons were able to access the paid CenStats database from workstations in the depository libraries. Census did not limit access to the database to one user at a time, but allowed multiple users as long as the patron is located in the library when accessing the database.

During FY 1997, several new Internet applications were developed with the assistance of GPO's **Office of Information Resources Management** (OIRM). One application now allows Federal depository libraries to access the Internet to enter their own selections and deletions for publications they wish to receive or discontinue. This information updates GPO's systems to preclude publications from going to a library that no longer wants them. The system change also permits any library to observe the publications they or other libraries selected.