

screen press. This new process will eliminate photo substitution and fraud. Employing the silk screen press adds one task to press operations and eliminates a task in binding operations. The new passport book is being produced in English, French, and Spanish.

### **NEW CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY PRODUCED**

GPO produced a new *Congressional Directory 1999-2000* during 1999.

The *Congressional Directory* is one of the oldest working handbooks in the U.S. Government. While there have been directories of one form or another since the first Congress in 1789, the *Congressional Directory* for the first session of the 30th Congress (1847) is considered by scholars and historians to be the first official edition. With the addition of biographical sketches of legislators in 1867, it attained its modern format.

The *Directory* is published by the Senate in partnership with GPO and at the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, under the authority of section 721 of Title 44, United States Code. Starting with the 105th Congress, GPO has played a significantly greater role in the publication of the *Directory* by providing project management, editing, and other publishing services. For the new edition, a team of employees from GPO's

Production Department, the Office of Planning, the staff of the Superintendent of Documents, and the Congressional Record Index Office provided professional services to complete publication of the *Directory*.

### **APPROPRIATIONS ACTION FOR GPO IN FY 1999**

The House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations and the Senate Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations held their annual hearings on GPO's funding request for FY 2000 in February and March 1999, respectively. GPO requested \$113 million for its two appropriation accounts and an additional \$15 million for a new air conditioning system, elevator renovations and Year 2000 compliance expenses. Congress approved \$73,297,000 for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, \$29,872,000 for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, and transferred \$2,500,000 of the General Accounting Office's FY 1999 appropriation to GPO for Year 2000 compliance.

The two appropriations total \$103,169,000, and represent a slight decrease from the level of \$103,729,000 that was approved for GPO for FY 1999. While the Congressional Printing and



*GPO takes pride in producing the Congressional Directory, one of the oldest working handbooks in the United States Government.*

# Highlights (continued)

*The FY 2000 Legislative  
Branch Appropriations  
Act included statutory  
improvements for  
GPO's funding.*

Binding Appropriation declined relative to FY 1999, the Salaries and Expenses Appropriations increased to cover mandatory cost increases for employee pay and supplies and materials.

The FY 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act included three statutory improvements for GPO's funding. GPO's traditional ceiling on full-time equivalent (FTE) employment included language authorizing the Public Printer to request a different staffing level subject to the approval of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. This gives the Public Printer the flexibility to work with Congress to increase the necessary resources if GPO's workload exceeds expectations.

The approved Act contained language increasing the limit on spending for travel under the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation. These funds cover travel by depository library inspectors to libraries around the Nation, by GPO staff to attend various library association conferences and meetings and to provide training in the use of **GPO Access**, and travel of members of the Depository Library Council to Council meetings to serve in an advisory capacity to the Public Printer.

The legislation also included language increasing GPO's small purchase authority, which is set according to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (under 41 U.S.C 5), from \$25,000 to \$100,000. GPO now has the same small purchase threshold for buying goods and services that is enjoyed by most other Federal agencies, which are using it to promote efficiency and economy in contracting and to avoid unnecessary burdens for both agencies and contractors.

## **YEAR 2000 READINESS ACTIVITY**

GPO made significant progress toward achieving Y2K compliance for the agency during 1999. As of September 30, 1999, remediation, testing, and implementation was successfully completed for 88 percent of GPO's mission critical systems.

Year 2000 policy guidance issued during the fiscal year included the "Y2K Business Continuity and Contingency Plan," "Y2K Day 1 Planning Guide," and a memorandum establishing a GPO-wide change moratorium on all system development and enhancement activities that were not required to meet the Year 2000 deadline. GPO intensified efforts for end-to-end testing of information systems

