

Highlights (continued)

“GPO has developed and enhanced the GPO Access system to make it the official, no-fee, one-stop public access point for the growing universe of web-based electronic Government information.”

– American Association of Law Libraries



GPO ACCESS SELECTED AS TOP LEGAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC ACCESS SITE

GPO Access was selected as one of the top 50 legal research Web sites for 1999 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 also chosen as the first recipient of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Public Access to Government Information Award.

The April/May 1999 issue of *Law Office Computing* presented its choices for the top 50 legal research Web sites nationwide. The sites were selected “based on several years of experience in a large law firm setting, covering almost all practice areas.” The sites named as the top 50 “are favorites of both law librarians who are constantly bombarded by research questions, as well as those personally used and bookmarked by attorneys and paralegals doing their own research.” In addition, the winning sites were picked “based on their usability ...The sites listed here have a good layout, easy-to-use interfaces, and load into your Web browser relatively quickly.” *GPO Access* was one of just seven Federal Government Web sites included among the top 50.

Each year the newsletter *legal.online* picks the “Best of the Web for

Lawyers.” For 1999, the newsletter selected *GPO Access* as both the “best research site for laws” and the “overall best Government site,” noting that “beyond its extensive databases of primary laws, it also houses the Federal Bulletin Board, a collection of more than 4,500 Federal agency documents.”

GPO Access was chosen as the first recipient of the AALL’s Public Access to Government Information Award because “GPO has developed and enhanced the *GPO Access* system to make it the official, no-fee, one-stop public access point for the growing universe of web-based electronic Government information. The *GPO Access* system meets and exceeds criteria established for this award in every respect.” The award was presented during the AALL conference in Washington, DC, in July 1999.

GPO RECEIVES CLEAN OPINION IN AUDIT OF FY 1998 FINANCES

GPO received an “unqualified opinion” in a comprehensive, independent audit of its 1998 financial operations by the nationally recognized accounting firm KPMG LLP.

Under contract with the General Accounting Office, KPMG conducted a thorough audit of GPO’s financial statements and concluded they “are presented

fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.”

“This is the highest level of assurance that auditors are allowed to give,” said John A. Farrell, KPMG LLP partner and spokesman for the auditing team.

The audit examined GPO’s financial statements for fiscal year 1998, the second consecutive year in which GPO generated consolidated net income. For the year, GPO generated consolidated net income of nearly \$1.4 million on approximately \$723 million in total revenues.

The audit found “no instances of reportable noncompliance with laws and regulations we tested,” though it recommended the establishment of certain data processing controls. The 1998 financial audit findings continued GPO’s trend of “unqualified” audit opinions—the best that auditors can issue. A KPMG audit of GPO’s 1997 finances produced the same result—an “unqualified” opinion.

The 1998 management audit of GPO by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., concluded that “the financial management history at GPO demonstrates that the agency has had considerable experience as a business-oriented operation.” They also said “GPO has been a leader in providing Congress accrual-

based accounting and financial statements,” noting that the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 requires all executive branch agencies to implement accrual-based accounting systems.

GPO AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT WIN HAMMER AWARD FOR INFORMATION BRIDGE PROJECT

GPO and the Department of Energy (DOE) jointly earned a Hammer Award in 1999 from Vice President Gore’s National Partnership for Reinventing Government for the “Information Bridge,” a project that makes available thousands of unclassified DOE scientific and technical reports in electronic image format via *GPO Access*.

Public access via the “Information Bridge” resulted from an innovative partnership agreement between the DOE’s Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) and GPO’s Library Programs Service (LPS).

Using web technology, users can now enter the DOE electronic dissemination system through *GPO Access*. The “Information Bridge” gateway provides a specially designed public view to more than 30,000 DOE reports currently available electronically. Using this system, the public can access DOE-funded research and development output since January 1996. Reports are added on a daily basis as the research information is released.



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