

survey found that “some...agencies are exploring a range of innovative formats and web design approaches for electronic Government information products.”

At the same time, the survey found that “there is an overall lack of Government information policy guiding electronic publishing, dissemination, permanent public access, or information life cycle management,” and that “responsibility for electronic publishing within agencies is decentralized, diffuse, and unclear.” The report said that “the concept of permanent public access is not well understood,” and that “there is a lack of understanding of what ensuring authenticity [of Government information in electronic formats] entails.”

MORE THAN 550 GOVERNMENT INFORMATION LIBRARIANS MEET FOR 8th ANNUAL FEDERAL DEPOSITORY CONFERENCE

In what has become the Nation’s premier event for Government information librarians and those concerned with Government information dissemination programs, more than 550 Federal depository librarians and Federal agency representatives attended the 8th annual Federal Depository Conference, sponsored by GPO in April 1999 in Bethesda, MD. The conference was held concurrent

with the 54th meeting of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer.

The four-day conference included demonstrations of many World Wide Web sites such as *O*Net*, *Elaws*, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site from the Labor Department, as well as the Bureau of the Census’ *American Factfinder* and the National Climactic Data Center and STAT-USA Web sites from the Commerce Department. The Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Center for Education Statistics, among others, presented updates on their public information activities and products. A representative from the Energy Department discussed plans for the DOE’s Virtual Library of Energy, Science, and Technology. The Director of the Agriculture Department’s National Agricultural Library spoke about the USDA Digital Publications Preservation Framework, and information was provided on the expanded test of the GPO and National Technical Information Service Depository Library Electronic Image Pilot Project.

GPO staff discussed specifics on building the FDLP electronic collection, based on *Managing the FDLP Electronic Collection: A Policy and Planning Document*. A representative of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS)

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Highlights (continued)

GPO's Federal Depository Library Electronic Collection Plan is a significant step forward in the congressionally-mandated transition of the FDLP to a more electronic future.

was on hand to discuss the recently completed *Report on the Assessment of Electronic Government Information Products*, commissioned by GPO from NCLIS. Demonstrations of the online *Federal Register*, the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the *U.S. Code*, and other popular databases available on **GPO Access** were also provided. In addition, a selection of technical and information sessions for attendees was provided, as well as tours of the National Library of Medicine, the U.S. Senate Library, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Central Library.

GPO RELEASES FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ELECTRONIC COLLECTION PLAN

In November 1998, GPO released *Managing the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Electronic Collection: A Policy and Planning Document*. This plan established policies for the development and maintenance of the FDLP electronic collection. Developed in coordination with the library community, the plan is a significant step forward in the congressionally-mandated transition of the FDLP to a more electronic future.

The FDLP Electronic Collection consists of electronic sources that are within the scope of the FDLP and with which GPO has various levels of involvement. In managing the Collection, the guiding

principle is that access to Government information prepared and published at Government expense is a right of the people—the same principle that has guided the FDLP throughout its history. By defining the FDLP Electronic Collection, GPO defined responsibilities for life cycle management of electronic Government information products. GPO directly manages the portion of the Collection that resides on GPO servers, including core congressional and regulatory information products. GPO also produces a broad array of cataloging and locator services that provide access to information residing on agency servers. FDLP partners, including individual depository libraries, universities, consortia, and service providers, will provide storage capacity and other resources to provide permanent access to parts of the Collection they manage.

GPO's goal is to act in concert with agency information producers as well as the end-user consumers of Government information. These actions are carried out in an environment that builds content, assures permanent accessibility, and capitalizes on the cooperative strengths of GPO and the FDLP to expand and strengthen the necessary infrastructure for access, retrieval, and delivery of Government information.

