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FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT ON GPO ACCESS NOW AVAILABLE

Report to Congress evaluates success of innovative service

The fourth *Biennial Report to Congress on the Status of **GPO Access*** has just been released by the Government Printing Office (GPO). The report was transmitted to Congress in accordance with section 4103 of Title 44, U.S.C. It is available on **GPO Access** at www.gpo.gov/biennialreport.

According to the report, the information resources on **GPO Access** cover all three branches of Government, and include the *Congressional Record* and all major congressional publications, the *Federal Register* and *Code of Federal Regulations*, the *United States Code*, and other key Government documents.

The databases also include such noteworthy publications as the *Budget of the United States Government*, *Countering the Changing Threat of International Terrorism -- The Report of the National Commission on Terrorism*, the *Public Papers of the Presidents*, and the *Energy Citations Database*.

As of December 2001, **GPO Access** provided public access to more than 225,000 titles through links to more than 130,000 titles on GPO servers and more than 94,000 additional titles on other Federal agency Web sites. Recent statistics indicate that **GPO Access** fulfills approximately 31 million document retrievals per month, with a total of more than 355 million retrievals during fiscal year 2001 alone.

Since the last *Biennial Report* in 1999, **GPO Access** has added new applications and publications, and improved several existing applications. Numerous system enhancements have also been made, including the implementation of a distributed caching service, the monitoring of referrals from other Web sites, and improvements to the U.S. Government Online Bookstore. In

addition, a LISTSERV mailing list server has been brought online, with **GPO Access** offering automated e-mail notification service for a range of publications carried by the Superintendent of Documents Sales Program. Since September 11, initial steps have been taken to develop a **GPO Access** mirror site in a geographically removed location.

The report notes that the cost of **GPO Access** has been significantly lower than was originally estimated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in the legislation creating the system (Pub. L. 103-40). CBO estimated that creating and operating the online system would cost approximately \$6 million in appropriated funds over the first 5 years. In addition, CBO said the provision of free online access to Federal depository libraries would cost another \$2 million to \$10 million per year in appropriated funds and that, beginning in FY 1995, GPO would incur annual costs of \$750,000 to keep the directory of publications current and to maintain the electronic storage facility. In fact, the total cost of **GPO Access** has been \$19 million since it began operations in 1994, 61% less than the high range of the estimate.

The report cites high levels of customer satisfaction with **GPO Access**, noting that in June 2001, **GPO Access** was recognized with an E-Gov 2001 "Trail Blazer" award; that in May 2001, LibrarySpot.com selected the U.S. Supreme Court Web site, which is developed and hosted by GPO, to be featured among the best and most useful library and reference sites online; and that in March 2001, the Congressional Bills database on **GPO Access** was featured in the Legislative Branch section of GovSpot.com.

In December 2000, Lightspan's Study Web selected the *U.S. Constitution: Analysis and Interpretation* application on **GPO Access** as one of the best educational resources on the Web; in April 2000, **GPO Access** was voted one of the *Library Journal's* "Best Reference Web Sites" for 1999; and in April 2000, Forbes.com mentioned **GPO Access** in an article about the "Best of the Web."

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