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MORE THAN 150 GOVERNMENT INFORMATION LIBRARIANS SET TO MEET FOR MAJOR CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO

More than 150 Government information librarians from around the Nation are planning to meet in San Antonio, TX, **April 2-4, 2001**, to discuss issues of importance to Government information users nationwide as well as the national library community. The meeting will be at the **Adam's Mark San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel, 111 Pecan Street East, San Antonio (ph. 210-354-2800; fax 210-362-6444)**.

The occasion for the gathering is the 58th semiannual meeting of the Depository Library Council, an advisory group to the Public Printer of the United States who, as head of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), oversees the administration of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The Council is composed of 15 representatives of the Government information community who advise GPO on issues related to the FDLP.

In operation since 1813, the FDLP is the public's primary source of free access to the published information of the Federal Government, and has been called "America's first freedom of information act." Under it, GPO disseminates a comprehensive collection of Federal Government information in print, microform, CD-ROM, and online formats to more than 1,300 libraries nationwide, where the public may use this information free of charge.

Many Federal depository libraries are in colleges and universities, making the FDLP a key component of the Nation's educational system. The libraries are also used by businesses, especially small businesses seeking ready access to Federal information. The FDLP serves an estimated 9.5 million people each year (not counting those who use *GPO Access*, GPO's acclaimed Internet information service, at www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess); that's an average of more than 7,000 persons served per Federal depository library per year.

In FY 2000, GPO distributed 12.2 million copies of approximately 29,000 tangible products in traditional and electronic formats to Federal depository libraries. In addition, the libraries provide public access to *GPO Access*, featuring more than 200,000 Federal titles, from which Government information users nationwide and worldwide currently retrieve an average of more than 26 million documents each month.

In Texas, there are currently 62 Federal depository libraries, with 7 in San Antonio alone: the Ozuna Learning Resources Center, Palo Alto College; the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library and the Louis J. Blume Library, Saint Mary's University; the Learning Resource Center, San Antonio College; the San Antonio Public Library; the Coates Library, Trinity University; and the Library at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Highlights of the 3-day Council conference will include remarks from the Public Printer and GPO's Superintendent of Documents on the outlook for the FDLP for the coming year, presentations from the Census Bureau and the National Park Service, and programs such as "Local Strategies for Ongoing Access to Electronic U.S. Government Information," "Incorporating Federal Government Resources in Virtual Libraries," and "Electronic Spanish Language Information Resource Locators." The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) will also provide an update on its ongoing "Assessment of the Federal Government's Information Policies and Practices."

For additional information on the conference and to register, please contact Robin Haun-Mohamed, by telephone at 202-512-1119; by fax at 202-512-1432; by e-mail at rhaun-mohamed@gpo.gov; or review the Web site at www.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/tools/calendar.html

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