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Public Printer Names Five to Depository Library Council

Public Printer Michael F. DiMario has named five new members to the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. The Council advises the Government Printing Office (GPO) on issues related to public access to Government information products through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Administered by GPO, the FDLP is a nationwide, geographically-dispersed system consisting of more than 1,350 libraries acting in partnership with the Federal Government for the purpose of enabling the general public to have local access to Government information products at no cost.

The newly appointed members are: **Linda Fredericks**, Government and Legal Librarian, King County Library System, Bellevue, WA; **Robert A. Hinton**, Assistant Librarian, Reference and Research Team/Government Documents, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN; **Sharon Hogan**, University Librarian, the University Library, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL; **Mary Redmond**, Principal Librarian, Collection Acquisition and Processing, New York State Library, Albany, NY; and **Andrea Severson**, Head, Government Information, Government & Social Science Information Service, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

The Depository Library Council consists of 15 representatives of the Government information community, who serve for a term of 3 years. Each year, five members are appointed by the Public Printer. The newly appointed members will be introduced to the Council activities and procedures at the fall 1999 meeting in Kansas City, MO, to be held October 18-21.

Often called America's first "freedom of information" program, the FDLP ensures that the American public has access to its Government's information. Depository libraries safeguard the public's right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving, and assisting users with information from the Federal Government. GPO provides Government information at no cost to depository libraries throughout the country.

Depository libraries, in turn, provide local, no-fee access to Government information in all formats in an impartial environment with professional assistance.

There are 53 “regional” depositories that have agreed to receive all the materials distributed by GPO and retain them for permanent public access. The remaining “selective” libraries choose what materials they want to receive based on the demands of their constituencies and have limited retention responsibilities.

Any member of the public can use the Federal depository collections, in which they will find information on careers, business opportunities, consumer information, health and nutrition, legal and regulatory information, demographics, and countless other subjects. In fiscal year 1998, GPO distributed more than 15.2 million copies of tangible products to depository libraries.

GPO Access, GPO’s acclaimed website, at www.access.gpo.gov, provides no-fee access to thousands of Government information products online to depository libraries and the public. Approximately 70 applications make information available from more than 1,000 databases from all three branches of Government, including the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, *Commerce Business Daily*, and congressional bills and reports. **GPO Access** currently averages approximately 19 million document retrievals monthly.

The Depository Library Council to the Public Printer meets twice a year, in April, in the Washington, DC, area, and in October, at various sites around the country. The current Chair is Thomas K. Andersen, California Library Services Act Coordinator, California State Library, Sacramento, CA, and the Chair-elect is Duncan M. Aldrich, Head, Business & Government Information Center, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Reno, NV.

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