

# Depository Library Council Update April 2006



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## **INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM**

On Wednesday, March 8, 2006, GPO launched the enhanced version of the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) (<http://catalog.gpo.gov/>). This version of the CGP is the online public access catalog (OPAC) module of GPO's new integrated library system. With the availability of the new CGP, Phase 1 of a larger modernization plan to replace older legacy systems is complete.

The new and improved CGP currently offers more than 500,000 records to both historical and current Government publications. These records have been created or updated since July 1976. Plans are underway to include records for publications dating back to the late 1800s. There is an advanced search function for professionals as well as a more basic search function for the general public.

“Locate Libraries” is incorporated into the enhanced CGP. If a user needs a paper copy, CD-ROM, or a librarians' expert assistance, clicking on the “Locate in a Library” feature within the displayed record will find a Federal depository library that has the particular publication if it is in the current item selection profile. New features of the CGP include “Other Catalogs to Search” that provide access to the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, periodicals, and Internet publications.

Additional information about the new CGP can be found at:

**[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/cip/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/cip/index.html)**

A plenary session on the CGP/OPAC will be held on Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## **AUTHENTICATION**

GPO is engaged in a major authentication initiative designed to assure users that the information made available by GPO is official and authentic and that trust relationships exist between all participants in electronic transactions. This authentication initiative, which employs Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) technology, will allow users to determine that the files are unchanged since GPO authenticated them.

GPO is procuring the necessary tools and capabilities to automate the application of digital signatures on Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in late 2005 and bids have been received. These bids are being evaluated, and GPO expects to complete the process by late spring. This procurement will enable application of digital signatures in a more timely, efficient and cost-effective manner than can be achieved manually. The authenticated files will allow users to easily view authentication information for digitally signed PDF documents.

## **DISASTER RECOVERY**

GPO has completed the first phase of the DR project, which includes a full global offsite backup of GPO Access data, static content delivery of the gpo.gov and bookstore.gpo.gov domains, and a Proof of Concept for five GPO Access applications (Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Record, Congressional Bills, and Congressional Hearings) that emulate the current search system while providing faster performance and improved search results. The remaining GPO Access applications are available on the site in case of disaster, but have not been reformatted for optimum use. A second phase of the DR project will result in the migration of the remaining WAIS applications, at which time GPO will have a complete backup system that will offer assured availability to all of GPO's Web services and also maintain an archival copy of GPO's data for redundant, offsite storage.

## **FUTURE DIGITAL SYSTEM**

GPO's FDsys Program Management Office is managing the development of GPO's Future Digital System (FDsys). FDsys will manage, preserve, provide version control and access to, and disseminate authentic Government information. Recent key developments involve the Master Integrator (MI) contract and Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) approval of two FDsys funding requests.

The Master Integrator will function much like a general contractor in a remodeling job and will work collaboratively with GPO to identify solutions for the FDsys functions and to integrate the various components, technology and applications. GPO's draft Request for Proposal (RFP) garnered comments on the Master Integrator process and tasks, which were used to refine the RFP. An independent validation and verification (IV&V) vendor and GPO's Acquisition Staff have reviewed the procurement documentation and strategy. Final review of the RFP by the Mitre Corporation, a not for profit organization, is underway, and the final RFP is scheduled for release in the next few weeks.

In early March the JCP approved two FDsys spending requests. The first covers FDsys Release 0, a pilot development effort to test an essential design concept for getting information into FDsys in the form of digital information packages consisting of content and associated metadata. JCP also approved ongoing funding for the Program Management Office, which GPO established in October 2005.

More information on FDsys is available at:

**<http://www.gpo.gov/projects/fdsys.htm>**

FDsys will be discussed during Tuesday's plenary session, GPO Digital Content Forum, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

## **DIGITIZATION OF THE LEGACY COLLECTION**

GPO is working with the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration to outline roles and responsibilities in the provision of public access to digitized legacy Federal Government publications. Once these agencies sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Joint Committee on Printing approves it, GPO will begin to implement the plan for digitizing Federal publications. **Priorities for Digitization of Legacy Collection**, GPO's planned approach to digitizing the tangible collections of historical documents in Federal depository libraries, is located at:

**<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legacy/index.html>**

GPO will first focus on digitizing legislative and regulatory material that expands the coverage of the most popular *GPO Access* databases.

GPO's Digitization Specification 3.2 has been drafted. Version 3.2 is a result of multiple internal reviews and two focused external reviews by Federal agencies and universities involved in preservation quality digitization. This Specification will be used to support GPO's plan to convert legacy documents into preservation masters that subsequently will be used to create derivative "access" files that support user requirements. The Specification will continue to evolve as technological advancements and digitization requirements occur in the digital imaging industry.

GPO has launched the Registry of U.S. Government Publication Digitization Projects:

**<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legacy/registry>**

The Registry is a locator tool for publicly accessible collections of digitized U.S. Government publications. Volunteer contributors can input records about their institution's projects that include digitized copies of publications originating from the U.S. Government. Nearly 50 entries are currently included in the Registry. If your institution is involved in digitization of U.S. Government publications, we encourage you to submit to the Registry.

Additional information about the legacy digitization project, including links to Specification 3.0 (final) and Specification 3.2 (draft), are available at:

**<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legacy>**

### **ESSENTIAL TITLES**

GPO's Essential Titles List was developed to be fluid, so that titles could be added or removed when an agency no longer publishes a title in a tangible form, or when FDLP requirements change. In spring 2005, GPO conducted a survey of the depository community to identify additional essential titles for public use that should remain in paper and other tangible formats. The Depository Library Council established a task force to recommend a methodology for a new survey. After further discussion, GPO and the Council decided to develop an alternative proposal. The proposal takes into account the overall item selection rates and selection rates by type of library as a means to determine what is essential to the community.

The proposal will be discussed in Judy Russell's update during the plenary session on Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

### **BIENNIAL SURVEY**

The 2005 Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries ran from December 2, 2005 through the end of December 2005. Since then, GPO has been adding libraries that were late responders. As of March 13, 2006, 1,214 libraries have responded.

Questions 65 and 66, dealing with digital publications files, generated a healthy exchange of ideas for the discussion lists.

65: My library systematically downloads, stores online publications identified from GPO Access or through GPO-created PURLS, and makes them accessible to the general public from local servers. This past year my library downloaded the following number of digital publication files (this does not include shipping lists, Web pages, or datasets):

Percentage of tabulated responses:

0	81.06%
1-25	10.91%
26-100	3.05%
101-500	3.53%
501-1000	0.64%
1001-5000	0.80%
More than 5000	0.00%

66. My library is willing to receive Federal digital publication files on deposit from GPO, store them, and make the accessible to the general public from local servers. My library is willing to receive the following number of digital publication files per year (this does not include shipping lists, Web pages, or databases):

Percentage of tabulated responses:

0	72.52%
1-25	15.31%
26-100	4.77%
101-500	3.25%
501-1000	1.93%
1001-5000	1.12%
More than 5000	1.12%

Libraries also were queried about their training needs. The surveyed training topics are listed below, in descending order, with the topics with the most tabulated responses of “extremely interested” listed first.

1	Census materials
2	Geographic Information System (GIS)
3	OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog - Franklin)
4	How to conduct user surveys
5	STAT-USA/USA Trade Online
6	GPO Access
7	Grant opportunities/how to apply for grants
8	FDLP Desktop
9	GPO Online Help
10	Ben's Guide
11	Marketing/promotion by GPO
12	Marketing your depository library at the local level
13	Depository operations
14	Depository Anniversary Celebrations
15	Disaster planning
16	Library of the Year

For virtual reference, another area of high interest in recent Council meeting discussions, the survey showed that 48 % of tabulated responders provide virtual reference service, but that a slightly higher percentage of libraries, 55% of tabulated responses, were not interested in participating in a virtual reference service if it was administered by or through GPO.

The Federal Depository Library Program continues to be well known in the library community as an active, vital program, but it may not be so well known in local communities and service areas. According to the tabulated survey responses, 15% of libraries are doing active promotion of the depository program to the general public, 62% of libraries promote the depository program infrequently, and 23% of libraries reported no depository promotion.

The complete survey results will be summarized and made available in the near future. The raw survey responses will also be available for libraries to use in comparison with their information needs to do comparisons against past survey results. Previous biennial surveys in electronic formats are located at:

**[http://access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/bisurvey/index.html](http://access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/bisurvey/index.html)**

## **NEW INFORMATION DISSEMINATION COMMUNICATION POLICY (ID 76)**

Information Dissemination (ID) recently undertook a review of how its information is communicated to depository libraries and other interested parties. Its communications survey was one part of this review. Subsequently, a new policy was issued, effective February 6, 2006: "Use of Electronic Postings to Communicate Administrative Information and Announcements to the Federal Depository Library Community and Others" (ID 76).

This internal policy is accessible through the FDLP Desktop at:

**[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/pubs/policies/id76\\_02-06-06.pdf](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/policies/id76_02-06-06.pdf)**

ID will use various electronic mechanisms to communicate with the depository community and others interested in GPO services and products. The policy covers ID's use of GPO-FDLP-L, askGPO, Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, FDL-Directors-L, and Community-administered Electronic Discussion Lists.

All communications will be posted to GPO-FDLP-L and reformatted for inclusion in the knowledge base of questions and answers. Cross-posting of operational communications to other electronic discussion lists will be minimal, although there will continue to be many general interest postings, and the specific circumstances under which they will be used are described in ID 76.

GPO-FDLP-L is now GPO's primary vehicle for communicating with depository library staff, and is the exclusive place for communication of operational and administrative matters. As such, all depository libraries should have at least one staff member subscribed to this announcement service. To join the list, point your browser to:

**<http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/archives/gpo-fdlp-l.html>**

Click on "Join or leave the list" and follow the on-screen instructions.

Effective with this policy, GPO's online help service and knowledge base of questions and answers was officially named askGPO. There are several components to askGPO: the knowledge base where questions and answers can be searched or browsed; the Ask a Question feature where users submit questions for ID staff to address; the My Account area that is specific to each end-user of the system; and the staff side that is used to answer questions as well as manage and maintain the various components. Learn the Ins and Outs of askGPO at a session on Monday, April 3, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## **NEW GPO askGPO/CONTACT CENTER HOURS**

Based on the results of a recent study, effective March 20, the askGPO/Contact Center will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time. The new hours reflect current customer usage patterns and a more efficient allocation of staff resources to ensure coverage during peak traffic hours. askGPO can be reached at **[askgpo@gpo.gov](mailto:askgpo@gpo.gov)** or 1-866-512-1800.

## **ANNUAL INTERAGENCY SEMINAR**

The 19th Annual Interagency Depository Seminar will be held in Washington, DC from July 31, 2006 through August 4, 2006. During the weeklong seminar, representatives from various Federal agencies will present an overview of their information products and activities as they relate to Federal depository libraries. The seminar is open to all depository library staff who would like to attend, but is limited to 60 participants. It will provide an opportunity for both new and experienced documents staff to review basic materials and learn about major Federal information products and services. Scheduling details, including participating agencies and tours,

will be announced during the coming months. There are no registration fees; however, attendees are responsible for their own travel expenses.

Prospective attendees should complete the online registration form by May 31, 2006 at:

**[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/registration/interagency\\_reg.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/registration/interagency_reg.html)**

Questions about the seminar should be directed to the Education and Outreach Staff by telephone on (202) 512-1119; by fax on (202) 512-0016; or by e-mail at [ylouden@gpo.gov](mailto:ylouden@gpo.gov).

A block of 40 rooms has been set aside for seminar participants at the Red Roof Inn, located at 500 H St., NW, Washington DC 20001. Reservations should be made by calling the hotel at 202-289-5959 and providing the block code of B254AIDLS to receive the rate of \$104.99 per night plus 14.5% tax. Reservations must be made by July 17, 2006 to insure the quoted rate and will be on a first come, first served basis.

### **FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY HANDBOOK**

GPO has been working with teams of volunteers from the Federal depository library community to develop the next generation **Federal Depository Library Manual** and **Instructions to Depository Libraries**. The resulting new publication will combine the Manual, its supplements, and the Instructions into a single online publication that will be updated as necessary. Each chapter will include requirements and performance examples.

The first five chapters of the Handbook, chapters 1, 4, 10, 11, and 14, have been released for public comment. These chapters are available for review at:

**[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/pubs/handbook.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/handbook.html)**

Please use the Web form provided at the Handbook Web site to submit comments. The deadline for comments is Monday, May 8, 2006.

Additional chapters will be posted on the Web site as they become available. We expect two or more chapters to be ready for public comment in early April 2006. We anticipate that all chapters will be reviewed, released for comment, and finalized during the summer of 2006.

### **LOCKSS**

The GPO LOCKSS Pilot Project was launched in June 2005. To date, GPO has made the current volumes of seven Government e-journals available to the 21 libraries that are participating in the twelve-month pilot. The *Treasury Bulletin*, the *Social Security Bulletin*, *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*, *Humanities*, *Survey of Current Business*, *Monthly Labor Review*, and *Monthly Energy Review* are already available. The final three titles, *Amber Waves*, *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, and *Environmental Health Perspectives*, will be released shortly.

The next phase of the pilot will include the development and execution of three “real world scenarios” designed to test the response of the pilot LOCKSS implementations in various situations. The first scenario will test how LOCKSS responds when a server is no longer available. This test is scheduled to take place in April 2006.

Measures of success for LOCKSS include harvesting 10 e-journals from Federal Government Web sites, providing access to those e-journals via LOCKSS, and collecting information from pilot partners about their experiences with LOCKSS.

Additional information and news about the GPO LOCKSS Pilot Project is available at:

**[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/lockss/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/lockss/index.html)**

## **CD-ROM DATA MIGRATION STRATEGY**

GPO is working to devise a data migration strategy to ensure that information on the CD-ROMs that have been distributed to depository libraries remains accessible. After an initial review of CD-ROMs that have been distributed to depositories, GPO selected three agencies to use as case studies: The Department of Education, the Department of Justice, and the United States Geological Survey. These agencies were selected because the number of discs produced appeared to be a manageable sample, yet varied enough to cover a good cross section of considerations for migration. GPO wanted a sample that would include:

- Serials and monographic discs
- A variety of file formats and system requirements
- Databases and discs containing static documents

A list of depository CD-ROMs from these agencies was prepared and reviewed to see which ones were available via the Internet. GPO will soon release a list of the discs reviewed, indicating which are available online and which are considered migration candidates. Titles available online will be considered for migration at a later date, but GPO is placing a higher priority on the titles not found online because those titles are at greater risk of loss of content. Discs considered as migration candidates will be tested, and the results will be used to devise a migration strategy for other depository discs.

Additionally, GPO has been working with the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) to test potential application of emulation technology to make selected discs accessible over the Internet. The test included:

- Applying virtual machines to host GPO legacy applications (30 CD-ROM titles)
- Applying virtual drives to emulate multiple CDs
- Providing access to the emulated CD-ROM titles via the internet/Web

Future analysis will include testing the scalability of this application, as well as cost/benefit analysis of virtualization vs. migration. Next steps will include applying ISO/IEC MPEG-21 standard implementation and collaboration with other agencies to compile and understand general data preservation and migration requirements via the Government Information Preservation Working Group (GIPWoG) meetings and working with other stakeholders.

A presentation will be made during the Council session on Digital Content on Monday from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## **WEB DISCOVERY AND HARVESTING**

GPO is currently involved in a pilot project with two vendors, Information International Associates, Inc. and Blue Angel Technologies, Inc., to use automated Web crawler and other technologies to discover, assess, and harvest publications from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) public Web sites. This pilot supports GPO's goal to discover and retrieve publications from Federal agency Web sites that fall within the scope of the FDLP and the National Bibliography Program. The two vendor contracts, which began in early March and will run for six months, will be executed separately but simultaneously by each vendor.

The goal of the pilot is to learn about available methodologies and technologies for automated Web discovery and harvesting, including what GPO has identified as discovery, assessment, and harvesting tools. Discovery tools will locate electronic content from Federal agency Web sites and provide information to the assessment tool. Assessment tools will determine if the discovered content is within the scope of GPO dissemination programs and whether other



versions of the content already exist in the system to establish appropriate relationships between versions. Harvesting tools will gather content and available metadata.

GPO has the cooperation of EPA on this project and is working with the EPA Webmaster to schedule the crawls. EPA estimates that only 20 percent of its publications have been cataloged by GPO and sees the pilot as very advantageous to EPA, since its remaining agency publications will be identified, brought under bibliographic control, and given permanent public access via GPO.

Each of the vendors will conduct three crawls of the EPA Web site. The first crawl by each vendor is schedule for the first or second week in April. GPO personnel will evaluate how successfully the crawls identify and harvest publications and will provide information back to the vendors further to refine the parameters of the next two crawls. The publications found by the automated tools will be compared with the publications GPO catalogers have identified through systematic manual review of the EPA Web site over the past year and a half. The final deliverable in this project is a comparison of the results of the third crawl with the EPA publications included in GPO's catalog. After the end of the pilot, GPO will catalog any EPA publications not already cataloged.

Once the pilot is complete, GPO expects to leverage the knowledge acquired to develop detailed requirements and specifications for a long-term discovery and harvesting capability in conjunction with the Future Digital System (FDsys). Harvested content is one of the four types of content to be ingested into the Future Digital System. GPO also is investigating various options to create cataloging records and metadata for the documents harvested from the EPA Pilot project, including contracted cataloging services

A discussion of the pilot's technical rules will occur during Monday's GPO Digital Content Forum from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### **ANNUAL ITEM SELECTION UPDATE**

The annual update cycle affords depository libraries the opportunity to add items to their selection profile. Items can also be dropped during the update cycle, or at any time during the year. The drops are effective immediately. During the December-January update cycle, there were a total of 31,031 adds and 32,206 drops. Of the 560 participating libraries, 480 added items and 346 dropped items. Approximately 50 percent of the adds and 51 percent of the drops were electronic titles, indicating that libraries continued to use the update cycle to refine their collection profiles in light of the transition to a more electronically-based FDLP. The next item selection update is scheduled for June 2006.

#### **REVIEW OF ITEM NUMBER SYSTEM/ DEPOSITORY SELECTION MECHANISMS**

As part of its ongoing planning efforts, GPO undertook a review of the item number system used by libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to select tangible and electronic titles. As a result of this review, GPO released three briefing papers and solicited comments from the depository library community.

GPO received more than 90 comments on the briefing papers. GPO received a mix of comments on the proposed model for selection of online titles. The majority of comments GPO received found the proposed model for tangible selection to be a workable solution. All questions, comments, and suggestions received were considered as we revised the briefing papers.

The original briefing papers, summarized comments, and the revised briefing papers are all available at:

**[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/selection/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/selection/index.html)**

A plenary session on item selection will be held on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

## **NEW AND ON THE HORIZON**

### **Retrospective Shelflist Conversion Project**

A Statement of Work (SOW) for cataloging services to convert the historic shelflist and to catalog a small backlog of materials was posted to FedBizOpps On February 2, 2006 and will close in early April.

### **GPOExpress**

GPOExpress, based on a contractual agreement between GPO and FedEx Kinko's, is now supplying printing services to Federal agencies. Under this agreement, agencies are issued credit cards that allow them to purchase printing at a local FedEx Kinko's store. Part of the agreement includes the delivery of a press optimized PDF version of documents printed through this service to an FTP site so that GPO can review/acquire titles for the National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications and the FDLP.

### **Sales of GPO Cataloging Records**

GPO has begun selling the GPO Cataloging Records previously available as a monthly subscription service from the Library of Congress. The cataloging records are available in MARC format via ftp. The cost for the monthly service is \$1,920. For more information, contact the GPO Contact Center: [contactcenter@gpo.gov](mailto:contactcenter@gpo.gov).

### **Statutes at Large**

The United States *Statutes at Large* for 2003-2004 (Volume 117, 108<sup>th</sup> Congress) is now available online from the U.S. Government Printing Office at:

**<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/statutes/index.html>**

Future volumes will follow as they become available.

The United States Statutes at Large, typically referred to as the Statutes at Large, is the permanent collection of all laws and resolutions enacted during each session of Congress. Documents are available as ASCII text and Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.

### **Partnerships**

GPO currently has 15 partnerships with depository libraries and Federal agencies. A complete list is available at:

**[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/partners/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/partners/index.html)**

GPO is currently developing a partnership with the United States Commission on Civil Rights and the Thurgood Marshall Law Library at the University of Maryland School of Law to ensure permanent public access to material in the Library's Historical Publications of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

## **DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER STATISTICS**

While more than 92 percent of the new titles available through the FDLP are available in electronic form, whether or not they are also available in tangible form, GPO continues to distribute a large volume of tangible publications to Federal depository libraries. During the first five months of FY 2006 (October 2005-February 2006) GPO distributed a total of 2,779,778

tangible copies of 4,340 titles (this includes print, microfiche, CD's, DVD's and maps). During the same time period, GPO produced 5,500 bibliographic records, 5,060 of which represented publications that were available online, with 1,963 of these available as online only. The remaining 3,097 titles were available online and distributed in one or more tangible formats. GPO produced 15,194 bibliographic records (including 2,094 ONIX records) in FY 2005. Through February of FY 2006, approximately 4,938 bibliographic records have been created.

At the beginning of FY06, GPO reevaluated the way it counts cumulative titles available through GPO Access services so as to provide a more comprehensive report. This resulted in a recalculation of both titles "available on GPO Access" and titles "linked from GPO Access." Due to the large volume of GPO Partner titles, titles that reside on GPO Partner sites were separated from the titles "linked from GPO Access" count and placed in a new category to better illustrate the number of cumulative titles available through GPO Access services. These Partner titles will now be calculated separately on a quarterly basis in this new category. In February 2006, as calculated using this new methodology, GPO provided online access to more than 236,000 cumulative titles on or linked from GPO Access services. In addition, GPO Partner sites make more than 515,000 additional titles accessible to the public.

### **GPO ACCESS USAGE STATISTICS**

Since its inception in 1994, GPO Access retrievals have amounted to approximately 2.57 billion. June 2005 was the busiest month ever, with more than 39 million retrievals. The total number of retrievals in FY2005 was 431 million. Through February, an estimated 180.42 million documents have been retrieved in FY2006.

### **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY IN PUBLISHING SERVICES (Sales Program)**

GPO is exploring opportunities to outsource all or parts of its sales and agency distribution programs. GPO is looking for vendors to recommend an entirely new "model" for publications sales and distribution operation. Rather than paying the vendor, GPO wants to find an arrangement where the vendor will share the revenue with GPO, improve service to our customers, and continue to fulfill our mission to keep America informed through the sale of public documents. GPO expects to release its RFP in the near future.

### **Improved Online Government Bookstore**

GPO has launched an improved U.S. Government Online Bookstore that adds additional services for sales customers. The Online Bookstore now uses Pay.gov, a secure Government-wide financial management transaction portal available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for more timely and efficient processing of GPO credit card and deposit account orders. The improved Online Bookstore also provides customers with the option of expedited shipping via USPS Priority and Express Mail, new and improved shopping cart and order confirmation emails, expanded ordering options for international customers, and the capability to save shopping carts.