News Release

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PUBLIC PRINTER NAMES FIVE TO DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL TO REDUCE COSTS, IMPROVE QUALITY

Public Printer of the United States Michael F. DiMario has named five new members to the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. The Council advises the U.S. 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 nearly 1,400 libraries acting in partnership with the United States Government to provide the general public with local access to Federal Government information at no charge.

The newly-appointed members bring diversified experience to the Council. They are:

★ Maggie Farrell, Associate Dean of Libraries, Roland R. Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman, Bozeman, MT;

★ Paula Kaczmarek, Manager, Government Documents, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI;

★ Donna Koepp, Department Head, Government Documents and Map Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS;

★ GladysAnn Wells, State Librarian and Director, Arizona Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix, AZ; and

★ Dr. Fred B. Wood, Special Expert, Office of Health Information Programs Development, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD.

The Depository Library Council to the Public Printer 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 1998 meeting in San Diego, CA, to be held October 19-22.

Often called America's first "freedom of information" program, the FDLP was established by Congress to ensure 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 charge to designated depository libraries throughout the country. These depository libraries, in turn, provide local, no-fee access to Government information in all formats in an impartial environment with professional assistance.

Any member of the public can visit these depository libraries and 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 1997, GPO distributed 13.4 million copies of 44,820 tangible products to depository libraries.

GPO Access, the agency's website, www.access.gpo.gov, provides no-fee access to thousands of Government information products in an online medium to depository libraries and the public. There are more than 70 major Federal databases from all three branches of Government, including the Congressional Record, the Federal Register, Commerce Business Daily, and congressional bills and reports on the site. More than 10.5 million documents are retrieved from this service monthly, the equivalent of nearly 250 per minute round the clock.

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

The Depository Library Council to the Public Printer meets twice a year; during April in the Washington, DC, area, and October at a different site around the country each year. The current Chair is Anne Watts, Coordinator, Information Technology Services, St. Louis Public Library, and the Chair-elect is Thomas Andersen, Head, Government Publications, California State Library.