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Contact: Thomas A. Downing
202-512-1121
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GPO IMPROVES ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INTERNET RESOURCES

The United States Government Printing Office (GPO) has incorporated OCLC Online Computer Library Center's freely available PURLs software into GPO's cataloging and locator services. OCLC's Persistent Uniform Resource Locators (PURLs) software supports GPO's efforts to provide continued access to important electronic information products published at Federal Internet sites. The PURLs software provides an effective means to update Internet addresses by redirecting users from old Internet addresses to the most recent address associated with an electronic publication.

Through its award-winning GPO Access services, GPO provides website users of the Catalog of United States Government Publications (<http://www.gpo.gov/catalog>) and Browse Electronic Titles (BET) applications (<http://www.gpo.gov/bet>) with one-click access to Internet resources published by U.S. Government agencies. These services are provided under authority of the GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-40).

Through PURLs, users of the GPO's website Catalog may access the Federal Internet resources directly from library catalog records. More than 800 Catalog records produced since January 1998 contain PURLs. Approximately 3,000 older Catalog records

are being updated on an as needed basis by substituting PURLs for URL data. Thousands of the Nation's libraries load GPO-produced records in their online public access catalogs (OPACs); and, with the availability of PURLs, most libraries will seldom need to maintain URLs for these records.

GPO's large-scale use of PURLs is made possible by OCLC's recent upgrades to its PURLs software. The most recent release, available at no charge at <http://purl.oclc.org/>, includes a links checking/validation function and offers users the option of producing unique machine generated accession numbers as part of an institution's PURLs syntax.

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