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NEW *GPOAccess* SITE DESIGN MAKES TROVE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION EASY TO USE

The Government Printing Office has unveiled a major redesign of its landmark ***GPOAccess*** (www.gpoaccess.gov) Web site. Long recognized for its extensive collections of Government information, ***GPOAccess*** now features a uniform interface that makes information easier to find for both new and advanced users.

The new site design was developed through an extensive series of usability tests by focus groups composed of users from several patron groups. As a result of this process, the design was completely revised from the original proposal, and a three-column grid was adopted.

On the new ***GPOAccess*** main page, the left column provides quick links to each of five major areas: the list of databases, the Federal Depository library locator tool, the U.S. Government Online Bookstore, Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government (GPO's kids page), and the ***GPOAccess*** User Support Team. The center column provides direct links to each of the 7 most-used databases (the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, the *U.S. Code*, etc.), organized by branch of Government. This column also offers a path to ***GPOAccess*** resources by broad topic areas (such as education and the environment), as well as one-click links to resources that span the Federal Government. The right column features a special item from the US Government Online Bookstore and provides quick links to the most recent updates to the ***GPO Access*** databases.

Beyond the main index page, a new set of navigational elements keeps the most-wanted links close at hand. With a single click, users can go to the list of databases organized by branch of Government, to an A-Z list of all resources, to an application that locates the publication you want at a depository library near you, or to the Online Bookstore. A handy pull-down list of all resources by topic, as well as the site search box follows the user across the site. Navigation is also assisted by hot-linked "bread crumbs" paths at the top of the page that, at a glance, tell users where they are in the site and let them move

back in their path. As a user moves through the site, a context-sensitive left column puts links to the most relevant information resources a click away.

Within the top-level pages for each of the three branches of Government, data resources are gathered by task area. For example, on the Legislative Branch main page, users can find the information they need by quickly scanning four major headings: The Legislative Process, Congressional Materials, Legislative Resources, and Additional Resources.

Since its inauguration in 1994, **GPO Access** has become one of Government's leading portals to Federal information products. **GPO Access** features more than 240,000 titles from all three branches of the Federal Government, including the *Congressional Record*, the *United States Code*, *GAO Reports*, *Congressional Bills and Reports*, *Public Laws*, the *Federal Register*, and many more. In total, more than 145,000 titles are available on GPO servers, and more than 92,000 additional titles are linked from **GPO Access**. **GPO Access** retrievals now exceed 1.6 billion since its inception, and average 31 million each month.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government. Many of the Nation's most important information products, such as the *Congressional Record* and *Federal Register*, are produced at the GPO's main plant, a 1.5 million square-foot complex that is the largest information processing, printing, and distribution facility in the world. In addition to its own production facilities, the GPO maintains a pool of thousands of private sector vendors across the country to produce print and other information products for the Federal Government ranging from publications for the Defense Department to Supreme Court reports and tax and census forms. In addition to the FDLP and **GPOAccess**, the GPO sells Federal information products through online, phone, fax, and mail orders nationwide.

For more information about the GPO and its products and services, go to our home page at www.gpo.gov.

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