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MEDIA CONTACT: Andrew M. Sherman, 202-512-1991
E-mail: asherman@gpo.gov

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AS GPO'S ONLINE SERVICES SURGE IN POPULARITY, SEATTLE BOOKSTORE TO CLOSE

With nearly a quarter of a million titles available online and free of charge, and with public retrievals exceeding 32 million every month, **GPO Access** (www.gpoaccess.gov), a service of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), has become one of the principal tools for providing public access to official U.S. Government information. As a result, the GPO is phasing out its 13 remaining brick-and-mortar bookstore operations outside Washington, DC, an action that will significantly reduce costs. On Tuesday, July 1, 2003, the GPO's Seattle bookstore, in room 194 of the Federal Office Building at 915 2d Avenue, will close its doors to the public, the latest in a series of changes marking the GPO's transformation into a primarily electronic information disseminating agency.

"The GPO is charting a course to remake itself as an agency committed to excellence and the use of new technologies in meeting the information demands of the 21st century," said Public Printer of the United States Bruce R. James. "Our bookstores have provided a great service to the public, but the business of Government information production and delivery is changing, and we are not only changing with it, we will help lead that change."

In addition to providing online access to Government information via **GPO Access**, GPO is actively transitioning its Federal Depository Library Program, serving 1,200 libraries nationwide, to a predominately electronic basis. GPO also offers an online bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. The online bookstore's sales catalog includes all titles available for sale and can be searched by publication title, subject, or keywords. All titles can be ordered securely online using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover/Novus credit cards, and customers have a rapid delivery option via FedEx.

Customers can also order Government publications from the GPO toll free by telephone from 866-512-1800, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time (extended hours will be announced soon); by fax from 202-512-2250; or by mail from Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

Seattle-area residents can also continue to locate and use U.S. Government books as well as online Government information free of charge in any of their local Federal depository libraries open to the public. In the Seattle area, Federal depository collections are located at:

Seattle University
School of Law Library
900 Broadway
Seattle, WA 98122
tel: (206) 398-4225

University of Washington
Gallagher Law Library
1100 NE Campus Parkway
Seattle, WA 98105
tel: (206) 543-6794

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Seattle, WA 98195
tel: (206) 543-1937

Seattle Public Library
800 Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98101
tel: (206) 386-4645

Since June 2001, GPO has closed bookstores in San Francisco, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Birmingham, Cleveland, Columbus, and Dallas, as well as one of its three stores in the Washington, DC, area.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the GPO has approximately 3,000 employees in multiple locations nationwide. It is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government. In addition to its own production facilities, the GPO deals with thousands of private sector vendors throughout the country to produce print and other information products for the Federal Government ranging from Supreme Court decisions to IRS tax forms and crop reports for the Department of Agriculture. The GPO also distributes Government publications to the public via a sales program and through a nationwide network of more than 1,200 Federal depository libraries. GPO's Web site, **GPO Access**, provides online public access to nearly 250,000 Federal Government titles. For more information about the GPO, go to the agency's Web site at www.gpo.gov.

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