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GPO ACCESS SURPASSES 200,000-TITLE MARK

The number of titles available on **GPO Access** (www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess), the award-winning Web site of the Government Printing Office, has surpassed 200,000. Begun in 1994 as home to the online editions of the *Federal Register* and *Congressional Record*, **GPO Access** has experienced the combined effect of both the dramatic growth of the Internet and the Federal Government's rapid adoption of the Web for information dissemination.

Of the more than 200,000 titles available through **GPO Access**, about 116,000 reside on GPO servers. The other 84,000 are hosted on Federal agency and depository library Web sites, and accessed through PURL (Persistent Uniform Resource Locator) links. PURLs, which are one element of GPO's digital preservation strategy, help assure that the linked document will continue to be accessible even if the hosting Web site moves or deletes it.

PURLs are just one of the exceptional features of **GPO Access**. Another remarkable aspect of the site is its unique commitment to Permanent Public Access. This commitment means that every document on **GPO Access** will remain accessible in perpetuity, and springs from GPO's shared responsibility for the permanent availability of the publications in the Federal Depository Library Program. Another feature that is virtually unique to **GPO Access** is its no-fee public access to documents from all three branches of Government. As part of **GPO Access**, GPO hosts the official Web sites of 16 Federal agencies, including the Supreme Court. In addition, **GPO Access** is one of a very few Federal Web sites that was established by law (Public Law 103-40, the Government Printing Office Electronic Information Enhancement Act of 1993).

Use of **GPO Access** has grown as quickly as its content, with the site now averaging 26 million document downloads each month, for a total of 1.3 terabytes of information. GPO has expanded the capacities of **GPO Access** steadily as usage and storage have grown. Current equipment includes a scalable array of mini-computer servers behind a hardware load-balancer and an OC-3 fiber connection to the Internet backbone.

Recent **GPO Access** highlights have included hosting the Supreme Court's *per curiam* opinions on the Florida election case as part of its ongoing responsibilities for the official Supreme Court Web site (www.supremecourtus.gov) and hosting the U.S. District Court's *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order*, and *Final Judgment* in the Microsoft antitrust case.

In December 1999, **GPO Access** released its children's site, called *Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids* (bensguide.gpo.gov). The site's "Ben" is Benjamin Franklin, who guides visitors to the site through age-appropriate explanations of how laws are made, how the Government is structured, how the electoral college works, and other topics. *Ben's Guide* was awarded the American Library Association's "Notable Children's Web Site" designation in April 2000, an honor reserved for sites, "considered the best web sites for ages birth-14, outstanding in both content and conception."

GPO Access has received many awards on its own. In 1999, it was selected as one of the top 50 legal research Web sites for the year by *Law Office Computing* magazine and was designated best research site for laws and best Government site overall by the newsletter *legal.online*. It was chosen as the first recipient of the American Association of Law Libraries' "Public Access to Government Information" award. In 1998, **GPO Access** was named one of the 15 "Best Feds on the Web" by *Government Executive* magazine. The internationally recognized management firm of Booz-Allen and Hamilton, Inc., has called **GPO Access**, "one of the Federal Government's largest and most active web sites." Other awards have included the prestigious 1995 James Madison Award from the Coalition on Government Information.