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# News Release



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STATES  
GOVERNMENT  
PRINTING  
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Office Of Congressional, Legislative And Public Affairs

202-512-1991

<http://www.access.gpo.gov>

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**For Release: IMMEDIATE**  
**December 27, 1998**

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**No. 98-37**

## **GPO'S SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS TOURS JAPANESE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY**

Superintendent of Documents Francis J. Buckley, Jr., recently visited Tokyo, Japan, as a featured speaker at a symposium conducted November 27, 1998, at the National Diet Library (NDL). The symposium was held in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NDL Branch Libraries System. It focused on the digitization of government information. Buckley's presentation was on the "Dissemination of U.S. Government Information in Tangible and Electronic Formats." The Superintendent of Documents, a senior management official of the Government Printing Office (GPO), oversees the dissemination of Government information products to Federal depository libraries, through GPO Access, and via a national sales program.

The National Diet Library is the national library of Japan, providing services to the Diet (Japan's legislative branch), the executive and judicial branches of government, and for the Japanese public. It is modeled on the Library of Congress and has 35 branch libraries in the major agencies of the government. The NDL utilizes U.S. Government publications obtained through the International Exchange Program, operated by GPO under the administration of the Library of Congress, and by purchase.

The focus of the symposium was on planning for the digitization of information by the Japanese government. Buckley reviewed the U.S. system for printing and distributing tangible publications as well as the systems for providing public access to electronic Federal information. Other speakers addressed the implications of utilizing electronic systems for e-mail, data collection, information storage, and dissemination. The symposium was attended by about 200 people from the NDL and its branch libraries, as well as from government agencies and nearby universities.

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