

---

# News Release



UNITED  
STATES  
GOVERNMENT  
PRINTING  
OFFICE

---

Office Of Congressional, Legislative And Public Affairs

202-512-1991

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

---

**For Release: IMMEDIATE**  
**July 28, 1999**

**Contact: Andrew M. Sherman**  
**202-512-1991**  
**[asherma@gpo.gov](mailto:asherma@gpo.gov)**  
**No. 99-20**

## VIRGINIA SAUNDERS EARNS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD

Virginia F. Saunders, Congressional Documents Specialist, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), has been presented the James Bennett Childs Award by the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association (ALA). The prestigious honor, given to a person who has made a lifetime and significant contribution to the field of government documents librarianship, was awarded to Saunders at the ALA annual convention held recently in New Orleans. She was chosen for her compilation and publication of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, which collects the background materials for the activities of the United States Congress into a permanent record.

Saunders began her GPO career in 1946. For the last 30 years she has been the one individual primarily responsible for the Serial Set, a publication of fundamental value to library collections. Throughout her career, she has worked to maintain and improve the Serial Set and has generously shared her knowledge with documents librarians nationwide.

Saunders has spoken at many workshops for depository library staff. In 1998, she gave an overview of the history of the Serial Set at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Federal Depository

Library Conference. In addition, she has served as a panelist at the American Library Association's annual conference.

In 1979, Saunders began her tenure on the Serial Set Advisory Committee, established by the Joint Committee on Printing. In 1989, her suggestion that 30 volumes of duplicative House and Senate reports on the Iran-Contra investigation be assigned Serial Numbers as required but not be bound saved the Government \$600,000 and earned her additional recognition.

Her nomination for the Childs award summarized, "Ms. Saunders has not only meticulously maintained a set of documents of vital importance to the Nation but has worked with information professionals and Government officials to improve it, to lower costs, and to enhance its accessibility to librarians, researchers, and the public."

The award is named for James Bennett Childs, a long time documents bibliographer at the Library of Congress and first recipient of the honor in 1976. Other recipients of the award include GPO's Superintendent of Documents Francis J. (Fran) Buckley, Jr., in 1986, and former Joint Committee on Printing staff member Bernadine A. Hoduski, in 1977.

**United States Government Printing Office  
Washington, DC 20401**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for private use, \$300  
Stop LP**

<b>Postage and Fees Paid</b>
<b>GPO</b>
<b>Permit No. G-26</b>

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**