
News Release



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PUBLIC PRINTER NAMES FIVE TO DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL

Public Printer Michael F. DiMario has named five new members to the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. The Council advises the Government Printing Office (GPO) on issues related to public access to Government information products through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Administered by GPO, the FDLP is a nationwide, geographically-dispersed system comprising more than 1,300 libraries acting in partnership with the GPO to provide the general public with local access to Federal Government information products at no cost.

The newly appointed members bring diversified experience to the Council. They are: Lynne Siemers, Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC; Michelle McKnelly, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; John Phillips, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK; Mary Prophet, Denison University, Granville, OH; Laura Sours, Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ.

In addition, Doris Helfer, California State University-Northridge, has been appointed to fill a recent vacancy on the Council. Ms. Helfer replaces Roberta Shaffer, former Executive Director of the Special Libraries Association.

The Depository Library Council consists of 15 representatives of the Government information community who serve for a term of three years. Each year, the Public Printer appoints five members. The newly appointed members will be introduced to Council activities and procedures at the Fall 2002 meeting in Arlington, VA, to be held October 20-23.

Often called America's first "freedom of information" program, the FDLP ensures that the American public has access to Federal Government information. Depository libraries safeguard the public's right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving, and assisting users with information from the Government. GPO disseminates Government information at no cost to designated depository libraries throughout the country. These depository libraries, in turn, provide local, no-fee access to Government information in all formats in an impartial environment with professional assistance.

There are 53 "regional" depositories that have agreed to receive all the materials distributed by GPO and retain them for permanent public access. The remaining "selective" libraries choose the materials they receive based on the demands of their patrons and have limited retention responsibilities.

Anyone can visit depository libraries and use the Federal depository collections, in which they will find information on careers, business opportunities, consumer information, health and nutrition, legal and regulatory information, demographics, and countless other subjects.

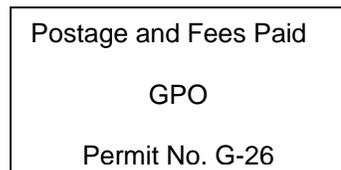
The transition to a more electronic FDLP is continuing, progressing with the trends in Government publishing. In FY 2001, over 60% of the titles in the FDLP were available online. GPO also distributed 5.9 million copies of nearly 15,000 tangible products in printed and electronic formats to depository libraries. The libraries also house computers that can be used to search for and retrieve online information from Government Web sites, including **GPO Access**.

GPO Access, the agency's acclaimed Web site at www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess, provides free online access to depository libraries and the public to more than 200,000 publication titles from all three branches of Government, including the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, and the *Commerce Business Daily*, through information hosted on its own servers as well as links at various agency and official partner sites. **GPO Access** currently averages more than 26 million document retrievals monthly.

The Depository Library Council to the Public Printer meets twice a year: in April at various sites around the country, and in the Washington DC area in October. The April 2002 meeting will be held in Mobile, Alabama, April 20-24. The current Chair is Andrea Severson, formerly Head, Government Information, Government & Social Science Information Service, University of California, Berkeley, CA. The Chair-elect is Cathy Hartman, Documents Librarian/Electronic Resources Coordinator, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX.

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