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GPO PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCESS TO U.S. BUDGET

Electronic Access Continues to Increase

As President Clinton's Fiscal Year 2001 Budget was released to the public through Government Printing Office (GPO) bookstores, thousands of citizens were reviewing the individual budget documents online through **GPO Access**, the public's no-fee Internet link with thousands of information resources available from the Federal Government, at www.access.gpo.gov.

Once again, there was a dramatic increase in the public's use of the online budget. A year ago, the budget documents—including the *Budget*, the *Budget Appendix*, *Historical Tables*, *Analytical Perspectives*, *Citizens Guide*, and *Budget System and Concepts*—were released online via **GPO Access** the same day paper copies went on sale from GPO. At that time, first day sales were 4,631 sets of all the budget documents while GPO Access hits for the same information online were 45,652.

On February 7, 2000, the budget documents and the online version were again released the same day. This time, 4,473 sets of budget documents were sold, a decrease of about 3 percent. However, **GPO Access** hits for budget documents jumped to 115,229, an increase of *more than 150 percent*. The budget documents are available on **GPO Access** at www.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/index.html.

GPO worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the preparation of the six budget documents, which together comprised a total of 2,808 pages. GPO received an "OK to Print" the documents from OMB at about 9 a.m. Sunday morning, January 30, and all publications were completed and ready for distribution well before the target distribution time of 8 a.m. Monday, February 7. A total of 69,528 copies

of the six documents were produced for both OMB and GPO. In addition, the budget information was prepared for dissemination online at 8 a.m. the same day.

In addition to the U.S. Budget, **GPO Access** provides public access to approximately 170,000 Federal titles on GPO's servers and on other Federal websites. Overall, more than 520 million documents have been retrieved by the public from **GPO Access** since it began operation in 1994. Monthly document retrievals today average about 21 million, the equivalent of about 924 gigabytes of information.

In 1999, **GPO Access** was selected as one of the top 50 legal research web sites for the year by *Law Office Computing* magazine, and was named best research site for laws and best Government site overall by the newsletter *legal.online*. It was also chosen as the first recipient of the American Association of Law Libraries Public Access to Government Information Award. Also in 1999, GPO and the Department of Energy jointly won a Hammer Award from Vice President Gore's National Performance Review for an innovative partnership that makes thousands of DOE scientific and technical reports available to the public free of charge over **GPO Access**.

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