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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. The Council advises the Public Printer and Government Printing Office (GPO) officials 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 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: Charlene C. Cain, Associate Librarian/Government Documents Librarian, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA; Cathy Nelson Hartman, Documents Librarian, Electronic Resources Coordinator, University of North Texas, Denton, TX; Dena Hutto, Documents/Social Science Librarian, Reed College, Portland, OR; Greta E. Marlatt, Head, Information Services, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA; and John A. Stevenson, Coordinator, Government Documents and Maps Processing Unit, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

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 the Council activities and procedures at the fall 2000 meeting in Arlington, VA, to be held October 22-25.

Often called America's first "freedom of information" program, the FDLP ensures that the American public has access to its Government's information. Depository libraries safeguard the public's right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving, and assisting users with information from the Federal 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 constituencies and have limited retention responsibilities.

Any member of the public can visit these 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. In 1999, GPO distributed over 16 million copies of 40,000 tangible products to depository libraries.

GPO Access, the agency's acclaimed website at www.access.gpo.gov, provides free online access by depository libraries and the public to more than 170,000 individual publications from all three branches of government, including the Congressional Record, the Federal Register, 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 approximately 21 million document retrievals monthly.

The Depository Library Council meets twice a year: in April at various sites around the country, and in October in the Washington, DC, area. The current Chair is Duncan M. Aldrich, Head, Business and Government Information Center, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, and the Chair-elect is Maggie Farrell, Associate Dean of Libraries, Roland R. Renne Library, Montana State University - Bozeman, Bozeman, MT.

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