

**2002-2003 CD #20.4
2003 ALA Annual Meeting**

**RESOLUTION ON SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS FY 2004 SALARIES AND
EXPENSES APPROPRIATION**

WHEREAS, public access to government information is vital to a democratic society and the economic well-being of the nation and the American public; and

WHEREAS, the Government Printing Office (GPO) Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) reaches the entire nation through its geographically dispersed system of over 1,200 depository libraries and is the primary provider of no-fee public access to federal government information regardless of format; and

WHEREAS, GPO supports the information needs of businesses, researchers, students, and the general public through the FDLP; and

WHEREAS, the needs of various users cannot be met exclusively by electronic dissemination, therefore GPO will need to maintain multiple format distribution systems; and

WHEREAS, almost 250,000 electronic titles of the FDLP Electronic Collection are available to the public through the *GPO Access* system which averages 32 million downloads per month; and

WHEREAS, the technology used by the *GPO Access* system is obsolete, is no longer supported by its manufacturer, and makes it impossible to effectively respond to user demands; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain its award-winning reputation, the *GPO Access* technology must be upgraded in accordance with standard business practices; and

WHEREAS, full funding of this appropriation request would ensure current and permanent public access to government information through partnership programs with federal agencies and depository libraries, electronic government information locator services, bibliographic control of electronic government information and the International Exchange Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges Congress to reaffirm the government's responsibility to provide federal government information products in formats most appropriate to the public's needs and to ensure the permanent public access of federal information in all formats; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges Congress to reaffirm its commitment to *GPO Access* and the Federal Depository Library Program services and collections and to sustain critical functions, such as collecting, producing, cataloging, indexing and distributing

government publications from other agencies and the continuation of the International Exchange Program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges Congress to fund fully the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents Salaries & Expenses appropriation for FY 2004 at the \$30.3 million requested by the Public Printer.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Philadelphia, PA
June 25, 2003

Keith Fiels
Secretary of the ALA Council