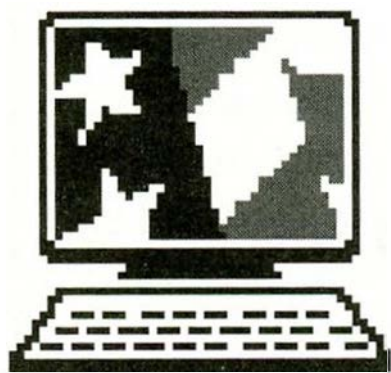


Depository Library Program. The MOCAT database is updated daily with preliminary cataloging records that will be edited and published in future issues of MOCAT. The GPO Access system provides online access to the Congressional Record, the Federal Register, the full text of all published versions of bills introduced in Congress, the Congressional Record Index, the History of Bills, the Lobby List, the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations, the U.S. Code, Public Laws of the 104th Congress, and, through the Federal Bulletin Board, more than 6,000 other files from 25 Federal agencies."

This site develops its value by allowing searchers to gather citations to federally produced information from an immense database of information providers. By searching the database, a user may quickly develop a comprehensive set of citations on almost any topic. In some instances the document is available in electronic format directly from the site.



Where the document is not available online, the searcher can determine its exact location through the use of a query screen. Input of state and/or area code information to this screen returns a listing of

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Boolean, proximity operators, and truncation are all available in the search function. Available fielded searches may increase the chances of obtaining meaningful hits in an expedient manner. The search results present a summary record for each publication. This includes title, format (i.e., microfiche, CD-ROM), date of publication, issuing agency, SuDocs Class Number, and Depository Item Number. If the publication is for sale by GPO, a GPO Stock Number will also be provided. A link is available to display the publication's cataloging record. Documents available online have a URL to access the appropriate site.

This is an important site for libraries that house government documents, and equally important to those that do not. Patrons benefit from a quick response as to what documents are available and their location. This site is a win for the government, the patron, and the librarian.—*Timothy E. McMabon, Metrowest Massachusetts Regional Library System; tmcmaon@simmons.edu* ■

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Letter to the editor

It was so good to see an article, such as Katherine Branch's "The axe for the frozen sea . . ." in the January 1998 *C&RL News*, that extolled the value of reading. I would like to emphasize reading next year on our campus, but I have been hesitant in light of all the emphasis on technology, but your article gives me hope.

The Arts and Sciences Division just sponsored a colloquium on Cold Mountain. Everyone on campus was encouraged to read the book and then discuss it. One of the English instructors led a lively discussion. I would like to work with the Arts and Sciences Division to sponsor more such book discussions.

Thanks for the reference to the Library of Congress site on Building a Nation of Readers. I will go there right after I write this message.

I believe in all the new technologies, but I really feel as Branch does, that reading still has a vital place in our world. Thanks again for your inspiring article.—*Scott Cohen, head librarian, Jackson State Community College, scohen@jscc.cc.tn.us*

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