INTRODUCTION

Scope of Coverage

The *U.S. Government Periodicals Index (USGPI)* annually covers approximately 10,000 articles from about 1,200 issues of more than 160 periodicals. Collectively the publications covered in *USGPI* are highly diverse, but individually most are quite narrowly focused. While all of these periodicals are issued by government agencies, there is no unifying topical theme to the collection. *USGPI* editors have attempted to identify for coverage all articles of research or general interest value.

*USGPI* has interpreted the terms “periodical” and “research value” quite broadly reflecting the wide variety of articles and interests of the differing audiences for whom the publications are intended. However, the majority of publication titles appearing in the *Periodicals Supplement* to the *GPO Monthly Catalog* fall outside even this broad interpretation, as most publications listed there are serial monographs, directories, calendars, bibliographies, narrowly directed in-house newsletters, scientific or statistical data series, or regulatory gazettes and registers. These, together with the *Congressional Record* and the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, are outside the intended scope of this index. *USGPI* has also excluded periodicals that are primarily statistical in nature that are already covered by *American Statistics Index (ASI)*.

Periodicals covered by *USGPI* may generally be divided into four broad categories:

1) General, popular-style publications usually published by agencies to provide information on agency programs to employees and the general public. Examples of this type of publication include: *Appalachia, DOE This Month* and *Consumer Product Safety Review*.

2) Government collected information, public policy and education publications. Examples of this type of publication include: *DISAM Journal* and *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*.

3) Semi-technical publications which describe research developments or agency programs in a non-technical manner, but which nevertheless convey reasonable amounts of technical information. Examples of this type of publication include: *Agricultural Research, FDA Consumer*, and *Science and Technology Review*.

4) Technical and professional publications directed at specialists. Examples of this type of publication include: the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Parameters* and *Schizophrenia Bulletin*.

In covered periodicals, most authored articles more than a page in length have been indexed, as have a great many briefier items. In addition to articles of research value, coverage includes scholarly book reviews, some editorials, photo essays, and occasional pieces of fiction and poetry. The informal working definition of *USGPI* coverage provides for inclusion of all articles that a researcher outside the issuing agency might still be interested in six months after they are first published. With this pragmatic definition in mind, the following categories of articles and materials are normally indexed:

- Technical, research, and policy analysis papers and reports
- General interest feature articles
- Historical analyses
- Military doctrine, military operations, profiles of activities of U.S. citizens abroad
- Safety procedures and illustrative accident accounts
- Interviews
- Speeches
- Lesson plans
- Congressional testimony
- Scientific correspondence
- Conference reports (when containing substantive subject matter)
- Periodical cumulative indexes

*USGPI* generally avoids including articles of transitory interest or limited use outside the issuing agency, as well as articles less than one page in length. Types of articles usually excluded include:

- Editorials and letters from agency heads for in-house use
- Personnel awards announcements
- Agency information product and publication announcements
- Listings of specific personnel actions (postings, promotions, retirements, etc.)
- Agency internal communications (internal bureaucratic announcements and procedures)
- News and current events notices, announcements, calendars columns
- Publication abstracts and summaries
- Grant or aid program contract awards announcements
- Agency “notes” columns
- Legislative activity columns (those giving a listing of new laws enacted)
- Book reviews
- New product announcements
- Photo essays
- Poems

Probably the most ambiguous class of exclusions is “news” items. Many news items are short notices of recent or forthcoming events, but others are more substantive. News articles that have broader interest or have the character of original reporting, or that reach beyond the human interest level, constitute a gray area and are evaluated for inclusion in *USGPI* on a case-by-case basis. An example of the type of news article which would be included is a
profile of the humanitarian activities by a military unit stationed abroad.

From 1970 through 1987, similar coverage of government periodicals was provided by another publisher. Starting in 1995, USGPI undertook to fill this gap in coverage, publishing retrospective volumes in reverse chronological order from 1993 back. In 1999, this goal was realized with the publication of volumes for 1989 in the Spring and 1988 in the late Fall.

Indexing Policies and Vocabulary

Indexing in USGPI generally seeks to parallel the level of sophistication of the article being indexed. Index terms focus on content and major themes, without reflecting ideas that may be subordinate to the main topic. USGPI index terms are not keywords automatically employed because a particular word happens to be used in an article. The value subject-indexing adds to USGPI is the conceptual access it provides to a collection of articles, the titles of which are frequently ambiguous or misleading.

In order to provide a maximum level of access to all potential users, the indexing vocabulary and its system of cross references have been developed and organized so that a user may reasonably expect to find an article indexed to terms sufficiently narrow to be recognizable from the title of the article and yet well enough integrated into the cross-referenced vocabulary that, for non-subject specialists, the article can be located by logically following through on broader, but obviously related subject-based cross references.

The current USGPI thesaurus reflects a process of evolution and development based on the content of articles reviewed. It is, therefore, always open to further change over time. However, in order to avoid unnecessary fragmentation of related materials, new terms are introduced only where it is clear that concepts are not already covered at an appropriate level of detail by existing terms and where it is also clear that new terms have discrete, generally agreed upon meanings and are likely, over time, to be applied to a reasonable number of articles.

While similar to other indexing vocabularies in its most general form, see and see also cross references, no multiple postings of the same term to the same article, no posting of two cross-referenced terms to the same article, the USGPI thesaurus is distinguished from other vocabularies by the following two aspects:

Level of detail

Overall the USGPI vocabulary is made up of very narrow terms, especially in the areas of science, technology, and medicine. Examples of the level of detail can be found by following the cross references under such general terms as "Cancer," "Anatomy," or "Biochemistry."

Cross reference patterns

To allow maximum specificity and flexibility, cross references, while extensive, generally do not cross semantic (or conceptual) categories. Cross referencing therefore tend both to be more hierarchical in character and to embrace fewer related or parallel terms than in some other thesauri. Examples of the character of USGPI cross-referencing patterns, can be found by examining cross-references following from terms such as "Animals," "Matter," or "Diseases and disorders."

Article Titles

USGPI uses actual titles of articles in the index entries. Article titles include subtitles when they appear in the article. Subtitle-like expansions of titles that sometimes appear in periodical tables of contents are not cited in USGPI as subtitles.

Article titles usually give a clear statement of the subject of the document, but not always, and indeed sometimes give no clue whatever. Cryptic, ambiguous, uninformative titles are expanded or annotated to indicate the subject of the document. USGPI-created title annotations appear within square brackets [ ] following the actual title.

Articles may occasionally be parts of a series. When series information is part of the title, it will be cited by USGPI. If series information is located by USGPI editors elsewhere in the article, the part number will be included as a title annotation within brackets.

Government Periodicals Universe

Government Periodicals Universe is the web-based version of USGPI. Subscription includes access to the indexing for all years 1988 through current, as well as links to Internet pages for many of the periodicals covered by USGPI. Librarians wishing information on Government Periodicals Universe should visit the LexisNexis Academic & Library Solutions website at www.lexisnexis.com/academic, write LexisNexis Academic & Library Solutions at 4520 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-3389 or call our toll free number 800-638-8380.
USER INSTRUCTIONS

Accession Numbers
Each article has been assigned a unique accession number consisting of a periodical identification number, a sequential issue number based on the issue’s sequence within the USGPI coverage year, and a sequential article number within the issue. It should be noted that because the USGPI coverage year generally will not match a particular periodical’s volume year, the USGPI sequential issue number will usually not be the same as the issue number assigned by the publisher of the periodical. A typical accession number is illustrated below.

Sample Accession Number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>periodical code</th>
<th>sequentially assigned article number</th>
<th>USGPI year of coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02001-4</td>
<td>within this issue</td>
<td>issue number within</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Index by Subjects and Names
The Index by Subjects and Names provides access to:

- Subject themes of articles including major government programs, legislative acts, and drugs and chemical substances (e.g. Age and aging, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Clean Water Act).
- Government agency names, including Federal agencies, commissions, or congressional committees that are subjects of articles.
- Personal names, both as authors and as subjects of articles.
- Names of companies and institutions that are subjects of articles.

As illustrated on the sample below, the index consists of the following basic structural elements:

- Subject and author terms in bold face type
- See and see also cross-references directing users to the appropriate index term or terms under which additional related information may be found.
- Article titles followed by author name(s), abbreviated periodical title (see list beginning on p. ix), date, volume and issue number, and article collation.
- Accession number assigned to each indexed article, within parentheses.

Subject Terms and Cross-References
Index terms and cross-references have been selected primarily from a controlled vocabulary developed specifically for USGPI. However, while every effort has been made to develop appropriate hierarchical cross-references among concept terms, agency names, and geographic place names, term entries appearing in the index are not limited to words contained in a predetermined vocabulary. In addition to the obvious inclusion of personal names, this inclusion of non-controlled vocabulary terms as subject entries is extended in particular to names of chemicals, minerals, and commodities which may require indexing as the specific topic of an article, yet not occur again in USGPI often enough to warrant incorporation into a term hierarchy. In these instances, the articles will have been indexed both to the narrow article-specific terms and to the more general term from the USGPI controlled vocabulary.

Articles are indexed to the most specific applicable subject terms, and usually not also to broader or narrower terms that do not reflect as well the subject of the article. For example, an article focusing specifically on strikes would be indexed to “Strikes and lockouts” and not also to the more general term “Employment and unemployment.” When the focus of an article is equally upon the more general and the more particular subject term, we place index entries under both terms.

It is important, therefore, to note relevant see also references under a term, as these generally list additional articles not identified under the broader term. See references direct the user from terminology that is not used in the USGPI controlled vocabulary to the specific subject term used in the Index.

Article Titles
Titles are cited as they appear in the source publication, but are often followed by a brief USGPI-provided amplifying annotation enclosed in brackets.
Sample Entries: Index by Subjects and Names

Beaches
see Seashores and beaches

Beacons and buoys
Buoy wave extremes. By David B. Gilhouse, Mer Weather Log. Fall 93, v37 n4, p.33-34, stat, ref (59001-9)

Beale, Calvin L.
Prisons, population, and jobs in nonmetro America.

Beans and edible legumes
see also Peanuts
see also Soybeans
Specialty crops overview. Ag Outl. Oct 93, v201, p.16-18, il (02201-7).
Specialty crops overview. By Glenn Zepp, Ag Outl. Dec 93, v203, p13-15, il (02503-7)

Bearden, Hillman E.
Unusual attitudes: helicopters and instrument flight.
By Hillman E. Bearden, FAA Av N. Oct 93, v32 n7, p.12-14, il (35501-6)