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How to Manipulate Federal Bulletin Board Files

David J. Nuzzo, State University of New York, Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

The Acquisitions Department at the University at Buffalo took over processing of government documents in 1992. Various techniques were used to automate processing in those early days, utilizing dBase III and word processing.

In 1996, a QuickBasic program was created that took scanned shipping lists, automatically checked them against the library's inclusion list, and produced labels for those included items. The University at Buffalo joined with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) to make the matching programs and scanned shipping list files available to all through the Internet. Thus began the first official partnership between GPO and member institutions for distribution of processing tools.

The site changed with the arrival of shipping list data availability on the Federal Bulletin Board, and changed again when UTA chose to leave the partnership. The programs and files can now be found at: <<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/cts/acq/gpo/>>.

The University also undertook a document scanning initiative, wherein library staff take documents of general interest and scan them, making the scanned images available through the online catalog, and also through a "popular index." Access is also provided to documents that are already available in electronic form from the agency if they fit the criteria. The popular index can be found at:
<<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/cts/acq/doctab.html>>.