



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548



CIVIL DIVISION

MAR 21 1972

Dear Mr. Knox:

We have completed our survey of operations of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Department of Commerce. The survey included review of legislative material, various advisory studies, and the policies and procedures followed by NTIS in its collection, processing, and dissemination activities.

NTIS appears to have actively promoted full participation by originating agencies, but has been relatively unsuccessful over a period of several years in acquiring all or even most of the scientific and technical information generated within the Federal Government. NTIS officials have estimated that only 40 percent of such information is being made available to potential users through NTIS.


Since a requirement that Federal agencies make information available to NTIS appears to be essentially a matter for legal resolution, we did not attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of NTIS as a source of federally-sponsored scientific and technical information. The information which we have obtained, however, will be transferred within our Office to the group having primary audit responsibility for government-wide publications activities.

We discussed with your staff certain areas in which improved efficiency and cost reduction might be possible. These areas included stock level decisions and possible reductions in the announcement services and payment methods which are now available.

We appreciate the cooperation extended to our representatives during the survey. We plan no further reporting on the results of this survey, but the information may be used in a future review of government-wide publication activities.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology, the Assistant Secretary for Administration, and the Director, Office of Audits, Department of Commerce.

Sincerely yours,


Max A. Neuwirth
Associate Director

Mr. William T. Knox, Director
National Technical Information Service

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