

techline

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GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys)

Open Government Initiative Achieved through FDsys

On October 5, GPO and the Office of the *Federal Register* (OFR) achieved a breakthrough in making Government information available and usable by the public. GPO converted the text of the Federal Register (2000-2009) into XML and placed it online in numerous Federal Government portals, including FDsys, the *Federal Register* Web site, and Data.gov. This project began when President Obama challenged Federal agencies to create a more open and transparent Government. FDsys was instrumental in enabling this enhanced capability for the *Federal Register*.

"The transformation, undertaken by the Government Printing Office and the National Archives and Records Administration, vastly increases the Federal Register's usefulness to the American public and further opens the curtains on the inner workings of Government, a major goal of the Obama Administration," said Beth Noveck, Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Open Government.

The change supplements the official publishing formats with XML, a form of text that can be manipulated in virtually limitless ways with digital applications. For example, people who want to

know about the workings of the Executive branch of the Federal Government no longer need to sift through the *Federal Register* in its traditional Department-by-Department and Agency-by-Agency format. This new format will allow applications to be developed that will support user needs and can rearrange the Federal Register's contents in personalized ways to match their particular interests. It is possible, for example, to download the Federal Register and easily see what proposed actions might affect one's community or region, or what actions might have an impact on one's profession or business interests.

"Providing ten years of Federal Register data in a format that is easy to manipulate is an exciting and ground-breaking development," said Ray Mosley, Director of the Federal Register. "This paves the way for consumers, rather than Government officials to be in charge of deciding how to access critical information. The Government Printing Office and the Office of the Federal Register accomplished a minor miracle in warp-speed time."

"I want to congratulate GPO employees who worked with The White House and the Office of Federal Register in providing the American people the tools to provide openness and transparency to the documents of our democracy," said Public Printer Bob Tapella. "GPO's Federal Digital System not only provides transparency to our Government, but provides Americans a permanent repository of authentic Federal Government information."

Try it for Yourself
www.fdsys.gov

Give Us Your Feedback
<http://fdsys.blogspot.com/>
pmo@gpo.gov

Tools, including FedThread.org and Public.Resource.org, are already using the XML files for development purposes. Access to the Federal Register Bulk Data Repository is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/bulkdata/FR>. ■

New Collections added to FDsys

GPO is continuing the migration of content from GPO Access, as well as digitally signing many of the collections that are available on FDsys. Since the last Depository Library Council meeting in April 2009, the following collections have been added to FDsys.

- **Congressional Calendars (104th Congress - Present)**
- **Congressional Committee Prints (105th Congress - Present)**
- **List of CFR Sections Affected (1997 - Present)***
- **Economic Indicators (1995 - Present)**
- **Congressional Directory (105th Congress to present)***
- **Congressional Record (Bound) (1999 to 2001)***
- **Congressional Record Index (1993 to present)**
- **Economic Report of the President (1995 to present)**
- **GAO Reports and Comptroller General Decisions (1994 to 2008)**
- **History of Bills (1983 to present)**
- **United States Government Manual (1995/1996 to present)***
- **United States Statutes at Large (2003 to 2006)***

* Indicates new collections available with digital signature. In addition to these collections, the *Federal Register*, *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents*, and *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* collections have now been digitally signed on FDsys.

GCN Names FDsys a Top 10 Government Site

Government Computer News (GCN) named FDsys one of the top 10 great government Web sites in July. The list highlighted Government Web sites that are best for providing more interactive tools for the public and aiding the Obama administration in their goal to increase Government transparency. GCN highlighted the system's authentication capabilities, including digital signatures, as well as the long-term archiving solution. Inclusion in the GCN list, which also named sites such as data.gov and the Department of State's Web site, was a major step for FDsys.

"GPO is honored to be included on such a prestigious list of Government Web sites," said Public Printer Bob Tapella. "FDsys provides the American people transparency to the documents of our democracy and is a trusted source for Federal Government information. I want to congratulate GPO's Chief Information Officer Mike Wash and the entire FDsys team for developing and launching this world class information system." ■

FDsys Tutorials Available

In September, GPO made four FDsys tutorial videos available through the GPO.gov. The videos average about five minutes each in length and help provide an overview of FDsys, as well as demonstrating simple, advanced, and citation searching. The videos are targeted towards general users of the system, such as your library patrons and are available at www.gpo.gov/fdsysinfo/tutorials.htm. ■

Coming Soon

We expect to have the following collections available on FDsys by the end of the year:

- **United States Code**
- **Code of Federal Regulations**
- **Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States**