techline

GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys)

Beta Testing with Library Partners a Success

In October 2007, GPO concluded FDsys beta testing with 24 volunteers from the library community. Evaluators were given two weeks to use the FDsys proof-of-concept version and provide feedback. Over 90% of the evaluators agreed that FDsys was easy to use, and they could find what they were searching for.

"When I saw the FDsys demo, I thought it looked great, very user-friendly, the beginnings of a very, very good program."

Stephanie Braunstein, Louisiana State University

Get the Latest Information

GPO has posted detailed information about GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) at: **http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys**. You can find a wealth of information on all aspects of FDsys including:

- Updates to *Federal Digital System: System Releases and Capabilities* (revised December 2007) and *Federal Digital System: Requirements Document* (revised January 2008);

- Demonstrations of the Search and Submission functions;

- Release schedule with details of the major capabilities of each release.

Also, FDsys has a blog at: **http://fdsys.blogspot.com/**. We would like to hear from you regarding what you think of FDsys.

GPO also conducted a focus group on FDsys during the Fall Depository Library Council meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the public-facing web pages and their usability.

The feedback from the testing, focus groups, and others in the library community has been extremely helpful as we refine the system prior to the first public release later this year. As a result of the feedback, GPO is going to hire a usability expert to help us with interface development and to ensure that the system works as users would expect. Our goal is to ensure that FDsys is easy to use and understand regardless of experience.

GPO will continue to hold focus groups as we move forward with development of the public releases. If you would like to participate in a focus group, e-mail GPO's Program Management Office at **pmo@gpo.gov**. ●

Major Capabilities of the First Public Release

GPO is planning to release FDsys to the public in phases. Each phase will introduce new content and functions. In the chart below, we show the initial three phases and have listed the major capabilities in the release that are of interest to the library community. Also, at the bottom of the page we have defined some of the more technical terms used in the release chart.

First Phase - Release 1C2
(late 2008)

- Manage content and metadata in content packages
- Exchange descriptive metadata between FDsys and ILS
- Replace GPO Access functionality and migrate content into FDsys
- Ensure content authenticity and digitally sign PDF documents
- Provide simple, advanced fielded, citation, and Boolean search
- Enable collection-specific access features, such as browse
- Make content and metadata available for viewing, printing, and downloading

Second Phase - Release 1C3
(mid 2009)

- Provide Congressional submission of content and jobs (orders)
- Assign persistent names (Handles) to content
- Enhance search and access functionality

Third Phase - Release 1C4
(late 2009)

- Provide Government agency submission of content and jobs (orders)
- Provide a documented interface (API) to allow search by non-GPO systems
- Enable navigation of relationships between publications
- Send email and RSS notifications

Definitions of Search and Metadata Terminology

Search: to electronically examine files for the purpose of locating specific items

Simple Search: using a single search box, similar to common search engines

Advanced Fielded Search: search using field specific search options (e.g., author, title, keyword, date)

Citation Search: search using field specific search options for the purpose of retrieving a single piece of content that matches those options (e.g., the Introduced in House version of H.R.1234 from the 109th Congress)

Boolean Search: search using keywords and logical operators (e.g., AND, OR, NOT)

Metadata: information that facilitates interpretation, management, and location by describing essential attributes and significant properties

Descriptive metadata: bibliographic information describing, classifying, and characterizing the identity and context of the content

Preservation metadata: information collected to aid in preservation processes, including technical metadata (e.g., file format, computer environment) and provenance metadata (events and actors around objects)

Structural Metadata: describes the relationship between objects in a package, including renditions (e.g., copies of a document in different file formats)

FDsys Outreach

Since the Fall Depository Library Council meeting, the FDsys team has been meeting with a variety of groups to show the proof-of-concept demonstration. We've held over 20 meetings with Congress, federal agencies, and our library partners. Here is a list of people we talked to from October 2007 through March 2008.

October 2007

- **Western Pennsylvania Document Librarians' Group**
- **CENDI Web Harvesting Working Group, Norfolk, VA**

November 2007

- **National Digital Strategy Advisory Board (NSDAB), Digitization Standards Working Group, Washington, DC**
- **Agency Demo Day, Washington, DC**

January 2008

- **Office of the Clerk of the House, Washington, DC**
- **Office of the Secretary of State, Washington, DC**
- **ALA Midwinter Conference, Philadelphia, PA**
- **ALA GODORT Federal Document Task Force, Philadelphia, PA**
- **ALA GODORT State & Local Documents Task Force, Philadelphia, PA**

FDsys team members to share information internationally

Many groups worldwide are interested in FDsys. Our team strives to share ideas and knowledge acquired through our development process with as many individuals as possible. We have several exciting opportunities to share our experiences coming up soon.

The Society for Imaging Science and Technology's (IS&T) 2008 Archiving Conference

Lisa LaPlant and Kate Zwaard will be presenting a paper titled "A Holistic Approach for Establishing Content Authenticity and Maintaining Content Integrity in a Large OAIS Repository" in an interactive presentation at the 2008 Archiving Conference held in June in Bern, Switzerland. The Archiving Conference is attended by experts from industry, academia, governmental institutions, nonprofit organizations, libraries, museums, and research labs who share a commitment to addressing the challenges of archiving modern and historic materials in a digital world.

International Internet Preservation Consortium

GPO will have FDsys team representatives at the General Assembly Meeting in Australia in April.

Society of American Archivists Convention

Mike Wash, GPO's Chief Information Officer, will participate in a panel discussion on the challenges of digital preservation at this meeting in San Francisco, California in August.

MIKE WASH *GPO's Chief Information Officer*

How will GPO ensure that digital documents remain accessible to the public as formats and technologies change?

Dealing with digital files over time exposes a number of challenges — particularly finding a way to read older format media and converting files to make them usable in today's and future applications. The bigger — and probably eternal — challenge is the rapidly evolving and changing world of applications and formats.

Preservation processes come in three forms: refresh, migration, and emulation. Refresh is the simple process of reading a file, verifying that it is still readable and then re-writing it. Migration is a process to move old formats to a new format — for example, moving Office 2003 documents to Office 2007. Emulation is a bit more abstract — creating an operating environment similar to the environment that existed when the file was created. An example of this would be emulating an early 1980's IBM PC operating environment to read WordStar documents.

At GPO, we will use a mix of these methods depending on the file type and circumstances. Refresh and migration will probably be used most often. •

FDsys

Mike Wash Chief Information Officer
Scott Stovall Director of Programs and Technology
　　Brenda Washington Administrative Support

Communications
　　Carrie Gibb Program Communications
　　Moira Shea Program Communications

Technology
　　Deng Wu Lead Innovation Specialist
　　George Barnum Content System Manager

Program Management
Kirk Knoll PMO Associate Director
　　Matt Landgraf Lead Program Planner
　　Adam Schwartz Program Planner
　　Magan Mohrmann Program Planner

Gil Baldwin PMO Associate Director
　　Kate Zwaard Lead Program Planner
　　Liz Pruszko Program Planner

Selene Dalecky PMO Associate Director
　　Lisa LaPlant Lead Program Planner
　　Kirk Petri Program Planner
　　Blake Edwards Program Planner

Contact Information pmo@gpo.gov
http://www.gpo.gov/projects/fdsys.htm
202.512.1080