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Moving GPO to a Content-Centric Model from a Print-Centric Model

The Government Printing Office is transforming from a print-centric agency to one that delivers Federal information products and services from a digital platform. The Future Digital System (FDsys) will enable GPO to manage content in digital form.

FDsys will support access, apply version control, and preserve authentic digital content, while enabling users to receive that content in the format or delivery channel they desire.

Background

In the mid nineties, GPO began making the Congressional Record, Congressional Bills, Federal Register, and Code of Federal Regulations, and other Federal publications, available online through GPO Access. Most of the information on GPO Access is a by-product of the printing process, but in a content-centric future these relationships will change. GPO will employ an integrated systems architecture that manages digital content, and print products will be one of many delivery options.

GPO Systems Architecture

GPO’s enterprise systems architecture is being established in alignment with GPO’s strategic plan to meet the needs of all business units by concentrating the agency’s portfolio management to create systems for business information, digital production, and content management.

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A Content-Centric Digital Environment

In a content-centric digital environment, it is essential for GPO to have flexible systems that will
- automate many of the electronic content lifecycle processes,
- streamline GPO’s business processes, and
- deliver content in formats suited to our customers’ needs.

In October 2004, GPO documented its concept of the system the FDsys Concept of Operations document, and in May 2005 GPO released a preliminary Requirements Document. The ConOps and Requirements Document focused on high-level user requirements and what the system needs to do, not how it is going to do it.

MI Procurement

On April 4, 2006, GPO issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a master integrator (MI) or prime contractor who will work collaboratively with GPO to develop FDsys. The ultimate objective for the MI will be to create the system design and development and then integrate various components, technology, and applications that support FDsys functions, and subsequently deliver a system that meets the requirements expressed by GPO and our users.

GPO received responses to the RFP for the FDsys Master Integrator (MI) on May 24 and is now in the process of evaluating the proposals based on the evaluation factors stated in the RFP. GPO’s evaluation and award process will be based on best-value principles, and an award will be made to the responsible and technically acceptable offeror whose proposal provides the greatest overall value to GPO, price and technical factors considered. GPO expects to award the MI contract by the end of July, 2006.

Systems Integration

FDsys is a metadata-intensive system, and the Integrated Library System (ILS) is expected to be used in FDsys to support the creation, maintenance, and dissemination of descriptive metadata. The ILS will describe and locate all in-scope publications whether tangible or digital, while FDsys manages digital content. A cross-functional team from the Office of the Chief Technical Officer, Information Technology and Systems, and Library and Content Management Service are collaborating to integrate the ILS with FDsys. Recent accomplishments include data conformity testing and a systems security evaluation of the ILS X-server. The team has identified a series of next steps and action items to progress toward a full integration of the systems.

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The Program Management Office (PMO), which is dedicated to delivering the Future Digital System, has been working on a series of initiatives to engage customers and capture feedback.

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The Future Digital System- A world class system for managing official Government content, which will verify and track versions, assure authenticity, preserve content, and provide permanent access.