Next Generation FDsys (NextGen)

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FDsys

Content Management System

- Securely controls digital content throughout its lifecycle to ensure authenticity and integrity.

Preservation Repository

- Follows archival system standards to ensure long-term preservation and access of digital content.

Public Access Website

- Combines extensive metadata with modern search technology.
Background

- GPO’s Federal Digital System (FDsys) was publicly launched on January 15, 2009, after the initial design, development, and usability testing were completed in the summer of 2008.
- FDsys became GPO’s system of record in December 2010.
- The FDsys public website provides users with access to hundreds of thousands of legislative, executive, and judicial documents.
- There have been hundreds of millions of document retrievals since FDsys launched almost five years ago.

Reason for Change

- Mainstream adoption of mobile technology
- Increase in use of social media and social sharing
- Maturity of semantic web and linked data technologies
- Search engine nearing end of life in FDsys environment
- Commitment to respond to user feedback and requests for updated functionality
- Importance of staying up-to-date with standard functionality provided by Government information websites
Goal

Develop the next generation FDsys public website that
- Utilizes a mobile first design strategy,
- Incorporates an open source search engine,
- Provides users with access to related content, and
- Improves overall site usability.

NextGen Initiatives

NextGen encompasses four interrelated initiatives that are managed as part of the FDsys Program:
- Usability Testing and User Interface Improvements (Usability)
  - Joann Sharp
- Search Engine Refresh (SERP)
  - Alec Bradley
- Publication Linking (PubLink)
  - Amanda Colvin
- Responsive User Interface Design (RUID)
  - Jon Quandt
Usability

- Goal is to measure the usability of the FDsys public website and update the interface to demonstrate measurable improvements.
- Usability Testing
  - Initial usability test to establish baseline
  - Implement usability improvements
  - Usability post test to demonstrate measurable improvements
- User Feedback
  - Focus groups with internal and external stakeholders
  - Analysis of AskGPO and FDLP Forecast Study feedback
  - Expert usability evaluation by GSA's Center for Excellence in Digital Government
  - Contact askGPO to participate. Category: FDsys comments/suggestions

SERP

- Goal is to replace the existing FAST search engine with the SOLR search engine including updates to the supporting components.
- Selection criteria for SOLR
  - Enterprise search platform
  - Maintains existing search architecture
  - Improves existing search functionality
  - Open source
  - No license fee
  - Implemented by large public and private sector organizations
PubLink

- Goal is to create a business intelligence layer to define, persist, access, and present relationships among documents.
- Sample use cases
  - Related bill versions
  - Legislative process
  - Regulatory process
- Semantic web technologies (Web 3.0)
  - Resource Description Framework (RDF)
  - Web Ontology Language (OWL)
  - Extensible Markup Language (XML)

RUID

- Goal is to develop a new FDsys public user interface that utilizes responsive design principles and technologies.
- Features
  - Layout that flexibly adapts to fit mobile, tablet, and desktop screens
  - Social Media integration
  - Clean design – less clutter
  - Improved navigation to discover relevant and related content
  - Prominent advanced search options and enhanced filters
  - Quick access to new content including the daily Congressional Record, Federal Register, and Congressional Calendars
Preliminary Paper Prototypes

Desktop Homepage
Mobile Homepage

Desktop Search Results
Mobile Search Results

NextGen Next Steps

- Conduct usability testing
- Perform iterative development based on stakeholder feedback
- Install and configure new network infrastructure
- Set up and test new Production and COOP hardware
- Deploy NextGen on new hardware, load data, and test
- Launch NextGen as a public Beta in parallel with existing site
Questions