

# techline

October 2008

## GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys)

### First Public Release of FDsys

The first public release of FDsys is less than three months away. The participation of the library community in the beta and interface design testing has been valuable in the development of the system. The feedback of the library community is helping GPO give the American public a

first class, one-stop site to authentic, published government information. All of the content available on *GPO Access* will be accessible through FDsys. This January, the system will enhance searching and browsing capabilities currently found on *GPO Access*. For example, these new features will allow the user to browse documents by Congressional Committee. Throughout the next several years, GPO will continue to expand the capabilities of FDsys through a series of releases; including the enhancement of access functionality and the submission of content by Congress and Federal agencies.

This first release to the public in January 2009 will replace the functionality available on *GPO Access*. All the information currently available on *GPO Access* must be migrated into FDsys. This migration process is not as easy as simply copying the content to a new location. In order for the advanced search capabilities in FDsys to work properly, all of the information being migrated must be analyzed and parsed. Parsing is the process of extracting information from a content file and storing that information as metadata. Metadata is used by various FDsys processes including search and browse. Analysis and parsing is a lengthy process; therefore, GPO has secured the help of a contractor to assist with the process. The migration of data will be completed on a collection by collection basis (i.e. the *Federal Register*, Congressional Bills, *Congressional*

#### 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.

Record) and at launch FDsys will contain at least eight collections. These collections include

- **Federal Register**
- **Congressional Bills**
- **Public and Private Laws**
- **Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents**
- **Congressional Record**
- **Congressional Reports**
- **Congressional Documents**
- **Congressional Hearings**

The expected completion date to migrate the remainder of the *GPO Access* content to FDsys, will be in 2009. After a collection has been migrated, any new content added to that collection will be available within FDsys. Prior to the completion of the migration effort, FDsys and *GPO Access* will exist simultaneously. Launching FDsys prior to the completion of data migration offers several benefits. Users will be able to take advantage of the advanced searching capabilities for the most sought-after information immediately. In addition, since development of the second phase of FDsys has already begun, launching the system in January will allow GPO to elicit feedback and make changes to the system in the second release.

The features that will be available in the first public release of FDsys are extensive and the system will have a significant impact on how people access government information. Search engines will be able to crawl and index publicly available content within the system and that content will have persistent, predictable links – meaning a link will not stop working after a user closes their browser session.

As mentioned previously, development of the second phase will occur simultaneously with the migration of content and is expected to be complete in 2009. New functionality planned for the second phase will:

- Allow submission of content directly into FDsys by Congress
- Enhance existing search and access functionality
- Enable preservation processes to support permanent public access

## Capabilities by Release

### First Phase - Late 2008

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

### Second Phase - Mid 2009

- Provide Congressional submission of content and jobs (orders)
- Enhance search and access functionality

### Third Phase - Late 2009

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

### Release 2

- Automatically gather information from Federal agency websites (harvest)
- Capability to acquire, integrate, or link content from external sources
- Content recommendations based on user preferences
- Automatically execute saved searches
- Online GPO bookstore interface
- Output metadata in multiple formats, including MARC, ONIX, and ASCII
- Customizable alert services, help features, and search preferences

### Release 3

- Detailed billing information
- Customizable billing reports
- Tools to support document creation
- Estimating capabilities
- Enhanced job tracking
- Collaborative working environment for content creation
- Ability to interface with Federal agencies' internal procurement systems to transmit orders

## Snapshot of Search Functionality

GPO is committed to ensuring that users can easily locate information they desire within FDsys. Currently on *GPO Access*, publications are stored in over 4,000 separate WAIS databases — with FDsys users will be able to perform a search across all content and will not need to have prior knowledge about how the information is stored. By defaulting to a simple search box, similar to common search engines, searching for information should be intuitive to most users. After a user performs a search, filters are generated which allow users to easily narrow down their results.

The screenshot shows the FDsys search interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'Wind Energy' entered. Below the search bar, there are navigation options like 'Home', 'About', and 'Advanced Search'. The main content area displays search results for 'Wind Energy', listing several documents with their titles, dates, and brief descriptions. The results are numbered 1 through 5. The first result is '2006-06-02 - Interconnection for Wind Energy June 2, [PDF 133 KB]'. The second is '2006-12-12 - Interconnection for Wind Energy Issued December 12, 2006, AGENCY: Federal...'. The third is '2006-01-24 - Interconnection for Wind Energy and Other Alternative Technologies January 24, [PDF 45 KB]'. The fourth is '2006-11-06 - Windy Point Wind Energy Project November [PDF 2 KB]'. The fifth is '2006-08-05 - Interconnection for Wind Energy Issued August 5, [PDF 5 KB]'. The interface also includes a sidebar with navigation links like 'Home', 'About', and 'Advanced Search'.

FDsys also offers advanced searching capabilities, such as entering criteria for the collection, title, branch, and/or author. Users who have the citation numbers for a publication can easily navigate directly to that document by using the citation search option.

The screenshot shows the 'RETRIEVE BY CITATION' form. It has a dropdown menu for 'Collection' set to 'Congressional Bills (e.g. 110 H.R. 1234 Enrolled)'. Below this, there are four input fields: 'Congressional Congress\*', 'Bill Type\*', 'Bill Number\*', and 'Bill Version\*'. The 'Congressional Congress\*' field has a dropdown menu with 'Select Congress' selected. The 'Bill Type\*' field has a dropdown menu with 'Select Type' selected. The 'Bill Number\*' field has a text input with '0' entered. The 'Bill Version\*' field has a dropdown menu with 'Select Version' selected. At the bottom of the form, there is a 'Retrieve Document' button.

## Training & Help Features

Users will have multiple ways of accessing help, including a knowledge base and contextual or field-specific help. Many fields or labels within FDsys can be selected to give users a brief description of the functionality, with more information available within the knowledge base. The knowledge base will be completely searchable and offer a table of contents, index, glossary, and links to related information. GPO also plans to offer online training sessions and upload short video tutorials on the FDsys website upon launch. If you have any suggestions regarding training, email [pmo@gpo.gov](mailto:pmo@gpo.gov).

## Beta Testing

GPO is requesting volunteers to participate in beta testing for the first release of FDsys. This process allows the system to undergo usability testing with users who provide feedback, so that any malfunctions can be reported and fixed prior to launch. Beta testing will occur during a two-week period, beginning in early December 2008. Typically testing requires no more than two hours to complete. If you would like to participate in beta testing, email [pmo@gpo.gov](mailto:pmo@gpo.gov).



**MIKE WASH** *GPO's Chief Information Officer*

**What impact will FDsys have on scope determinations?**

Content, which is determined to be in-scope for GPO's information dissemination programs, will be preserved in FDsys for permanent public access. However, FDsys will also manage out-of scope content, which is part of GPO's business, such as print jobs for letterhead, business cards, invitations, etc. FDsys will allow GPO to automate what is now a manual, time consuming process. Routine submissions of regular titles, such as the Congressional documents, and the Federal Register, etc., will be recognized by FDsys as being in scope. Content submissions for which a system determination cannot be conclusively made will be routed to a GPO employee for determination. •

**FDsys**

**Mike Wash** Chief Information Officer  
**Scott Stovall** Director of Programs and Technology  
**Selene Dalecky** Program Manager  
**Brenda Washington** Administrative Support

**Communications**

**Carrie Gibb** 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

**Kate Zwaard** Lead Program Planner

**Lisa LaPlant** Lead Program Planner

**Kirk Petri** Program Planner

**Blake Edwards** Program Planner

**Contact Information** [pmo@gpo.gov](mailto:pmo@gpo.gov)

<http://www.gpo.gov/projects/fdsys.htm>

202.512.1080