

Next Generation FDsys (NextGen)

FDLP Virtual Conference
December 12, 2013



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

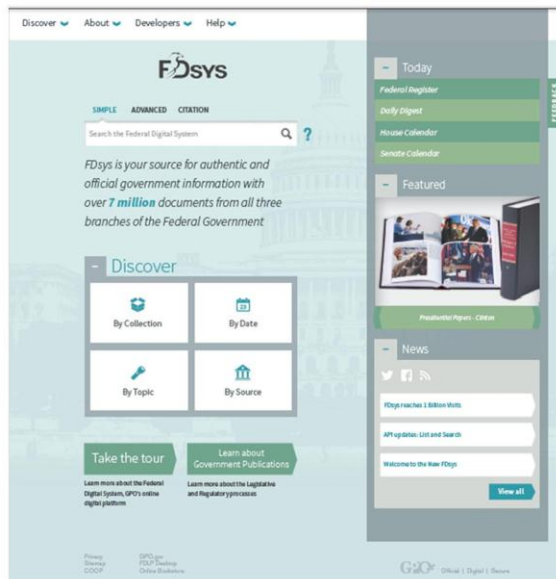
- Goal is to create a business intelligence layer to define, persist, access, and present relationships among documents.
- Sample use cases
 - Related bill versions
 - Legislative process
 - Regulatory process
- Semantic web technologies (Web 3.0)
 - Resource Description Framework (RDF)
 - Web Ontology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

RUID

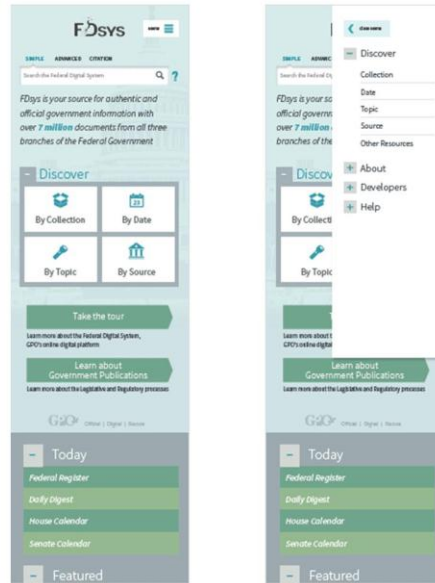
- Goal is to develop a new FDsys public user interface that utilizes responsive design principles and technologies.
- Features
 - Layout that flexibly adapts to fit mobile, tablet, and desktop screens
 - Social Media integration
 - Clean design – less clutter
 - Improved navigation to discover relevant 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

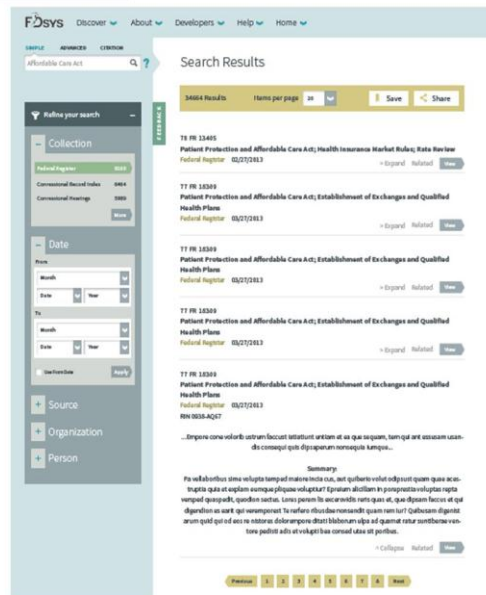
Desktop Homepage




Mobile Homepage



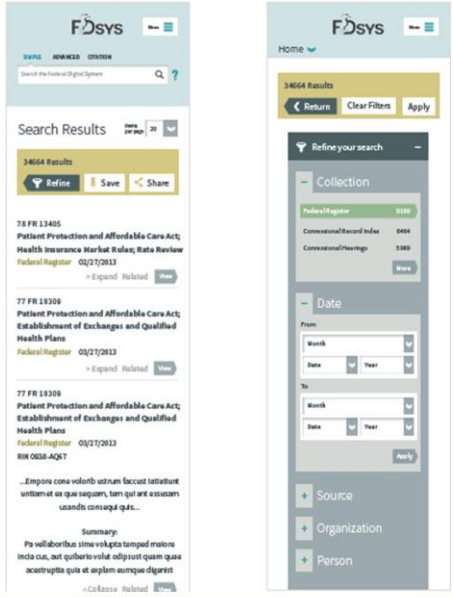
Desktop Search Results




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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

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Questions