

Libraries & Government: Issues, Services and Strategies

Current E-Government Policy Issues

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Overview of Key Issues

- Importance of e-Life Cycle Management
- E- Government Act of 2002
- Administration's Reports on E-Gov
- E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007
- Digitization of Agency Legacy Collections
- Role of Librarians in E-Government Policy

Importance of Electronic Life Cycle Management

- “e-Life Cycle Management” includes:
 - Creation
 - Finding tools
 - Version control
 - Citation (legal information)
 - Authentication
 - Permanent public access
 - Preservation

Who's Responsible?

- Commercial search engines?
- Google?
- Publishers?
- Internet Archive?
- Free web services?
- Libraries?
- Government?

E-Government Act (P.L. 107-347)

- Drafted after a year of public comment
- Created Federal CIO in new Office of Electronic Government at OMB
- Established E-Gov fund for interagency projects (interoperability)
- Integrated federal portal (USA.gov)
- Community Technology Centers

E-Government Act (cont'd)

- Federal study on digital divide
- District courts to develop comprehensive web sites
- Improved public access to rule-making process (regulations.gov)
- AOUSC “may” charge fees for PACER
- Created Interagency Committee on Government Information (ICGI)

What We Wanted & Didn't Get

- Advisory Council to make recommendations *with public input*
 - ~ DROPPED, ICGI to make policy recommendations
- Standards for permanent public access
 - ~ DROPPED, new authority for NARA to schedule agency e-records
- Agency use of non-proprietary cataloging and indexing standards
 - ~ Punted to ICGI & not implemented by OMB

What We Wanted & Didn't Get

- Agency requirement to inventory agency web sites and add links to FirstGov (USA.gov)
~ DROPPED
- No-fee public access to PACER
~ But, change from “must” to “may” allowed
AOUSC/GPO PACER pilot project
- Online phone directories on agency web sites
~ DROPPED

EOP Report on Expanding E-Gov (May 2008)

- Annual \$70 B on federal IT
- Savings of \$508 M by e-Gov initiatives

- E-Gov is great deal for taxpayers!

Agency costs in FY 2008: \$121.41 M

Agency fee-for-services: \$340.27 M

FY 2007 Report to Congress on Implementation (March 2008)

- OMB Memo requires agencies to publish all public information on the Internet
- Regulations.gov has “transformed” rulemaking process
- More sophisticated search engines
- Success of Community Technology Centers (Dept. of Ed, public libraries, federal depository libraries)
- New public/private partnerships, such as NARA/Google

Agency Legacy Digitization

- NARA partnerships & *Guidelines on Digitization*
 - Exclusive agreements
 - Free online access at NARA facilities
 - NARA retains ownership of digital files
 - NARA can provide free to all after time limit
- More partnerships than “stolen govt laptops”
- Bad GAO deal to digitize legislative histories

E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007 (S. 2321)

- To reauthorize appropriations through FY 2012 for:
 - Federal Internet portal
 - Government wide repository and web site
 - Study of best practices at Community Technology Centers
 - Common protocols for GIS
 - OMB's electronic government services

E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007

- Amends the PRA to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to:
 - develop best practices for agencies to follow in conducting privacy impact assessments
 - develop guidance and best practices to improve searchability of government web sites
 - provide annual reports to Congress

Status of E-Gov Reauthorization

- S. 2321 favorably reported
- Senate Committee Report due soon, will include assessment of 2002 Act
- No House bill yet

What You Can Do

- Support E-Gov Reauthorization Act
- Educate legislators about need for e-life cycle management ~ “stories” of lost information
- Assess government web sites and services, and publish findings
- Educate legislators that e-Gov is “unfunded mandate” for libraries
- Work with allies in your state to improve access to e-Gov information and services