

National Technical Information Service (NTIS) Update & New Initiatives

Federal Depository Library
Conference
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Background

- National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Established 1945 to collect and provide permanent access to nation's scientific, technical, engineering and business information
- 3 Million titles in collection

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NTIS Mission

- To collect and disseminate scientific and technical information produced by U. S. Government and foreign sources in order to support the nation's economic growth and job creation
- To maintain a permanent archive

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NTIS Statutory Funding

Title 15, U. S. Code 1153 --
Directs NTIS "...to the fullest extent feasible...that each of the services and functions...shall be self-sustaining or self-liquidating..."

NTIS Receives Approximately 45,000 Information Products Annually

- U. S. government reports
- International technical reports
- Conference proceedings and journal articles
- Computer products
- Multimedia products

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NTIS Collection

- 1945 - Present
- Approximately 3 million records
- Nation's largest collection of USG scientific, technical, engineering & business-related information

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NTIS Collection (Continued)

- Electronic, web harvesting, & paper input
- All records input are abstracted, indexed (using controlled vocabulary) & cataloged in the NTIS Database
- Online searching and CD-ROMs available through many commercial services

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NTIS Current Status

- Neither the Administration nor Congress has pursued the closure of NTIS
- Hiring freeze eliminated
- Financially sound
- NTIS mandated by law

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New NTIS Initiative.... e-Government Virtual Library

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Challenges in Locating USG Information on the Web

- Searching for and finding relevant information
- Ensuring permanent availability of information
 - “Electronic publications residing on agency servers are only as permanent as the agency’s whim dictates”

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The NTIS Response....

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NTIS e-Government Virtual Library Initiative

- Collect & archive full-text STI reports and provide permanent availability
- Provide single point of entry to search and locate 3.0M reports through NTIS
- Provide permanent links to agency web sites to download full-text reports

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NTIS e-Government Virtual Library Initiative (Continued)

- Provide access from NTIS collection to permanent archived copy if agency removes report from web

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NTIS e-Government Virtual Library Initiative.... Winter 2001

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Phase I --- Accessing the NTIS Electronic Collection (1997 - Present)

- Single point of entry to over 350K reports (1997-present)
- Controlled vocabulary terms for easy & effective online searching & retrieval
- Nominal fee for download of reports held only by NTIS
- Linking to other agency web sites for free download of reports

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NTIS Digital Identifier (DI) Initiative

NTIS will manage a system for the USG that assigns, manages, and resolves persistent "Handles" for digital objects in multiple locations

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NTIS DI (Continued)

- NTIS acquired naming authority to assign “Handles” from Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)
- NTIS will assign “Handles” to information resources on behalf of federal agencies (e.g. DOT, EPA)
- Operate “Resolver” on behalf of user community

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NTIS e-Government Virtual Library Initiative ---Benefits

Greatly enhance the usefulness & dissemination of the NTIS information collection to nontraditional users (small business, students, individual researchers, etc.)

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Ultimate Goals for e-Government Virtual Library Initiative....

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Accessing the Entire NTIS Collection (1945-Present)

- Comprehensive single point of entry to the remaining collection of 2.5M reports
- Controlled vocabulary terms for easy & effective online searching & retrieval
- NTIS will provide free downloads of all reports in electronic format that are held only by NTIS
- Linking to other agency web sites for free download of reports

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Science.gov Initiative....

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Science.gov Initiative

- CENDI+ alliance to develop a science portal for FirstGov
- Received funding from the CIO's Cross Agency Portal fund
- NTIS portion provides the scientist, engineer, and science-attentive citizen with a searchable and browsable gateway to government STI resources
 - government expertise & services
 - laboratories
 - information centers

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Science.gov Initiative --- Continued

- NTIS identified and indexed over 1,000 selected USG web sites
- NTIS *SciTechResources.gov* site will continue to grow
- Science.gov will include multi-database & deep web searching
- Usability and user feedback testing beginning
- Official launch late this year

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www.ntis.gov

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