

GODORT creating an online publishing presence: advantages and disadvantages?

*Points to consider**

by Andrea Morrison

Why use it, who has access, and what's the best and the worst of this possible world?

REPRINTING/REPUBLISHING ADVANTAGES:

- Capture fugitive documents, grey literature, hot topics, and disappearing documents. Restrict this reprinting to documents not under copyright protection. Keep only documents of current interest, (weed yearly?) but may want to provide archiving for some. For example what about *Science at its Best; Security at its Worst*. Our depository only received the appendix, not the full report, available on the whitehouse site. When the administration changes will the full report no longer be available?
- Update print publications for which GODORT has copyright and make them available on the web.
- Archive significant electronic documents from the Task Forces and Committees.
- Republish significant documents from State Government Information organizations with permission.

REPRINTING/REPUBLISHING DISADVANTAGES:

- Time and Effort involved is too great, in selection, weeding, and mounting. May require new group to be formed.

- Too many complications for the mission of this organization. May require policies and procedures for groups such as the Editorial Review Board, and other decision- makers.
- Server space not available

MOVE FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING: GENERAL ADVANTAGES

- Save money for GODORT members. (The cost may be a disadvantage if permanent server space and other services must be purchased. Paper issues can be archived by the owners, but GODORT assumes this responsibility in a move to electronic only.)
- Simplify distribution
- Permanent access/archiving - both positive and negative. It may be easier to archive only selected documents, *Dttp* for example. Create GODORT archive of electronic publications.
- Notification is much faster
- Such a move is likely to update GODORT's image, its ability to change and be responsive to the electronic environment
- Could possibly generate income by granting reprinting permission for GODORT resources* Digital Rights Management (DRM) technology would also permit GODORT to protect digital content and to track digital contents use in many ways.
- Assist organization in running more efficiently, assist members individually in their roles
- Reader can play a more active role in gathering the information needed**
- Publish more current information
- Publish quick responses to issues concerning government information
- Publish more editorials, letters from GODORT, etc.

- Publish fugitive Internet documents, or hot documents, perhaps for a limited time

((For example, *Report on the availability of bombmaking information...prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice* (<http://cryptome.org/abi.htm>) " Cryptome welcomes documents for publication that are prohibited by governments worldwide, in particular material on cryptology, dual-use technologies, national security and intelligence, but not limited to those. ")

MOVE FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING: GENERAL DISADVANTAGES

- Who has access? Can we assume all of our readers have Internet access? Is a survey required?
- Addressing permanent site and server space problems (this is not new)
- Would e-journal be by subscription. If not, would effect would the loss of revenue have on GODORT. (any loss of profitability)
- Would a move to an e-*DttP* be in place of or in addition to print?
- Would GODORT lose readers of *DttP* otherwise? Is a survey required?

(will readers log-in and read online? Would they get announcements in a timely way? Are they all on e-mail? Would we lose our advertisers, or could they be transferred to the online version?)

- Making a new business plan for selling advertisement and protecting intellectual property needed, requiring time and effort
- Preparing a master source file for the format may be a huge undertaking, and may require purchasing outside assistance