Appendix E Questionnaire and Glossary of Terms

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PRODUCT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: This form is to be completed *only* for products that are either already in electronic mediums or products that are to be migrated to electronic mediums. Do *not* complete this form for products that will remain in paper or microform mediums only. A product is defined as "a Government publication or other work of the United States Government conveyed in a tangible physical medium such as a book, CD-ROM, etc., or disseminated through an electronic Government information service and intended for public dissemination." (See enclosed glossary for definitions of terms used throughout this questionnaire.) *Complete one questionnaire for each product.* (*Please note that a Website is not considered a product, although products might be on a Website.*)

A.	GENERAL INFORMATION
1.	Agency Name:
	Sub-Unit:
2.	Name of Product:
3.	Brief Description of Product:
4.	URL for Product Website:
	☐ Check if no Website
В.	CURRENT PRODUCT PROFILE
5.	How is this product used by the end user? (Check all that apply.)
	a. Information access and retrieval
	b. Data analysis (e.g., to support analysis by end user) \square^1
	c. Other (specify) \square^1

6. What types of data are contained within this product?

In Column A, indicate which type of data this product contains. (Check all that apply.)

In **Column B**, indicate the primary type of data contained in this product. For example, if you checked boxes for items b and f in column A, indicate which of the two is the primary type of data by placing a check in the appropriate box in column B.

	True of John	A. Type of data contained	B. Primary type of data
	Type of data	(Check all that apply)	(Check only one)
a.	Bibliographic data		
b.	Graphical data (photos, charts, graphs, tables, drawings)		\square^2
c.	Numerical data		3
d.	Sound		\square^4
e.	Spatial data (maps, coordinate files)		5
f.	Textual data (books, serials, reports)		□ ⁶
g.	Video		□ ⁷
h.	Multimedia (sound, video, text, graphics)		□8
i.	Other (specify)		9

7a. In what mediums is this product publicly available?

In Column A, indicate which type of medium is used. (Check all that apply.)

In **Column B**, for each medium used, indicate whether there is a medium standard that is mandated by the agency, a common practice in the agency (although not mandated), other (i.e., not agency-mandated standard or common agency practice, but new and promising and beginning to be used, etc.), **OR** none of these.

In **Column C**, for each type of medium used, check **one** box to indicate the primary type used.

		A. Type of mediums used	B. Standard— Is there			C. Primary typ	
Medium		(Check all that apply)	Agency- mandated standard (Ch	Common agency	Other	None ory)	of medium used (Check only one)
Pre-Ele	ctronic Mediums			,	3		
a.	Paper	\square^1		\Box^2	☐ 3	\Box^4	
b.	Microform			\square^2	\square^3	\square^4	\square^2
c.	Other (specify)	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3		\square^3
Electron	ic Mediums						
Magr	netic Mediums						
d.	Magnetic tape			\square^2	\square^3		\square^4
e.	Floppy diskette			\square^2	\square^3		
f.	Hard drive			\square^2	\square^3		\Box^6
g.	Other (specify)	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\square^4	\square^7
	Describe medium in more detail						
Optio	cal Mediums						
h.	CD-ROM			\square^2	\square^3	\square^4	□8
i.	WORM (Write once, read many disk)			\square^2	\square^3		□°
j.	DVD (digital video disk)			\square^2	\square^3		
k.	Other (specify)			\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	
	Describe medium in more detail						
Onli	ne Mediums			_			
1.	Web			\square^2	\square^3		12
m.	Gopher			\square^2	\square^3		
n.	Bulletin Board Systems	<u> </u>					□ ¹⁴
О.	Other (specify)		☐ ¹	\square^2	∐³		□15
	Describe medium in more detail						
			l				I

If you checked "Other" category in Question	7a, Column B, pl	lease expla	in	 	

8a. Which of the following types of formats does this product use?

In Column A, indicate which type of format is used. (Check all that apply.)

In **Column B**, for each format used, indicate whether there is a format standard that is mandated by the agency, a common practice in the agency although not mandated, other (i.e., not agency-mandated standard or common agency practice, but new and promising and beginning to be used, etc.), **OR** none of these.

In **Column C**, for each type of format used, check one box to indicate the primary type that is used **within each major category** (e.g., database, spreadsheet, word processing, etc.).

		A. Formats used?	B. Standard— Is there			C. Primary type	
	Format	(Check all that apply)	Agency- mandated standard	Common agency practice	Other	None	of format used (Check one in each category)
Database		11.07	(Ch	eck one for	each catego	ory)	
	Oracle			\Box^2	□ 3	\Box^4	\Box_1
	Sybase			\Box^2	\Box^3		\square^2
	dBase			\square^2	\Box 3	☐ ₄	\square
	WAIS			\Box^2	\Box 3		
	MARC			\Box^2	\Box 3		□ □
	Other (specify)			\Box^2	\Box ³		
Spreadshe							
•	Excel			\square^2	\square^3		
b. :	Lotus 1-2-3	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^2
c.	Other (specify)	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^3
Tagged M	arkup						
a.	HTML	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\square^4	\square^1
b	XML	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^2
c.	SGML	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^3
d.	Other (specify)	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	□ ⁴	\square^4
Image		— 1			2	— 4	
	GIF			\square^2	\square^3		
	JPEG				☐³		
	TIFF				∐³		
	PDF			\square^2	\square^3		
	Other (specify)			\square^2	□ ³		□ ⁵
Audio a.	WAV	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	□ □ ⁴	
	AU			\Box^2	□ □3		\square
	AIFF			\Box^2	□ □3		\square
	Other (specify)			\Box^2	\Box ³		
Video	Other (specify)						
	MOV			\Box^2	\square^3		\Box^1
b. :	MPEG			\square^2	\square^3	4	\square^2
	AVI			\square^2	\Box^3		\square^3
d.	Other (specify)			\Box^2	\Box^3		 4
Text							
a.	ASCII	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	
b	Rich Text Format	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^2
с.	ANSI	\square^1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^3
d.	Other (specify)	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\Box^4

8a. (continue	dì
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	A. Formats used?	B. Standard— Is there				C. Primary type
Format	(Check all that apply)	Agency- mandated standard	Common agency practice	Other	None	of format used (Check one in each category)
	uppig)	(Ch	eck one for	each catego	ory)	
Word Processing						
a. Word Perfect	\square^1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^1
b. Microsoft Word	\square^1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^2
c. Other (specify)	\square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4	\square^3
Other (specify)			\Box^2	\square^3	□ ⁴	
Bb. If you checked "Other" category in Questio	n 8a, Column B,	please expl	ain.			

Online approaches User Interfaces Supported a. Netscape (specify version) b. Internet Explorer (specify version) c. Telnet	(Check all that apply)	Agency- mandated standard	Common agency practice	Other	None
a. Netscape (specify version) b. Internet Explorer (specify version)		, ,	neck one tor	each categor	rv)
a. Netscape (specify version) b. Internet Explorer (specify version)			succu one joi	- cuen curegor	<i></i>
b. Internet Explorer (specify version)			\Box^2	\square^3	
			\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
C. Telliet			\square^2	\square^3	□4
d. FTP	. 🔲 1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
e. Nongraphical/dial-up shell	\Box^1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
f. Other (specify)	_ 🗖¹	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
Web Design Approaches					
a. Basic HTML only (specify version)	_ 🗆 1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
b. Tables	. \square^1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
c. Frames	. \square^1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
d. CGI Scripts	. \square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
e. Use of Javascript	. \square^1		\square^2	\square^3	\square^4
f. Use of Java Applets		\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
g. XML	_	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
h. Other (specify)	_ □¹		\Box^2	\square^3	
Bulletin Board Systems (BBS)					
a. Graphical interface/browser	\Box^1	\square^1	\square^2	\square^3	\Box^4
d. CGI Scripts					

Searc	cnabili	ty of Product	
10a.	Pleas	se indicate whether this product is (Check all that apply.)	
	a.	Included as part of a full-text searchable database with no fielding	
	b.	Indexed by full-text and field	
	c.	Available as "view only" — non-searchable	
	d.	Other (specify)	
10b.		product is officially hosted by (Check all that apply.) (Host refers to the the product.)	primary site where the public car
	a.	Your agency	П¹
	b.	Another agency (specify)	
	c.	Contractor	 .
	d.	Educational institution	1
	e.	Other (specify)	□¹
Retri	evabil	ity	
11.		product and any associated software (Check all that apply.)	
	a.	Can be downloaded, saved, and is not subject to any restrictions on use or	
		re-use by the end user	🗖 1
	b.	Cannot be downloaded, saved, and/or re-used because it is part of a database	_
		and does not exist as a distinct product	🗖 1
	c.	Cannot be downloaded, saved, and/or re-used because it requires proprietary	
		software that is not freely distributable	
	d.	Other (specify)	¹
C. Type 12a.	(s) of l	NNED PRODUCT PROFILE (This next section refers to <u>future</u> plans for the Data - Future Plans there any plans to discontinue publication of this product?	ne product.)
124.			
	Yes	\square^1 (Continue with question 12b) No \square^2 (Skip to question 12b)	on 13a)
12b.	If ye	s, please explain.	(Skip to Section D.
13a.		t kind of data will this product contain? If product contains more than one type ck one.) Retain existing type(s) of data, no changes planned	
		Retain existing type(s) of data and add items of one or more new types of data (specify)	
		Discontinue one or more types (specify)	\square^3 (Continue with question 13b)
		Change to new type(s) of data (specify)	• • •
			\square^4 (Continue with question 13b)
13b.	Char	age(s) will occur in the: (Check all that apply.)	
		Short term: within 1 year or less	
		Medium term: within 2 to 5 years	
		No changes indicated	\square^1 (Skip to question 14a)

If you checked *both* "short term" *and* "medium term" in question 13b, continue with question 13c. Otherwise, skip to question 13d.

of data. net using a
es of data?
)
,
one medium, respond for all
(Skip to question 15a)
(Continue with question 14b)
(Continue with question 140)
(Skip to question 15a)

If you checked *both* "short term" and "medium term" in question 14b, continue with question 14c. Otherwise, skip to question 14d.

14c.	If you have short-term and medium-term plans, how are your short-term plans different the plans? For example (Check all that apply.)	an your medium-term
	Short-term plans call for one type of medium, but the medium-term plans call for a different of medium. (specify)	
	In the medium term there are plans to combine resources to create a new version of a produc medium that may be different from short-term plans. (specify)	
	Other (specify)	
14d.	Do you have any long-term plans (6 or more years) for changing mediums for this produc	
	Yes \square^1 (Continue with question 14e) No \square^2 (Skip to question 15a)	
14e.	If yes, please describe them here.	
Form 15a.	nat - Future Plans What kind of format(s) will this product contain? If the product uses more than one form	nat, respond for all formats
	(Check one.)	
	Same as existing format(s), no changes planned	kip to question 16a)
		Continue with question 15b)
	Change to new format type(s) $(specify)$ $\square^3(C)$	Continue with question 15b)
	Discontinue one or more types ($specify$) \Box^4 (C	Continue with question 15b)
	No agency-mandated format applies \square^5 (S	kip to with question 16a)
15b.	Change(s) will occur in the: (Check all that apply.)	
	Short term: within 1 year or less	
	Medium term: within 2 to 5 years	hin to question 16%)
	100 changes indicated	мр ю циезнон 10а)

If you checked both "short term" and "medium term" in question 15b, continue with question 15c. Otherwise, skip to question 15d.

	plans? For example (Check all that apply.)	
	Short-term plans call for one kind of format, but the medium-term plans call for a different type of format. (specify)	
	In the medium term there are plans to combine resources to create a new version of a product using a different format that may be different from short-term plans. (specify)	□¹
	Other (specify)	
15d.	Do you have any long-term plans (6 or more years) for changing formats for this product?	
	Yes	
15e.	If yes, please describe them here.	
D.	OTHER INFORMATION	
Meta	data	
16a.	Is there a metadata record for this product (e.g., GILS, MARC)?	
	Yes	
16b.	If yes, please specify	
Darm	nanent Access	
17a.	Permanent public access to this product is currently provided by: (Check all that apply)	
1/a.		
	Your agency	to question 17b) to question 17b)
		to question 17b)
17b.	How is permanent public access provided? (specify)	
	(Go to q	uestion 18a)
17c.	Are there plans to provide permanent public access in the future for this product?	
	Yes	
Perm	nanent Retention	
18a.	Is this product scheduled for permanent retention by the National Archives and Records Administ	ration?
	Yes	
18b.	What is the planned retention period for this product? (specify)	

If you have short-term and medium-term plans, how are your short-term plans different from your medium-term

15c.

Ensu	iring Authenticity					
19a.	Does the agency ensure authenticity (official status determination) for this product?					
	Yes					
19b.	How does the agency attact to authorizing (an arifu)					
190.	9b. How does the agency attest to authenticity? (specify)					
Upda	ating/Upgrading Plans					
20.	How frequently is this product updated or refreshed? (Check one.)					
	Daily					
	Weekly					
	Monthly \square^3					
	Annually					
	Other (specify)					
21a.	Are there plans for changing the product's supporting technology?					
	Yes \square^1 (Continue with question 21b) No \square^2 (Skip to question 22a)					
21b.	If yes, specify					
210.	n yes, speeny					
User	·Fees					
22a.	Is a user fee charged for this product? (Check one.)					
	Yes, for all users					
	Yes, for some users					
	No					
221						
22b. If yes, explain and specify amount of fees.						
r •						
	nsing					
23a.	Has the agency licensed commercial search and retrieval software for use with this product?					
	Yes					
23b.	Specify the software vendor and product name.					
23c.	Does the agency's license cover use by (Check all that apply.)					
	a. Agency personnel					
	b. Agency's primary target constituencies					
	c. Federal Depository Libraries					
	d. All libraries					
	e. Public users					
	f. Other $_$					

Publ	ic Domain				
24a.	Is this product in the public domain? (Check one.)				
	Yes, for the entire product				
24b.	If yes for part of product, please explain				
24c.	If no, has the agency entered into an arrangement with the private sector that would limit use of this information? (Please briefly explain the arrangement.)				
Е.	COMMENTS				
25.	If you wish to comment on matters that you believe are not otherwise adequately covered in this survey, do so here.				
					
26.	Key person completing this form.				
	Contact Name:				
	Title:				
	Telephone: Fax:				
	E-Mail:				
Other	r person(s) providing responses to questions or assistance in completing this form.				
27.	Contact Name:				
	Title:				
	Telephone: Fax:				

E-Mail:

28.	Contact Name:				
	Title:				
	Telephone:	Fax:			
	E-Mail:				

THANK YOU. PLEASE RETURN THIS SURVEY TO:

DENISE GLOVER WESTAT, ROOM TA2064 1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD ROCKVILLE, MD 20850 FAX: 301-517-4134 PHONE: 301-251-2269

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT COMPLETING THE SURVEY, CONTACT DENISE GLOVER.

gloverd1@westat.com

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS SURVEY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Glossary of Terms, Abbreviations, and Acronyms for the Government Information Product Assessment Questionnaire

ASCII—An acronym for American Standard Code for Information Exchange, ASCII is an international standard in which numbers, letters, punctuation marks, symbols, and control codes are assigned numbers from 0 to 127.

AIFF—Short for Audio Interchange File Format, a common format for storing and transmitting sampled sound.

ANSI—Acronym for the American National Standards Institute, a voluntary organization that creates standards for the computer industry. In addition to programming languages, ANSI sets standards for a wide range of technical areas, from electrical specifications to communications protocols.

AU—Short for audio, a common format for sound files on UNIX machines.

AVI—A format developed by Microsoft Corporation for storing video and audio information.

Accessibility—The degree to which the public is able to retrieve or obtain Government information products, either through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) or directly through an electronic information service established and maintained by a Government agency or its authorized agent. The other aspects of accessibility include the degree to which these Government information products are available to the public in a useful format or medium and in a time frame in which the information has utility. In the context of the FDLP, accessibility includes the degree to which Government information is accurately identified and described bibliographically, the information's availability is made known to the public, and technological, social, economic, political and physical barriers to gaining access are minimized.

Authentication—The certification of a Government information product attesting to its legitimate official status. Ensuring the authenticity of a product involves product design, planning, and policy development, as well as technical considerations.

Availability—The degree to which information is physically or electronically obtainable through the intentional or unintentional provision of Government information products to the public. In the context of the FDLP, availability includes the measures taken by Government agencies and the FDLP to include Government information products in the program. Accessibility is meaningless if information is unobtainable from its source.

BBS—Bulletin Board System, an electronic message center. Most bulletin boards serve specific interest groups. They allow users to dial in with a modem, review messages left by others, and leave their own message.

CGI Scripts—Abbreviation for Common Gateway Interface, a specification for transferring information between a World Wide Web server and a CGI program. CGI programs are the most common way for Web servers to interact dynamically with users. An increasingly common way to provide dynamic feedback for Web users is to include scripts or programs that run on the user's machine rather than the Web server.

CD-ROM—Compact Disk-Read Only Memory; an optical disk from which information may be read but not written.

DVD—Short for digital versatile disk or digital video disk, a new type of CD-ROM that holds a minimum of 4.7GB (gigabytes), enough for a full-length movie.

Digital Image—An electronic version of a bit-mapped image of a document or other information format that allows text to be searched at the character level; "digitalize" means the process and accompanying technologies required to effect the conversion from bit-mapped (e.g., a fax) to searchable format.

Dissemination—The act of making Government information products accessible to the public through distribution to depository or program libraries or by using a Government electronic information service.

Electronic Government Information—Information that is organized, stored, and disseminated using electronic or optical mediums as opposed to paper-based or microfiche-based mediums.

FTP—An acronym for of File Transfer Protocol, the protocol (agreed-upon format) used on the Internet for sending files.

Format—The manner in which data, documents, or literature are organized, structured, named and described, classified, and arranged. For example, full narrative texts in English language could be in the following forms: books or articles, abstracts of text used in reviews and summaries, indexes and catalogs, maps, photographs, drawings, sound recordings, video tapes, bibliographies, and statistical and other numeric kinds of tabulations. A screen format is the layout of fields on the screen. A report format is the layout of the printed page including print columns and page headers and footers. A record format is the layout of fields within a record. A file or database format is the layout of fields and records within a data file, layout codes within a word processing document, or display lists (vector) or bit maps (raster) within a graphics file. The term is sometimes used to refer to the way digital data is encoded or inscribed. Archivists used the terms "genre" or "form of material" to cover what is meant by format in this context.

Frames—A feature supported by most modern Web browsers that enables the Web author to divide the browser display area into two or more sections (frames). The contents of each frame are taken from a different Web page.

GIF—Pronounced jiff or giff (hard g), it is short for graphics interchange format, a bit-mapped graphics. GIF supports color and various resolutions. It also includes data compression, making it especially effective for scanned photos.

GILS—Short for Government Information Locator Service. A metadata tool for identifying, locating, and describing publicly available Federal information resources, including electronic information resources.

Gopher—A method of making menus of material available over the Internet. Gopher pre-dates the World Wide Web for organizing and displaying files on Internet servers.

Government Electronic Information Service—The system or method by which a component of the Government, or its authorized agent, disseminates Government information products to the public via such means as a network or use of CD-ROMs at a kiosk.

Government Information—Refers to information, regardless of form, medium, or format, that is created or compiled by employees of a component of the Government, or at Government expense, or as required by law. Government information as used here does *not* include information for official use only, information classified for reasons of national security, or information used strictly for administrative or operational purposes (e.g., not of public interest or educational value).

Government Information Product—A Government publication or other work of the United States Government conveyed in a tangible physical medium such as a book or CD-ROM, or disseminated through an electronic Government information service established and maintained by a Government agency or its authorized agent.

Graphical User Interface—A program interface that takes advantage of the computer's graphics capabilities to make the program easier to use.

HTML (**HyperText Markup Language**)—The authoring language used to create documents on the World Wide Web.

HTTP—Short for HyperText Transfer Protocol, the underlying protocol used by the World Wide Web. HTTP defines how messages are formatted and transmitted and what actions Web servers and browsers should take in response to various commands.

Information Intermediary—Refers to any person, institution, or mechanism that adds value to information products so that they are more useful to information users. Intermediaries perform their work at the middle information life cycle stages—that is, between information creation and information disposition or destruction. Federal libraries and information centers are examples of intermediaries.

Information Life Cycle—The various stages through which information passes, including creation, production or collection, review and editing, organization and reorganization, packaging, storage, search and retrieval, communication and re-communication, dissemination, disposition, archiving, and destruction.

JPEG—Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) is an image compression format used to transfer color photographs and images over computer networks.

Java Applets—The use of small Java programs. Java Applets allows Web pages to include functions such as animations, calculators, and other fancy tricks.

Javascript—A scripting language developed by Netscape to enable Web authors to design interactive sites.

MARC—Short for machine-reading cataloguing. The USMARC formats are standards for the representation and communication of bibliographic and related information in machine-readable form. The Library of Congress, in consultation with various user communities, maintains USMARC formats.

MPEG—Short for Moving Picture Experts Group, a working group of ISO. MPEG generally produces high-quality video.

Medium—The physical, chemical, or biological substrate used to create, organize, store, search for, retrieve, disseminate, or permanently archive data, documents, or literature including, for example, paper, microforms, fiber optic cables, photographic film, CD-ROM, floppy diskettes, magnetic storage devices, sound recordings, and videotape.

Metadata—Metadata is data about data. Metadata describes how and when and by whom a particular set of data was collected and how the data are formatted. These data can be collections or individual instances of objects or documents, Internet resources, etc.

Migration—The transfer of an information product from one hardware type, software package, system, network, format, or medium to another. The transfer of an information product from a pre-electronic medium such as paper or microform to an electronic medium such as CD-ROM is an example of migration.

PDF—Short for Portable Document Format. A file format developed by Adobe Systems, PDF captures formatting information from a variety of desktop publishing applications, making it possible to send formatted documents and have them appear on the recipient's monitor or printer as they were intended.

Permanent Public Access—The indefinite, continuing accessibility of Government information products by the public including the policies, programs, formats, mediums, and standards used. Simply because data such as weather and tide information, lists of Government contractors, editions of annual reports, and statistical series are continuously updated with more current information does not necessarily mean that provision should not be made for retaining (making permanently accessible) the replaced information. Care should be exercised in this regard, however, to ensure no harm is done to the public by making available out-of-date information.

Preferred Medium or Format Standard—A medium or format standard that may not be agency mandated but is either common agency practice or applies to a new or promising product format or medium.

Public Domain—A term of American copyright law referring to works that are not copyright protected; free for all to use without permission.

Refreshing—A technical term meaning the manner in which information mediums and technologies are periodically reassessed and upgraded to ensure that they are not becoming obsolete, thereby risking the loss of information and the compromising of Permanent Public Access policies. The term is also sometimes applied to formats and standards (not just mediums) that are in danger of becoming obsolete and need to be replaced or upgraded.

Rich Text Format (**RTF**)—A standard for specifying formatting of documents. RTF files are actually ASCII files with special commands to indicate formatting information, such as fonts and margins.

SGML—Short for Standard Generalized Markup Language, SGML is a system for organizing and tagging elements of a document. SGML was developed and standardized by the International Organization for Standards (ISO) in 1986.

Standard—An agreed-upon authoritative convention, whether formal or informal, whether official or unofficial, whether de facto or de jure, by which information products are created, produced, formatted, published, stored, communicated, and moved through the remainder of the stages of the information life cycle. Standards (and the more informal concept and term "guidelines") minimize incompatibility and interoperability problems when an information sender tries to move data, documents, or literature into and out of several different formats and mediums to a receiver. Standards may be set by formal national or international standard-setting bodies, or by agencies, or by groups of users informally by common consent.

TIFF—The acronym for Tagged Image File Format, a graphic file format developed by Aldus and Microsoft.

Telnet—A terminal emulation program for TCP/IP networks such as the Internet. The Telnet program runs on a user's computer and connects his/her PC to a server on the network. This enables users to control the server and communicate with other servers on the network.

Type of Data—The general nature of the information content of a Government information product and how it is arranged, structured, and presented for ease of handling in a medium. Some examples include textual data, graphical data, spatial data, numerical data, etc.

WAIS—Short for Wide Area Information Server. A distributed information service that offers simple natural language input, indexed searching for information retrieval, and a relevance feedback mechanism. It has an easy-to-use interface that searches all documents relative to your query, ranks them, and makes them available to retrieve.

WAV—The format for storing sound in files developed jointly for Microsoft and IBM.

WORM—Short for write once, read many, an optical disk technology that allows one to write data onto a disk just once.

World Wide Web (WWW)—WWW is a system of Internet servers that support specially formatted documents. The documents are formatted in a language called HTML (HyperText Markup Language) that supports links to other documents, as well as graphics, audio, and video files.

XML—Short for eXtensible Markup Language. XML is a pared-down version of SGML, designed especially for Web documents. It enables designers to create their own customized tags to provide functionality not available with HTML.