

THE FEDERAL SCIENCE REPOSITORY SERVICE

Collections of scientific and technical documents, images, videos and other content represent the mission and work of an agency or other institution. To help preserve these collections, the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and Information International Associates, Inc. (Iia), a woman-owned business in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, formed a public-private partnership to develop for Federal agencies a searchable, digital Federal Science Repository Service (FSRS). The FSRS, now available, provides a supporting infrastructure, long-term storage, security, interface design, and content management and operational expertise. An agency can utilize this entire service or select components, resulting in the design of an agency-specific Repository that serves as a distinct gateway to its content.

A repository service for agencies that provides management, preservation, and dissemination of multiple types of resources, expanding access in support of science.

The FSRS is cost-effective due to:

- A common, supporting infrastructure
- The application of new features requested by one agency to the entire service
- The sharing of expertise

The FSRS supports both a distributed content model and the storage and long-term preservation of multiple data types (see Fig 1). FSRS also helps agencies control costs by assisting them in meeting needed Federal security requirements. Discovery and accessibility to content through the FSRS may also meet National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requirements for Federal records preservation.



Other resource management benefits of the FSRS include:

- Metadata mapping assistance
- The harvesting of distributed resources
- An agency-branded interface
- Robust search tools
- Full-text and media display
- Links to outside content
- Attribution and the maintenance of legal rights
- Technical support and training

Additional capabilities are being phased in, such as RSS feeds, browsing capabilities, the linking of related resources, geospatial search, and a client content-submission interface. As the FSRS grows and evolves, and as new services are developed, agencies can choose to utilize them within their respective Repositories. Thus, the FSRS allows smaller agencies or programs with limited funds or staff to not only easily manage and locate their own resources, but also to take advantage of new technologies.

The FSRS, moreover, greatly increases the potential use of an agency's resources. Besides providing access through the user-friendly interface of an agency's Repository, the FSRS allows agencies to:

- Designate content to be shared with other FSRS repositories, such as the [National Technical Reports Library \(NTRL\)](http://www.ntis.gov/ntrl.aspx) (www.ntis.gov/ntrl.aspx)
- Choose to receive content from other FSRS repositories such as the NTRL
- Create cross-agency collections, such as [NOAA's Deepwater Horizon Repository](http://noaa.ntis.gov) (noaa.ntis.gov)
- Designate content for Web services and for federated searches such as [Science.gov](http://www.science.gov) (www.science.gov)

Content resources, such as those describing species, habitats, environmental issues, or historic events, can be linked across Repositories and studied together. In the end, the FSRS helps ensure that the distributed data and information already created by the Federal Government are made more available.

The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) mission is to promote progress by serving as the U.S. Federal Government's central means of making scientific and cutting-edge information perpetually and widely available. NTIS provides increased dissemination to a broad Federal, industry and public audience through its Federal Science Repository Service (FSRS), through content management services such as legacy digitization and quality assurance, and through global e-commerce channels. NTIS has the authority under Section 3704(b) of Title 15, United States Code, to enter into business arrangements for improving information access. Visit www.ntis.gov to learn about the services NTIS offers.

Information International Associates, Inc. (IIa) is an ISO 9001:2008 registered information management company that for 24 years has served a variety of Federal, civilian, military, and intelligence agencies, as well as international and private sector organizations. Iia specialists have a breadth of experience in information science, knowledge management and systems. Please visit www.iiaweb.com, or contact Chelsea Crawford, Communications (ccrawford@iiaweb.com).

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