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H–154 THE CAPITOL

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–6601

January 15, 2022

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis,

Pursuant to Section 501 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report on adopting standardized formats for legislative documents.

As I reported previously, legislative branch staff completed the COMPS in USLM Project to convert legacy statute compilation files into Beta USLM XML and completed initial planning and procurement activities related to the next phase of the "More Documents in USLM" roadmap (printed below), entitled "Remaining bill/resolution versions." The Government Publishing Office (GPO) leads this effort with representatives from GPO, the Office of the Clerk, and the Secretary of the Senate, along with the contractor who performed the modeling activities. Since the formal project kickoff on November 8, 2021, Clerk staff have assisted with the creation and prioritization of the remaining bill and resolution versions by measure-type and complexity. Prioritization will help the project team iteratively build upon data modeling decisions while completing the project. One central goal of this stage of the roadmap is to ensure that the modeled USLM XML is conducive for interoperability within the legislative ecosystem and considers the editing and publishing needs of all legislative organizations.

Roadmap for Publishing Legislative Documents in USLM XML Format[1]

Completed	U.S. Code
Completed	Enrolled bills, public laws, and the Statutes at Large
Completed	HOLC/SOLC statute compilations
IN PROGRESS *Initiated*	Remaining bill/resolution versions (introduced, reported, engrossed, all amendments, et. al.)
C	Committee Reports
D	House portions of the *Congressional Record*, including the *Daily Digest*
E	Hearing record
F	House Calendar
G	*Precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives*
H	*House Journal*

Over the past few years, significant progress has been made on the USLM XML schema because of the U.S. Code; enrolled bills, public laws, and the Statutes at Large; and HOLC/SOLC statute compilations projects. In October 2021, the Legislative Branch XML Working Group released version 2.0.10 of the USLM XML to the public on GPO's USLM GitHub Repository at https://github.com/usgpo/uslm/tree/proposed. The USLM GitHub repository also contains all prior versions, user guides, presentations, and sample files. The XML Working Group plans to move the USLM 2x schema out of beta in conjunction with the production launch of GPO's XPub Program.

As mentioned in previous reports, there is a cross-organizational set of systems that utilize the USLM schema. Each project builds upon the tools and successes of previous projects. The XML Working Group, in consultation with the Bulk Data Task Force, continues to analyze and recommend next steps that build on the work that has already been accomplished. As with any data standardization efforts, interoperability is a key goal, and project work must address any potential impacts on those documents and systems in production.

Below I have provided brief updates on some of the current projects using the USLM schema.

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[1]For more information about this roadmap, please see page four of the initial report at https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/Adopting%20Standardized%20Formats%20for%20Legislative%20Documents.pdf.

- **GPO's XPub Program:** Formerly the Composition System Replacement project, GPO's XPub Program is replacing its aging and proprietary MicroComp composition system and associated applications and is a major initiative in furthering GPO's transformation to an all-digital, all-XML workflow. GPO continues to develop a production release to bring bills, resolutions, amendments, public laws, and the Statutes at Large into XPub production in the 117th Congress and work closely with key House and Senate users and stakeholders (including the Office of the Clerk and Secretary of the Senate, as well as the Legislative Counsels and Committees in both chambers). Key to this production release is ensuring that XPub is fully and seamlessly integrated with the XML editors the House and Senate use to draft legislation, commonly called XMetaL and LEXA (maintained by the Clerk's Office and the Senate Secretary's Office with assistance from the House and Senate Legislative Counsels). GPO is performing extensive regression and integration testing on the system, in collaboration with key House and Senate staff, with the goal of being ready to deploy to production in 2022.

- **Office of Law Revision Counsel's Modernization Projects:** The Office of Law Revision Counsel (OLRC) is engaged in maintenance and enhancement work to improve the Hammurabi system for bill drafting, the ClassAct system for new law classification, and the Coda system for editing the U.S. Code. The OLRC is striving to eliminate performance issues and develop new features to ensure tools used to edit and improve the U.S. Code use the latest version of USLM.

- **Editing in XML:** As described in the initial report, the House and Senate use XML editors with a generation one schema to draft legislation. Specifically, legislative branch staff continue to discuss how legislative documents, such as statute compilations; the Statutes at Large; and bills, resolutions, and amendments could be edited in USLM XML. The core staff of the XML Working Group meet regularly to discuss this and related matters, including how to provide better tools for collaboration between legislative drafters and Members and their staff. We expect these discussions will lead to a future project proposal(s).

If you or others on the Committee have questions about the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Clerk of the House