

GLORIA J. LETT
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Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6601

October 15, 2021

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,

As required by Section 501 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, agreed to by the House on March 10, 2020, I am submitting this quarterly report on adopting standardized formats for legislative documents.

The Government Publishing Office (GPO) continued working with the Clerk's Office, the House Office of the Legislative Counsel, the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate, and the Secretary of the Senate to make statute compilations available in the USLM XML format. Statute compilations are public laws that either do not appear in the U.S. Code or that have been classified to a title of the U.S. Code that has not been enacted into positive law. Each statute compilation incorporates the amendments made to the underlying statute since it was originally enacted. The collection also encompasses select non-positive law statutes. Since the last quarterly report, legislative branch staff completed the COMPS in USLM Project to convert legacy statute compilation files into Beta USLM XML.¹ More than two 2,000 statute

¹ For more information, please see GPO's news postings at <https://www.gpo.gov/who-we-are/news-media/news-and-press-releases/gpo-makes-available-statute-compilations-in-uslm-xml-format> and <https://www.govinfo.gov/features/statute-compilations-uslm-xml>.

compilations are now available on GPO’s govinfo.gov via Search, Browse, Bulk Data, and the public API.

These legislative branch staff have been performing planning and procurement activities for the next phase of the “More Documents in USLM” roadmap.

Roadmap for Publishing Legislative Documents in USLM XML Format ²

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

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, will continue 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.

- GPO’s XPub Program:** GPO is replacing its aging and proprietary MicroComp composition system and associated applications with XPub. This is a major initiative in furthering GPO’s transformation to an all-digital, all-XML workflow. GPO is working closely with key House and Senate users and stakeholders (including the Clerk’s Office and the Secretary of the Senate as well as the Legislative Counsels and Committees in

² 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>.

both chambers) to bring a production release of congressional bills, resolutions, amendments, public laws, and the Statutes at Large into XPub production in the 117th Congress. Key to this production release is ensuring that XPub is fully and seamlessly integrated with XMetaL, which House and Senate use to draft and edit bills, resolutions, and amendments. Legislative branch staff continued discussing how legislative documents, such as statute compilations, the Statutes at Large, bills, and resolutions, could be edited in USLM XML. We anticipate these conversations will inform a future project proposal.

- **Office of Law Revision Counsel’s Modernization Stage 3 Project Coda:** The Office of Law Revision Counsel (OLRC) is nearing completion of the Coda editing system that will allow staff to edit the U.S. Code in USLM XML. In recent weeks, OLRC has worked with a contractor to upgrade the editor to handle the newer version of the USLM and provide training sessions for OLRC staff who maintain and edit the U.S. Code.
- **Legislative Branch XML Working Group’s Treasury Department’s Learning Sessions:** A long-held goal of the Legislative Branch XML Working Group is to provide interoperability and data exchange between appropriations language contained in an enrolled measure (and public law document) and the President’s budget appendix. During the last several months, legislative branch staff have participated in learning sessions with Treasury Department staff to explore how to add agency, bureau, and account metadata to enrolled and public law documents that contain appropriations language.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl L. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clerk of the House