



United Nations



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Global Centre for ICT in Parliament



World e-Parliament Conference 2008

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Report from the UK Parliament: A case for British pragmatism?

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PICT

Benefits of Open Standards

- To facilitate the exchange of documents between Parliaments and other Institutions
- To improve search capability
- To enable multiple forms of dissemination
- To produce internal efficiencies in the preparation of documents
- To support digital preservation

Putting Theory into Practice

- Existing processes for producing and publishing parliamentary material were conceived many years ago
- Few of our existing systems are based on truly open standards
- Our understanding of open standards and the practicalities of achieving them is still in infancy
- Parliamentary administrations are inherently averse to risk

The Opportunity Ahead

- The British Parliament has created a single strategic ICT Department working for both Houses
- A multi-year programme framework
- A seamless service to information partners and users
- The fullest possible integration between the requirements of document production and web publication
- The opportunity to re-use functionality in a modular way
- Recruit and retain expert staff with predictability of budgets

Meeting Multiple Requirements

- Emphasis on reliability precision, accuracy and clarity of information
- Continuing flexibility to meet procedural changes and changing Member requirements
- Emphasis on business continuity
- Value for money

The Vision

- XML is at the heart of our strategy
- Our future vision is
 - Service oriented model (SOA) World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
 - Storing of data with its XML in an openly published repository
 - Create reusable XML
 - Will apply equally to audio-visual content
 - Use of XML as far as possible follows international open standards
 - Encourage and influence our partners to work with us

The Pragmatic Strategy

- We can not re-engineer our processes overnight
- Plan to work with Colleagues in the procedural and reporting offices of the two Houses of Parliament
- Creation of an Enterprise Architecture Board
- Issue of the XML repository is crucial

Our Current Projects: Votes and Proceedings

- This is the formal name of the document which records the formal decisions of the House of Commons
- The current Votes and Proceedings Project will create new software to manage this process using XML and a searchable database
- We hope to embark on a similar project for the House of Lords in the near future

Bills

- Demands from both inside and out of Parliament – for a more flexible and searchable approach to Bill Information
- Working to present Bill information in a more accessible way
- Further Progress in this area will need to be in partnership with the Government

Hansard for the Web

- The rolling version is available worldwide within three hours
- Currently trialling a revised process with feed taken directly
- Content more readily searchable through a menu structure

Hansard Production Systems

- Will be a longer term and more ambitious reworking of the Hansard process
- Still at an early stage
- Making sure any changes are not disruptive to continuity

Historic Hansard

- Experimental project based on open source software and open standards
- Scanning of the historic Hansard volumes of both Houses dating back to 1803
- Everything relating to the project is available from the public website:
www.parliament.uk

PIMS

- Parliamentary Information Management Service went live in 2005
- PIMS is the principal internal database for Parliamentary information
- A searchable index
- Decisions about its future

Conclusion

- Being ambitious about our plans
- Parliaments have a duty to share data with the World
- Using test sites to evaluate results before committing all our resources
- We can learn from each others experience



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