Chapter IX

Tactical Electric Power Digital Library

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Abstract

This case study traces the development of the Tactical Electric Power Digital Library (TEPDL), a special-purpose document repository and information resource Web site. Discussion focuses on content management considerations and their effect on project planning, Web site design, and Web site maintenance. Also described are the process and challenges associated with implementing the content management and content delivery features of TEPDL. The case study is intended to highlight the importance of addressing content management issues early in the digital library Web site planning and design process, and to illustrate how a content management needs analysis can be translated into the selection and development of specific content management tools and processes.

Introduction

The Tactical Electric Power Digital Library (TEPDL) is a special-purpose, online information resource that was developed as part of a research project conducted at the Institute for Advanced Technology (IAT) under the auspices of the University XXI program, "a joint effort by the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University to provide digitization research to the U.S. Army" (University XXI, 2003). TEPDL's parent project, *Power Management on the Digital Battlefield*, was a broad investigation into the challenges related to supporting the Army's next-generation "digital force" with sustainable, high-quality electric power. TEPDL was conceived to fulfill one of the *Power Management* project's primary goals, which was "to build a comprehensive body of knowledge regarding electric power generation and consumption on the tactical battlefield" (Leedom, n.d., Section 1, Paragraph 1).

Intended to stimulate information exchange on tactical electric power issues within the Army, TEPDL supports the collection, dissemination, and management of online digital and digitized information resources. TEPDL is a digital library Web site composed of three primary information resource tools: a Document Collection, a Subject Matter Expert (SME) Directory, and a Web Resources Guide.

Document Collection

The Document Collection is a repository of born-digital and digitized documents. Document types include, but are not limited to, research reports, project briefings, project papers, technology and tactical system descriptions and specifications, lessons learned and best practices information, and test and evaluation results. To encourage content reuse, items in the Document Collection are stored and provided to users in native (original) formats whenever possible. Commonly used formats include Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF), Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) image format. Users can view documents online, print them, or download them.

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