Swiss Government Publication Office (OPC)
Legally Binding Electronic Publication

Place: University of Bologna
Ravenna, Italy

Date: September 15, 2012
Swiss Political System

Electorate

Federal Parliament

National Council (200)

State Council (46)

Federal Council (7)

Federal Chancellery

Official Publications Centre

Federal Supreme Court

Federal Criminal Court

Federal Admin. Court

Federal Patent Court

23 Part States (Cantons)

~ 3000 Municipalities

FDJP  FDF  FDFA  FDHA  DETEC  FDEA  DDPS  Departments
Peculiarities of the System

1. **Strong federalism**: confederation – cantons – municipalities

2. **Broad Representation**: councils instead of presidents

3. **Direct participation of the electorate**: binding votations on issues

4. **Multilingualism**: 3½ official languages on federal level
Official Publications

Law-making

Official Compilation → Classified Compilation
- Acts
- Ordinances
- Parliamentary Decrees

Federal Gazette
- Bills
- Reports
- Parliamentary Decrees
- Notifications

Non-law-making

Other Publications in the Legislative Portal
- Consultations & Hearings
- Europe Agreements Index
- Administrative Case Law
## Characteristics of the Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Publication Channel</th>
<th>Legal Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official Compilation</td>
<td>Print Online</td>
<td>Only print version legally binding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified Compilation</td>
<td>Print Online</td>
<td>Widespread use, but not legally binding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Removable Media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Gazette</td>
<td>Print Online</td>
<td>Only print version legally binding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Publications in the Legal Portal</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Not legally binding</td>
</tr>
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Sample Texts


Consolidated Act

Consolidated Act

Consolidated Act
http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/rs/4/431.01.it.pdf

Amended Act

Amending Bill

Federal Gazette

Report

Amending Bill

Report

Amending Act

Amending Act

Amending Act

Consolidated Compilation
http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/as/2012/3131.pdf

Official Compilation
Legislative Drafting Lifecycle

- **Parliament**
  - Dispatch / Report
  - Dispatch and Draft Bill
  - Consultation Results
  - Preliminary Draft Bill

- **Planning**
  - Concept
  - Public Consultation

- **Impulsion**
  - Implementation
  - Final Act
  - Consolidated Act

- **Referendum**
Publication Workflows

Primary Publication Workflow
Federal Gazette
Official Compilation

Publication

Creation

Dispatches
Reports
Bills
Acts
etc.

Decision

Revision

Secondary Publication Workflow
Classified Compilation

Consolidation

Consolidated
Acts

Publication
OPC System – Main Challenges

1. Website does not meet today’s user expectations
2. 14-year-old legacy system with distributed components
3. Heterogenous and distributed data: MS Word source files, two databases for metadata, more than 150 years of legacy data
4. Important interfaces with partner systems (parliament, international agreements metadata, record and process management)
5. Amendment of the Publication Act necessary for legally binding electronic publication (public consultation 2012, parliament 2013/2014, in operation 2015?)
6. Stick to existing legislative drafting lifecycle
7. Stick to main stages of existing publication workflows
8. Stick to MS Word for the regular drafter
OPC System – Strategic Goals

1. Improve text editing
2. Optimise the operation of the production process
3. Enhance the internet offer for the public
4. Modernisation of the technology
5. Simplify interfaces and use synergies with other systems
6. Enable the legally binding electronic publication
7. Comply with the guidelines of data protection
OCPC System - Roadmap

Core Areas According to Study Project 2011

- New Federal Legal Portal
- Foundations
- XML-Texts and Data Migration
- New Content
- Further Metadata and Publ. Services
- Added Value
- Legally Binding Electronic Version
- Data Exchange
- Workflow
- Data Migration I
- Data Migration II
Core Area: New Federal Legal Portal


1. Timeline versions of the classified Compilation
2. Better search engine
3. Concept for future developments
Core Area: Foundations
Construction of a System Model
Core Area: Foundations
Planned Results

Target Information Model

Architecture Building Blocks

Target Architecture

Solution Building Blocks

XML Schema

URI Schema

Project Management and Further Development

Report «Configuration»
Core Area: Foundations
Business Architecture Classified Compilation

Consolidated act
(work)

Legislative process

Implementation of law

Consolidation record
(all versions of an SR consolidation of the law-making text)

Consolidation record series
(all consolidation records of the law-making text published in the SR)

Series of consolidated texts
(all published, legally valid versions of an SR text)

Sequential versions
(different versions of a text in time, comprise all language versions each)

Language versions
(same text in different languages)

Published consolidated text
(published, legally valid SR versions of an SR text)

Expressions
Core Area: Foundations
URI-Schema Issues

1. Definition of a work
2. Traditional numbering scheme to be maintained, reference to book and page numbers [e.g. AS 2003 739; AS 1993 2 318]
3. Inconsistent numbers between Federal Gazette language versions of the same work

Examples
http://www.admin.ch/opc/federal-gazette/20031512/@/draft/fr/34/$/text.doc#art15;par3
Core Area: Foundations
XML-Schema Example

<preface><p><docTitle id="ActTitle">Legge federale sulla navigazione marittima sotto bandiera svizzera</docTitle>
<docDate date="1953-09-23">del 23 settembre 1953</docDate>
(Stato 1° gennaio 2011)</p></preface>
<preamble><p>L’Assemblea federale della Confederazione Svizzera,
visti gli <mref> <ref id="rif1" ref="/ch/act/costituzione/#art24-ter">articoli 24ter</ref>, <ref id="rif2" href="/ch/act/costituzione/#art64">64</ref> e <ref id="rif3" href="/ch/act/costituzione/#art64-bis">64bis</ref> della Costituzione federale </mref> <noteRef href="#n1" marker="1"/>; visto il messaggio del Consiglio federale del 22 febbraio 1952, decreta:</p></preamble>
Core Area: Foundations
XML-Schema Issues

1. Metadata set
2. What to mark up, when, who?
3. Integration with MS Word
4. Single or multi version base documents
5. Retroactive modifications
6. Final presentation
7. Migration of legacy data
Migration Strategy (1)
Migration Strategy (2)
Migration Strategy (3)
Migration Strategy (4)
Conclusions

1. Akoma Ntoso will be able to cover our needs.
2. Electronic Publishing as such is not a big issue.
3. Existing processes and ways of thinking ARE a big issue.
   → change management
4. Existing systems and data ARE a big issue.
   → migration strategy
Thank you. 😊