

Prob a lot of structural problems

Michael Plasmeier
Assignment #2
Proposal
First version

This proposal outlines a project to create a new version of THOMAS—"the official online repository of legislative information for the U.S. Congress."

The proposal is generally well structured. The Background and Aims section gives a clear and coherent description of this online repository—its history, function, advantages, and limitations. Consider, however, whether you can condense this section, i.e., whether all of the information is essential to make the case to your reviewers that an overhaul of this online service is necessary. *now - surprised*

The Proposed Changes (=Proposed Project) section needs to be more focused, highlighting the types of changes you propose to make. Again, consider whether all of the details in this first version are necessary. Also, I recommend that you organize this section into subsections, with headings that highlight the targeted changes, e.g., *Changing the Main Content Area of the Site; Improving Accessibility of Information*; etc. *basically most of this was not proposal but what should be changed not RFP response to charges ← should read a real RFP response*

The Budget seems well thought out. However, the Budget section doesn't conform to the guidelines. The section that you have labeled "Process" is actually information that should go into the Budget section, as it justifies the expenditures. *grr - I hate abstract bc categories*

Although your prose is very clear, there is a bit of awkward phrasing. A more widespread problem is punctuation. There are also some scattered grammatical errors. *not major was usual*

This first version shows serious thought and effort. The main area to focus on is sharpening the focus of the piece so that the reviewer can quickly discern the key points in each section of the proposal. *So not going on + on*

Overall structure/format: +
Focus: ✓
Content/development: ✓+
Organization/coherence: ⊕
Audience: +
Style/tone: +
Articulation/phrasing: ✓+
Mechanics: ✓

Overall mark: ✓

- like org
- but she liked my org

Michael Plasmeier
Assignment #2
Proposal
First version

Revised

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The Proposed Changes (=Proposed Project) section needs to be more focused, highlighting the types of changes you propose to make. Again, consider whether all of the details in this first version are necessary. Too much detail could alienate your reviewers, leading them to reject the proposal (or to ask for it to be revised and resubmitted). Also, I recommend that you organize this section into subsections, with headings that highlight the targeted changes, e.g., *Changing the Main Content Area of the Site; Improving Accessibility of Information*; etc.

→ got dinged
on that
last semester

The Budget seems well thought out. However, the Budget section doesn't conform to the guidelines. The section that you have labeled "Process" is actually information that should go into the Budget section, as it justifies the expenditures.

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Style/tone: +

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Mechanics: ✓

Overall mark: ✓

THOMAS for the 21st Century: A Proposal
Michael Plasmeier
Reviewed by Justin Merritt

Overview

The proposed project offers a solution to the website that currently hosts as the interface for the database of all legislatures in progress and enacted by the United States Congress. The author believes that the website, nicknamed THOMAS, is clunky and outdated, and in order for the general public to better access the data contained therein, should be altered significantly utilizing today's standard practices and technologies for website design. Specifically, the author first proposes that a real-time news feed should be added to THOMAS such that whatever is occurring in Congress can be seen almost immediately. He further extends this news feed idea to bills, committees, and even Congressmen themselves. He then proposes a system to notice changes to bills in a similar fashion to the diff command in Linux, but then suggests that this may be beyond the scope of the project. The author finally proposes that THOMAS should also have an overview of the prior day's events in Congress readily available in video form, similar to C-SPAN's Congressional Chronicle.

much better than I could have wrote it!

Strengths

First, the author makes a strong claim for the necessity of a significant restructure of THOMAS. He does a very thorough job of examining every major flaw of the outdated website, and gives a solid analysis of why the flaw needs updating. For example, he explains how the layout of the website gives rise to system redundancy and then continues to explain why this is not desirable (i.e. difficulty for search engines to index and hard to search through own browsing history), using ample figures to clearly make his point. The point he probably stresses the most though, in every single aspect of the proposal, is the need for citizens to be able to quickly and easily access important information coming out of Congress, a worthy goal in and of itself.

which is what I wanted to do for my purposes but is not what this assignment was on

Second, while he does not explicitly state it, the author makes another strong claim for the viability of updating this website in a timely manner. He says that that the design of the website will require four developers and one project manager nine months to complete the project, an entirely reasonable goal. He also references completed projects Govtrack.us and OpenCongress.org, using them as possible sources of inspiration, and examining what quirks and features may be applicable for a more official government cite like THOMAS.

Weaknesses

There are two main flaws in this proposal. The most outright flaw is that the scope of the project does not meet the timeframe requirements of 10-12 weeks. The proposal, which is asking for nine months to complete the project, is not even close to manageable for a summer service project, lofty as the goal may be. This agency has created a fund specifically for the undertaking of a summer service or research project, which may be something as drastic as an overhaul of an outdated website, but not a website on this scale that handles large amounts of data constantly.

*well I did not like her student proposal guideline
wrote more of an ordinary proposal - again assignment guidelines*

again I clashed w/ her about what scope may be

The second major flaw lies in the lack of enough specific details describing exactly what changes need to be made to THOMAS to make it more efficient. The ideas behind the proposal may be entirely substantiated, but there are so few details about the features the author plans to implement. In fact, the author only suggests three changes to the design of the website (the introduction of a real time news feed, a notification of changes to bills, and a video recap of the events of the prior day in Congress). These three changes do not constitute an overhaul of the website, because in order for the site to be updated to today's standards, much of the code would need to be altered significantly. If these three changes are the only ones suggested, then the operating budget of \$500,000 is outrageous at best. -not for the gov!

Recommendation

*- ran out of time/pages and did not pare it down enough
b/c don't like throwing lines away + time*

In light of the need for the THOMAS website to be updated and the viability of it to be completed within a nine month timeframe, I recommend that the project does not receive funding, and instead be revised and resubmitted. The timeframe is clearly not in line with the recommended 10-12 weeks, and even if the same project were to try to be squeezed into this timeframe, the budget cost would increase exponentially. But even more importantly, many of the specific design features of this project are not clear. In order to recommend it for funding, the project needs to be detailed enough such that on day one of the implementation of this project, the development team would have a clear idea of what exactly is needed to complete this project. If the timeframe were to be shortened and the specific features of the project made clear (possibly just propose to implement the three specific features suggested over a twelve week period instead), I am confident that this project would receive funding.

he wants me to length what I would do section substantially

but I am not doing the 10-12 week scope

-I would not submit project for that b/c it does not fit in her 2 neat categories

*- I did not like her scope, rejected it, and got lined for it
- my problems with authority :)*

As submitted

Reading 4/10

THOMAS for the 21st Century: A Proposal

Submitted by: Michael Plasmeier
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Date: March 9, 2010

good cover page ✓

Abstract

THOMAS is the official online repository of legislative information for the United States Congress. THOMAS displays both legislation in progress and enacted and is run by the Library of Congress. When it was launched in 1995 it was revolutionary for the time. However, 15 years later, the site has only seen minor updates and has fallen behind the times. The site has many quirks and inconsistencies. In particular, proposed or accepted amendments or debate on a bill is extremely unintuitive unless one can navigate between several systems run by different government agencies. Ordinary citizens cannot easily find the bills which Congress is actively considering ^{among the?} opposed to the thousands ^{what} which are submitted without action each year. Finding out what happened when requires knowledge of how the system works, instead of ^{really stupid} using intuitive news feeds. THOMAS is stuck between displaying the information contained in it as a webpage and using the actual printed version from the official journals of Congress. This means that the system has four ways of displaying and printing copies of legislation. These changes must be addressed to make it easier for citizens to monitor Congress. *what does your project aim to do?*

try to condense your presentation of the problem, and mention what your project aims to achieve - and how.

Remembering back a month ago, I think end really grew thin - spent too long on beginning but 515,050 paper was better.
- getting better every time

was unsure of - but researched - only citation bills being research

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Background and Aims

THOMAS is the official online website of legislative information for the United States Congress. THOMAS includes legislation both enacted and in progress. It is run by the Library of Congress. When it was launched in 1995 it was revolutionary for the time. However, 15 years later, the site has only seen minor updates and is no longer state of the art.

THOMAS is not very usable. When it came out, THOMAS made the near real-time information of Congress available online. At the time, this was a large step forward. Before THOMAS, one had to subscribe to the Congressional Record, a biweekly print publication, or use LexisNexis Congressional which was a paid service. One could also go to a Federal Depository Library to read the Congressional Record. Information was not available in an immediate fashion, nor was it easily accessible. Ordinary citizens had to be fairly motivated to request the information and then wait a few days to receive it. Lawyers and lobbyists whose job was to deal with this information had people on staff to receive the papers in the mail and organize them.

Merely having on-demand online information was clearly better than what existed.

*good overview of
this online information
service*

The problems with THOMAS are numerous. First, on the homepage, the search box has a toggle switch between keyword and bill number (Figure 1). This is unnecessary. A computer can easily determine when you enter a bill number by using elementary pattern matching. There is no reason that a person should have to select that they are entering a bill number.

|| Legislation in Current Congress ||

Search Bill Summary & Status

☒ Word/Phrase ☐ Bill Number

[Try the Advanced Search](#)

Figure 1 THOMAS Search Box

NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP

Print Subscribe Share/Save

S.2806

Title: A bill to codify and enhance existing regulations designed to encourage individuals to adopt healthy behaviors through voluntary participation in programs of health promotion and disease prevention.

Sponsor: Sen Ensign, John [NV] (Introduced 11/19/2009) Cosponsors (1)

Related Bills: S.1796

Latest Major Action: 11/19/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

All information (except text)	Text of Legislation	Summary	Major Congressional Actions
Titles	Cosponsors (1)	Committees	All Congressional Actions
Related Bills	Amendments	Related Committee Documents	All Congressional Actions with Amendments With links to Congressional Record pages, votes, reports
CBO Cost Estimates	Subjects		

[THOMAS Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [Feedback](#)

Figure 2 THOMAS Bill Homepage

and is not easy for search engines to index. Thankfully the URL is unique and permanent which makes sharing and saving of the link possible. The bill's homepage presents a small summary of the bill and its current status along with many links (Figure 2). The "All information" page pulls together some of the other pages on this bill's site (Figure 3). However, this leads to some information being duplicated. The list of titles is both on summary page, as well as its own page. Why must this be in two places at once? THOMAS does provide a link to a help page which explains what the difference between the titles is. However, the link is not very visible. I have been using THOMAS for years and only discovered the link today

Once you do enter a bill number, you are brought to a page with many links, but not much information. The page's browser title bar is "Search Results - THOMAS (Library of Congress)" which provides no information about the page you are currently on. It makes navigation between pages in history impossible

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS THOMAS

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP

Print Subscribe Share/Save

S.2806
 Title: A bill to codify and enhance existing regulations designed to encourage individuals to adopt healthy behaviors through voluntary participation in programs of health promotion and disease prevention.
 Sponsor: Sen Ensign, John [NV] (Introduced 11/19/2009) Cosponsors (1)
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Jump to: [Summary](#), [Major Actions](#), [All Actions](#), [Titles](#), [Cosponsors](#), [Committees](#), [Related Bill Details](#), [Amendments](#)

SUMMARY:
 NONE

MAJOR ACTIONS:
 NONE

ALL ACTIONS:
 11/19/2009:
 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

TITLE(S): (Italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill)
 NONE

COSPONSORS(1), ALPHABETICAL (followed by Cosponsors withdrawn): (Sort: [by date](#))

Sen Carper, Thomas R. [DE] - 11/19/2009

COMMITTEE(S):
 Committee/Subcommittee: Activity:
 Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Referral, in Committee

RELATED BILL DETAILS: (additional related bills may be identified in status)

Bill:	Relationship:
S.1796	Related bill identified by CRS

AMENDMENT(S):
 NONE

[THOMAS Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [Feedback](#)

Figure 3 THOMAS Bill All Information

punctuation:
 missing
 commas
 as usual
 -should have
 done more
 proofreading

(Figure 4 red box).

The page containing the text of the legislation has more duplicate features and unneeded links. The links on the top of the text page seem to be useless (Figure 5 Blue Box). Most of them are not even links; they are just placeholders for links. The other links to the homepage and help are in a different format than other places on the

site. The text itself is displayed in a readable manner. THOMAS also has a link to an XML version of the bill. This is very well done, as the URL is permanent and predictable, and an XML schema is defined and a style sheet is available. *this what? another common problem* This means that search engines and other automated systems can receive *four* copies of the bill. However, THOMAS provides 4 ways to print a bill, which all result in a different

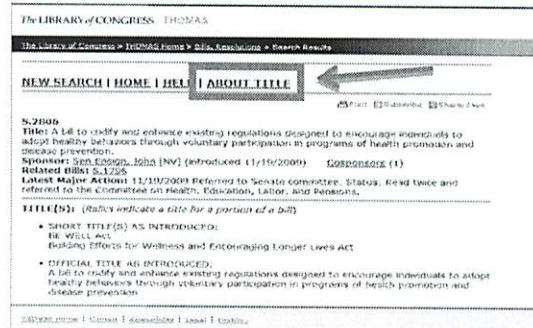


Figure 4 THOMAS Title page for S.2806 with attention drawn to the About Title link

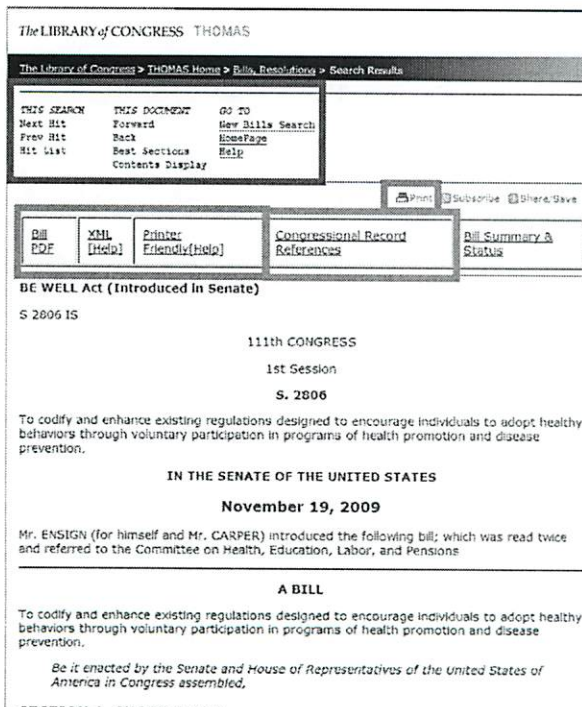


Figure 5 THOMAS Full Text Page

looking document (Figure 5 Red Box). The link with the printer icon invokes the browser's print function to print the current page. The site does have a print style sheet, but it does not strip out all of the navigation elements which should not be printed (Figure 6a). *This* wastes paper and clutters the printout with useless navigation links. Second, there is a link to a "Printer Friendly" version of the text. This is on a separate HTML webpage and does not include navigational elements (Figure 6b). In

few problems per page

addition, with a browser which supports XML definitions and style sheets, including all the latest versions of major browsers, the XML version can also be printed (Figure 6c). Lastly, the PDF version can also be printed. The PDF version is the cleanest, most official looking, and easiest to read version of the bill (Figure 6d). The four different printing options result in four very different looking pages.

read/memorize that vs which

117th CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
S. 2806

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Mr. ENSIGN (for himself and Mr. CARPER) introduced the following bill, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To codify and enhance existing regulations designed to encourage individuals to adopt healthy behaviors through voluntary participation in programs of health promotion and disease prevention.

SEC. 2. PROGRAMS OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION.

(a) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 9802 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That this Act may be cited as the "Building Efforts for Wellness and Encouraging Longer Lives Act" or the "BE WELL Act".

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Labor, and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, develop and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions a report on the effectiveness of the programs of health promotion and disease prevention.

117th CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
S. 2806

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

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SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Labor, and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, develop and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions a report on the effectiveness of the programs of health promotion and disease prevention.

Source: Health - THOMAS (Library of Congress) <http://www.congress.gov/legislation/bills/117th/1st-session/s2806> <http://www.congress.gov/legislation/bills/117th/1st-session/s2806> <http://www.congress.gov/legislation/bills/117th/1st-session/s2806>

When I first clicked on the PDF link, I was brought to a page that explaining that I was leaving THOMAS and being sent to the GPO

(Figure 7). This is the result of a government regulation which requires federal websites to inform you when you are leaving their site. This makes sense if you are leaving a government website to go to a privately controlled site. It makes less sense when you are moving from one

What taking about

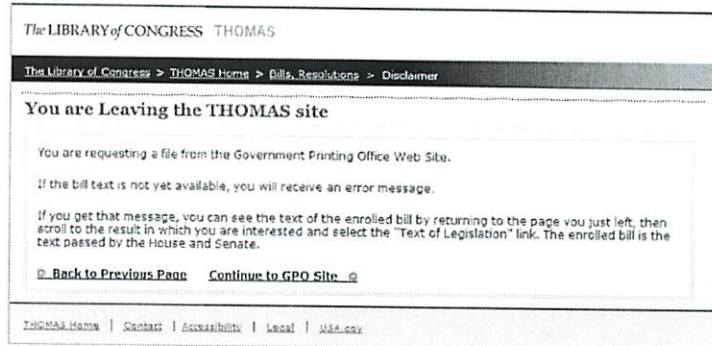


Figure 7 Leaving THOMAS to see a PDF

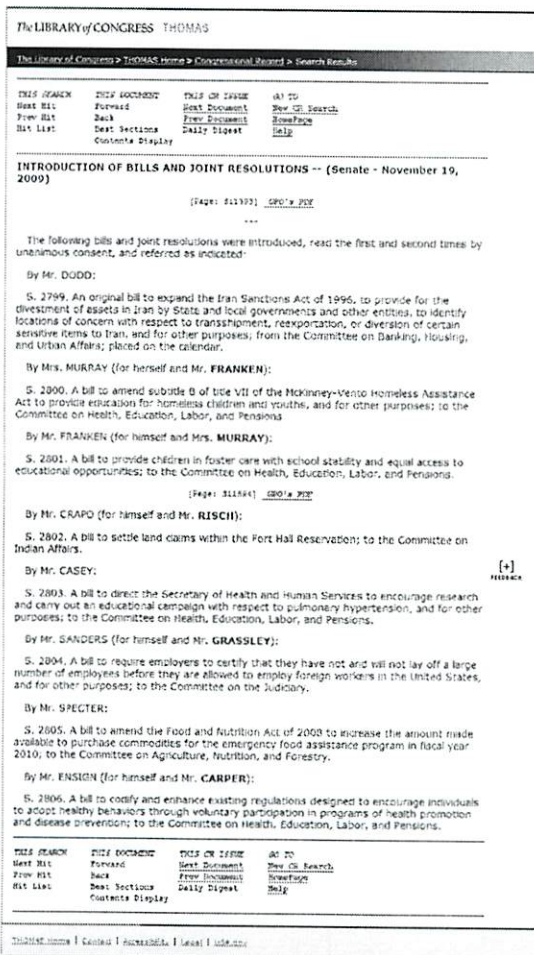


Figure 8 THOMAS Congressional Record Search Results

agency to another. It makes even less sense that the text of a bill can be on the Library of Congress' site in one form, but on the GPO's website in another form.

Why are two agencies even involved in this? In addition, what is the difference to any end user, either a regular citizen or a well-informed lobbyist?

Why does anyone care that the PDF version is on a different agencies' site? Fortunately, the PDF version

is digitally signed. This is very good because *what is wrong here* it makes sure that the document has not been changed since it

was signed. However, the signature is verified by a private company, GeoTrust. Shouldn't the government be the one which is verifying the private

company? This discussion is beyond the scope of this proposal and project.

On the bill text page there is a link to the Congressional Record References (Figure 5 Green box).

This link is not on the homepage for a bill, only on the text page. ^{which} This brings up a sparsely formatted

page with text extracts from sections of the Congressional Record (Figure 8). There are links to the

single page on which that bill was referenced in the printed Congressional Record. The Congressional

Record is presented in PDF form, page by page, from the actual printed version of the record. This is not

the best way to display this information.

The search engine is hard to use on

THOMAS. For example, I searched for "health care"

as a keyword. If a citizen stumbled upon THOMAS

they might search this term to find the health care bill

endlessly discussed throughout 2009. They would be

sorely disappointed (Figure 10). The search returns in

numerical order all of the bills concerning health. The

major health bill is buried in a mountain of results. It

is hard to identify at a glance what state the bill is in.

Thousands of bills are submitted each term and only

a handful get passed. However they are never

marked as abandoned in THOMAS. Part of this may

be unavoidable due to the rules of how Congress operates – some rules of Congress may need to be

would?

do you see the difference in meaning? Which do you intend?

Figure 10 THOMAS search for "health care"

1. H.CON.RES.10: Supporting the observance of World Stroke Awareness Day, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep. Jackson-Leach, Shellen [TX-18] (Introduced 1/7/2009) Committee: House Foreign Affairs Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce Latest Major Action: 1/7/2009 Referred to House Foreign Affairs Cosponsors (None)
2. H.CON.RES.14: Supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week. Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Barbara [CA-9] (Introduced 1/8/2009) Committee: House Energy and Commerce Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Latest Major Action: 3/6/2009 Referred to Senate Committee, Status: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
3. H.CON.RES.24: Expressing the sense of Congress on the need for a national AIDS strategy. Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Barbara [CA-9] (Introduced 1/21/2009) Committee: House Energy and Commerce Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Latest Major Action: 1/21/2009 Referred to House Committee, Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
4. H.CON.RES.25: Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month". Sponsor: Rep. Bilray, Susan D. [CA-50] (Introduced 1/22/2009) Committee: House Energy and Commerce Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Latest Major Action: 1/22/2009 Referred to House Committee, Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
5. H.CON.RES.48: Expressing the sense of Congress that national health care reform should ensure that the health care needs of women and of all individuals in the United States are met. Sponsor: Rep. Schekoyedy, Janice D. [IL-9] (Introduced 2/11/2009) Committee: House Energy and Commerce Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Latest Major Action: 2/11/2009 Referred to House Committee, Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

care less what page of the Congressional Record the content is on. There does not seem to be an easy way to view the entire text of the amendment on one page on THOMAS. Instead, one must each page of the Congressional record on a separate page! Citizens who know about the GPO's FDsys can use it to navigate to the Congressional Record, navigate to that year, month, and day and input the page number that is mentioned on THOMAS. One can then get a PDF which has all of the amendments submitted. This requires too many steps and an advanced knowledge of how each government system operates. There is no reason that the process must be this difficult.

In addition, the actual text of the amendment is very word heavy. It does not provide a visual overview of changes to a document like the diff command does in Linux. This makes it very easy to see what changes have been made at a glance (Figure 13). In addition to benefits for the public, using a computer tool to create these diff files will make the process easier of creating amendments and cause less mistakes. It will also be easier for legislators to scan as the read over the amendment. This may be beyond the scope of this proposal however. This system may possibly be able to create diffs by carefully parsing the text of the amendment.

The text of debates and comments cannot easily be found. One can find them the Congressional Record, similar to the process described for amendments. These should be linked from the bill's homepage and from a page for each member in a similar simplified method. Currently, C-SPAN

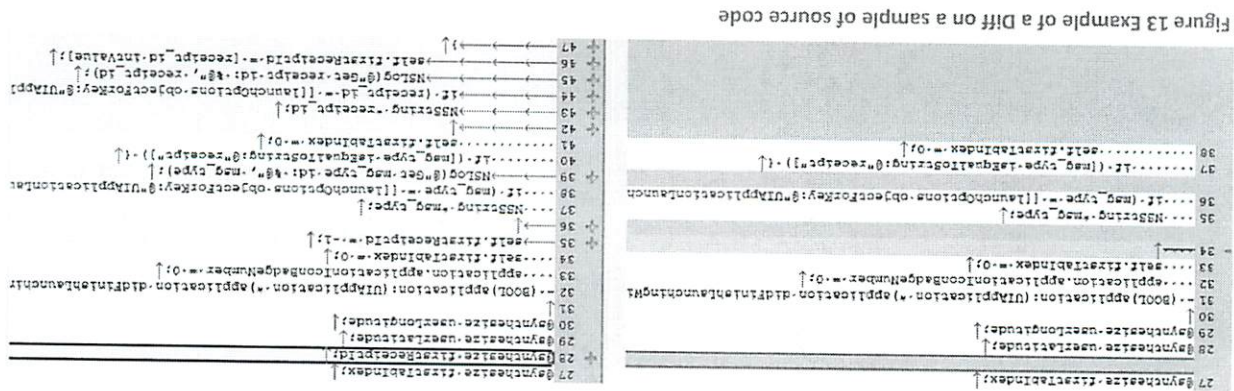


Figure 13 Example of a Diff on a sample of source code

Active Legislation
111th Congress (2009-2010)
Updated March 08, 2010

Data are arranged alphabetically by popular title or subject to be easy to find. Bill numbers are provided to facilitate research on THOMAS.

Categories

Appropriations	Agency Authorizations	Public Laws, 111th Congress (selected)
Regular Documents	Prescient Authorizations	

Currently Active
Bills that may receive floor action this week

Senate chamber		
Federal Aviation Administration	S. 5421	H.R. 5115
Jobs package		H.R. 2847
Tax extenders		H.R. 4213
Unemployment benefits, extend to Dec. 31, 2010	S. 2822 to H.R. 4213	
House chamber		
Health, debt relief	S. 2841	H.R. 4213

Popular Titles and Subjects

Bill	Return to top of page
A - Active Legislation	
72 hours, require all legislation to be available and scored by CBO	S. 2822
B - Active Legislation	
Banking and financial services re guaiden package (SEC) (Popular Documents category for Senate Banking Committee discussion draft and CBO cost estimate of H.R. 4173)	H.R. 4173
Reform tax law, impose income or estate taxes on TARP bonuses	S. 2821
C - Active Legislation	
Cap and trade	S. 2822 to H.R. 4213
Carbon tax provisions	H.R. 4213
Climate for discovery, scientific research and innovation	H.R. 4213

Figure 9 Senate.gov Pending Legislation

Eugene Huang, the director of Director of

Government Operations for the FCC's National Broadband Task Force, recently spoke at the Media Lab. He talked about how THOMAS was state of the art when it came out but has fallen behind today. It is not being updated due to lack of attention. Therefore I am proposing that I lead a team of people to update the site in order to meet the needs of today's audience and allow ordinary citizens to easily interact with government data.

Project Proposed Changes

THOMAS needs to be improved so citizens can easily find out what happened in Congress, who said what, and how each person voted for what.

Senate.gov needs to display real-time information from THOMAS or at the very least link to

THOMAS. Senate.gov's main content area is dedicated to the history of voting yes or no in the Senate. This is an improvement over the previous features, which have included an online exhibit of the Russell Senate Office building's centennial. While these are worthwhile, I believe that visitors going to Senate.gov are looking for real-time information of what is going on in the Senate. Thankful this information is at least present; however it is hidden on the sidebar. The website displays active legislation by theme (Figure 9). This is very useful as it solves the issue I had with searching for "health care;" however, this information should not be spread among multiple sites. House.gov does not have very useful real-time information. I propose changing the main content area of the site to similarly include real time information from THOMAS.

At the beginning of this section, give the reader an overview of what the project will entail — then outline the specific components or stages of the project.

which I did not do b/c

I wrote proposed changes — not project — broke w/ rubric which was stupid

Actually think this is good idea now

There are two popular THOMAS-like sites which have been created by non-profit organizations. Govtrack.us was created by Joshua Tauberer while he was a student. OpenCongress.org was created by the Sunlight Foundation who advocates for government transparency and runs sites that use government data. Sunlight has done a very good job with OpenCongress.org. As being a non-governmental site they can include commenting on the bill, a section to mark up the bill, and a wiki to summarize the bill. A government website would quickly be overrun with flame wars if it accepted comments. *This problem what, again?* This can be seen in the Obama Administration's trial of accepting comments when they first took office. The discussion quickly turned downhill. While it is great that sites have been set up to compete with THOMAS, it is still important to make THOMAS modern. It is still the provider of official government information, which is important to many. It is the first place which citizens often look, because they might know about OpenCongress.org.


I feel that THOMAS should include all information from the Congressional Record in context. Amendments are not very clear at all on either OpenCongress or THOMAS. In THOMAS, Amendments can only be found by viewing the Congressional Record search results for that bill. Once a user finds out that the link to that search

exists only on the full text page, they can crudely search for a list of amendments. Only the list of amendments is listed on that page of the Congressional Record. One must then go back to the THOMAS homepage to search for that record using the amendment number. They are then brought to a page where the table of contents of the amendment is displayed – not the entire amendment (Figure 12). Each page of text is linked individually according to how the paper and PDF version of the Congressional Record was put together. This makes no sense. A user wants to read the amendment; the user could

Subtitle B--Health Provisions
Page: S1040
Page: S1041
Page: S1042
Subtitle C--Other Provisions
Page: S1043
Page: S1044
TITLE III--PENSION FUNDING RELIEF
Subtitle A--Single Employer Plans
Page: S1045
Page: S1046
Page: S1047
Page: S1048
Subtitle B--Multiemployer Plans
Page: S1049
TITLE IV--OFFSET PROVISIONS
Subtitle A--Black Liquor
Subtitle B--Homebuyer Credit
Page: S1050
Subtitle C--Economic Substance
Subtitle D--Additional Provisions
TITLE V--SATELLITE TELEVISION EXTENSION
Subtitle A--Statutory Licenses
Page: S1052
Page: S1053
Page: S1054
Page: S1055
Page: S1056
Page: S1057
Subtitle B--Communications Provisions
Page: S1058
Page: S1059
Page: S1060
Subtitle C--Reports and Savings Provision
Page: S1061
Subtitle D--Severability
TITLE VI--OTHER PROVISIONS
TITLE VII--DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS
TITLE VIII--OFFSET
TITLE I--EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS
Subtitle A--Energy
Subtitle B--Individual Tax Relief
PART I--Miscellaneous Provisions
PART II--Low-Income Housing Credits
Subtitle C--Business Tax Relief
Page: S1062
Subtitle D--Temporary Disaster Relief Provisions
PART I--National Disaster Relief

Figure 12 THOMAS Amendment Text

is that -bad


The LIBRARY of CONGRESS
THOMAS

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Congressional Record > Search Results

THIS SEARCH	THIS DOCUMENT	THIS OR ISSUES	GO TO
Basic Hit	Forward	Real Document	Rev. CR Search
Prev. Hit	Back	Prev. Document	Home Page
Hit List	Real Sections	Daily Digest	Help
	Contents Display		

Daily Digest - Friday, March 5, 2010

Friday, March 5, 2010

Daily Digest

[Page: 0107] [GO to PDF](#)

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1211-S1241


Measures Introduced: Four bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3082-3085.

[Page S1229](#)

Measures Reported:

H.R. 3423, to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the non-Federal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are funded under that Act. (S. Rept. No. 111-158)

[Page S1229](#)


FEEDBACK

**[-]
FEEDBACK**

[illegible]

Figure 14 CSAPN Congressional Chronicle

records video of the debates. These videos are not linked anywhere from THOMAS. This video should be organized and linked from the text of the debate. One should be able to be reading the text of a debate and then click to watch the video of the debate. In addition, a view similar to C-SPAN's Congressional Chronicle should be provided on THOMAS's page about the previous day in Congress.

Process

This project will require 5 developers and 1 project manager to work for 9 months in order to create the new version of THOMAS. Programmer time is estimated at \$80,000 a year and project manager time is estimated at \$110,000. An additional \$20,000 of benefits per person will be provided. Total salary costs are estimated at \$472,500. Space will be provided by the Library of Congress in the Washington D.C. area and will be covered under their existing budget. \$10,000 of equipment is being requested for development hardware consisting of 6 desktops (\$1,000 each) and a development server (\$4,000). Deployment hardware is estimated at \$90,000 and will be decided according to the project requirements during the project.

good presentation of personnel and costs.
Place this in the Budget section.

She wants a small para above the table under header budget

Materials and Budget

Expenses	Approximate Cost
Programmer Wages and Benefits	\$472,500
Desktop Computer * 6	\$6,000
Development Server	\$4,000
Deployment hardware	\$90,000
Total	\$572,500

Resume

Michael Plasmeier

plaz@theplaz.com
(610) 513 0390

Plaz
theplaz.com

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Freshman; expected graduation 2013

Interested in Computer Science (6), Public Planning (11), Management (15), Political Science (17)
Research and Work

SocialMenu 2009- Developer, Viral Communications Group, MIT Media Lab

iPhone web programming, Facebook app development, design for human interaction

Residential Computing Consultant 2009- Computer/network support consultant for MIT's Information Services and Technology group, Client Support division

Websites

GridView 2007- <http://apps.facebook.com/gridview> Facebook application which lets users put all of their friends on their profile and makes a photo mosaic of themselves with their friend's photos.

Primary Developer (PHP, MySQL, Facebook Platform)

Created successful concept from idea to implementation

1.1 million installs; >300,000 monthly active users

Managed developers domestically and overseas

Maintained Linux servers

gridview

Tecker 911 2006-2009 <http://911.tecker.net> Video podcast covering technology for everyday people

100 episodes of high quality programming available online

Designed show concept and branding

Produce show by arranging shoots, editing, and distribution

Negotiating show onto cable TV

Tecker 911

Geoov 2009 <http://geoov.com> AJAX mapper to display all geotagged flickr photos.

Created website from architecture to implementation

Used Google Maps API with client side JavaScript

Geoov!

SeniorQuoter 2007- <http://seniorquoter.org> Installable, open-source PHP application which lets high school yearbooks streamline their senior quote collection process.

Designed application from the ground up, including UI

Implemented in PHP, MySQL

Lead team of 4 people to develop version 2

SeniorQuoter

Usability and logo design

Redesigned the skin for my MediaWiki site to increase usability http://wiki.theplaz.com/Navola_Skin

Created logos and layout for my projects

Work

Bespoke Media Group 2009- Implement promotions on Facebook; advise companies on social media strategy

Work closely with clients to explain their options and implement their vision

Haverford High School

4.7 GPA

CTO of Publications Department 2007-2009 Maintained computers and network for newspaper and yearbook

<http://wiki.theplaz.com/Resume>