

PRESENTATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL SECURITY & NATIONAL  
COMPETITIVENESS: OPEN SOURCE SOLUTIONS

***THE FEDERAL RESEARCH DIVISION  
OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS***

**WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE FEDERAL RESEARCH DIVISION?**

The Federal Research Division (FRD) of the Library of Congress provides domestic, international, and foreign-language research services to the Executive and Judicial branches of the United States Government by exploiting the vast English- and foreign-language collections of the Library of Congress. FRD's services are provided on a transfer-of-funds basis, and as such constitute a cost-recovery operation. Such fee-based research is authorized under the Economy Act of 1932 (31 U.S.C. 1535). The Economy Act allows one federal agency to obtain the services of another federal agency through an interagency agreement when it is determined that to do so is the most cost-effective and convenient means of accomplishing a given objective.

**WHY IS THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IMPORTANT FOR OPEN SOURCE RESEARCH?**

The Library of Congress collections consist of nearly **110,000,000** items in **450** languages. They include the following: **15,000,000 books**; **12,000,000 special-format publications** (monographs, serials--there are some 200,000 serial titles, of which 80,000 are in foreign languages--music, bound newspapers, pamphlets, technical reports, and other printed materials); **1,800,000 audio materials** (discs, tapes, and other recorded formats); **39,600,000 manuscripts**; **4,000,000 maps**;

**8,600,000 microforms; 16,000,000 visual materials** (motion pictures, photographs, posters, prints and drawings, videotapes and videodiscs, and so forth); and more than **12,000,000 computer database records**.

The Library's collections grow dramatically every day through traditional library acquisition methods--purchases, gifts, exchanges, and subscriptions. Because the Library of Congress is the de facto national library, it also has unique acquisition capabilities: copyright deposit; overseas acquisition offices in Bangkok, Cairo, Jakarta, Karachi, Nairobi, New Delhi, Moscow, and Rio de Janeiro; exchange and gift relations with other countries' national libraries; and exchange and gift relations with research, academic, and learned societies worldwide. It is almost impossible to comprehend the amount of information contained in the Library of Congress' collections.

## **ABOUT THE FEDERAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

### **HISTORY**

The Federal Research Division has been providing vital open-source research services for 44 years. The Division began in 1948 as the Air Research Section, in response to the Department of the Air Force's request for extensive research using the Library of Congress' foreign-language collections. Because of the successful work of the Air Research Section and the tremendous growth of Air Force research requirements, the section became the Air Research Division (ARD) within a year. The Air Force research function was transferred to the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1963, and ARD became the Defense Research Division (DRD). To broaden its scope of service, the Library expanded DRD's mandate to all federal agencies and renamed the Division the Federal Research Division in 1970. FRD offered research services to civilian Executive Branch agencies on various topics, both foreign and domestic.

## PROJECTS AND PRODUCTS

All FRD research is directed research, that is, research based upon specific client requests. FRD projects range from those that can be completed in several hours, a day, several weeks, or a year, to those that develop into multiyear, long-term support programs. Using their linguistic, area studies, and subject expertise skills, FRD staff members comprehensively exploit the collections of the Library. To answer research questions, they routinely use all available resources, including the Library of Congress Information System, Cataloging in Publication imprints, serials, monographs, maps, and photographs. FRD projects come in a variety of forms: foreign press abstracts, annotated bibliographies on selected topics, computer-based chronologies and trends reports, in-depth analytical studies, and multidisciplinary country studies. FRD research products run the gamut from one-page typescripts to fully illustrated book-length phototypeset masters ready for the U.S. Government Printing Office. In addition to hard-copy products, FRD can deliver data formatted for uploading into clients' existing automated systems and databases, and can transfer data electronically in a wide variety of formats.

## ORGANIZATION

FRD has three sections: the Former Soviet/East Europe section, which includes a Science and Technology Unit and a Political/Military Unit; the Regional Section, which consists of the Asia/West Europe Unit and the Middle East/Africa/Latin America Unit; and the Production Management Support Section, which includes an Editorial Support Unit, Computer Unit, Collections Unit, and Graphics Support Unit.

## STAFF

The Division has more than 50 staff members, ranging in grades from GS-1

through GS-14, and a Senior Level (Library SES equivalent) position. The research staff is highly educated. Many have advanced degrees, and are trained in such disciplines as area studies, foreign languages and linguistics, history, political science, physical sciences, library science, graphic arts, and business administration. Among the language capabilities available at FRD are: Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, Georgian, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. If a project requires a language skill unavailable at FRD, the Division draws on the Library of Congress' capabilities for assistance in more than 400 languages.

#### AUTOMATION CAPABILITIES

Integral to successfully accomplishing its wide range of tasking, FRD accommodates every client's varied automation needs. The Division has developed into one of the most highly automated organizations in the Library of Congress.

FRD has a wide variety of in-house hardware, including IBM PC's, a variety of Macintosh PC's (Plus, IICX, IIFX, and Quadra 950), a Sun Microsystems UNIX workstation, two multiuser Alpha Micro minicomputers, and direct access to the Library of Congress' on-line bibliographic mainframe. The Division also has access to a variety of commercial on-line databases. FRD has CD-ROM drives on both MAC and DOS PC's.

FRD maintains expertise in 20 to 30 different software packages. Its primary word-processing software is WordPerfect 5.1. Its primary database software is STAR. Other major software includes PlanPerfect, ProCite, Personal Librarian, FrameMaker, and SuperCalc.

In addition to FRD's in-house automation expertise, FRD has access to the

Library of Congress' extensive automation capabilities and staff.

**FEDERAL RESEARCH DIVISION CURRENT AND RECENT CLIENTS**

Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center

Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

Army Acquisitions Executive Support Agency

Army Corps of Engineers

Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans

Army Drug and Alcohol Operations Agency

Army Intelligence and Security Command

Army Training and Doctrine Command

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict

Central Intelligence Agency

Conference of American Armies

Defense Intelligence Agency

Defense Systems Management College

Defense Technology Security Administration

Department of the Interior (Bureau of Mines)

Department of State (Foreign Service Institute)

Department of Transportation (Coast Guard)

Department of the Treasury

Department of Veterans Affairs

Directorate for Defense Research and Engineering

Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA)

Institute for Defense Analysis

Library of Congress (Office of the Librarian, Collections Services, and Constituent

Services)

Marine Corps Intelligence Center

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

National Defense University

National Security Agency

Naval Maritime Intelligence Center

Office of Air Force History

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

United States Court of Veterans Appeals

United States Institute of Peace

United States Postal Service

United States Transportation Command

## **CONCLUSION**

The holdings of the Library of Congress represent an unsurpassed source of information--current and historical--on an uncountable number of subjects. The Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress effectively exploits these unique resources both by virtue of its access to the collections in the Library of Congress and by virtue of the expertise and experience of its staff.

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