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Introduction

This report describes the progress achieved by the Declassification Productivity Research Center (DPRC) during the first quarter of its third year of operations under DOE Grant # DE-FG01-95IS50316. Three quarterly reports and one annual progress report have been submitted per year since the beginning of the Grant in September 1995.

Progress has accelerated as the DPRC has gotten more involved with the federal declassification community, and has found meaningful ways to be of service to DOE and other agencies of the government. Accordingly, there is an excellent project log to present in this report. Moreover, this year the DPRC has received its first funding from agencies other than DOE, to signal a new mode of operation in its relationship to the declassification community at large.

Background

The DPRC was established at GWU as an independent, world-class research capability and computer facility to support the DOE Declassification Productivity Initiative (DPI). The original intent of DOE was to provide seed funding for the DPRC, which might be supplemented by other interested agencies as opportunities for research were identified and projects funded. The goal of DPI is to increase the flow of unrestricted government information to the public. To this end, the work at GWU involves both basic and applied research in the areas of (1) system-level declassification process analysis and modeling, (2) development of computer systems to automate declassification processes, including text analysis and interpretation, (3) coordination/ integration of new technology among into the processes, and (4) development and promulgation of inter-operability and document transfer standards.

Accomplishments in the first quarter of FY98

1. The DPRC continued to host and attend meetings of the Automation Working Group (AWG) of the multi-agency Declassification Productivity Management Council (DPMC) at the GWU Virginia Campus this past year. Our Virginia facility is adequately equipped and conveniently located for this service. Three AWG meetings were held at GWU/VA this fall.
2. The DRPC continued involvement in a doctoral level research effort to develop a dynamic simulation model involving equity interactions among multiple agencies engaged in FOIA and EO 12598 document reviews. One of our uncompensated doctoral fellows (Sameer Hussian) is investigating the implications of the recommendations made by Senator Moynihan's Commission on Secrecy in Government in regard to government-wide declassification performance, security and cost. This study is being carried out by Mr. Hussain for his doctoral

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dissertation. His dissertation proposal was accepted by his research committee in December, 1997. Dr Scotti is the research director. This study should be completed by the end of calendar 1998.

3. The DPRC continued to improved its Internet Web Site at (<http://128.164.20.200/>) this quarter. It is intended to serve as a communication site for the following communities:
 - Federal agencies involved in declassification
 - Academic researchers and commercial enterprises working on technologies useful in declassification
 - The general public with an interest in declassification-related activities and technologies.
4. The DPRC also developed a web site for the DPI Program at (<http://128.164.25.200/dpi>) to serve as a point source for all DPI information. The web site has been well received. Many favorable comments have been coming in to describe its look, feel and overall effectiveness for information dissemination
5. The DPRC has also continued to operate the Internet List Serve System (AWG-list@seas.gwu.edu) on behalf of the AWG to support interactions and convenient communications among the AWG members, especially between scheduled AWG meetings. The AWG/declassification community has been very slow in adapting to and making good use of this tool, but recent activities at the AWG promise to stimulate its use in the coming months.
6. The AWG Electronic Document Interchange Standard (EDIS) for facilitating the exchange of equity documents among the Agencies was completed and distributed among the AWG members. Several minor errors were subsequently discovered and corrected. Release EDIS Version 1.2 is currently available for PDF download on the DPRC web site.
7. A draft EDIS Test Plan (with schedule) was developed and discussed at the final AWG meeting of the year on December 18, 1997. Testing the EDIS is a critical activity for the AWG this coming year. It is important that the EDIS be implemented to support the expected increase of equity transfers as the volume of EO 12958 document increases in order to meet the EO12958 schedule for April 2000.
8. Research was also continued on an "Ultra Structure." development of a computer-base document review/redaction system. A Document Review/Redaction System (DRS) based on this model was developed by Jeffrey Long and in currently being tested for use by declassification community, along with the EDIS, and the Document Interchange System (DIS).
9. In a related effort, the DRS and DIS systems were combined with several other systems developed by the USFA, and USIA into a computer-disk-based package entitled "IDEAS" for "Interagency Declassification for Executive Agencies Systems" for free distribution to smaller Executive agencies that do not have their own such systems and could benefit from having the IDEAS suite of tools for free.

Jeff Long of the DPRC staff and Gary Llewellyn of the USIA jointly briefed the Classification Management Council (CMC) of the Security Policy Board (SPB) as well as the External Reference Working Group (ERWG) of the Declassification Productivity Management Council (DPMC) during the fall of their intentions to distribute this suite of tools. Several smaller agencies have received IDEAS to date and are presumably putting it to good use, and saving the Government money at the same time.

10. The DPRC Declassification Research Facility (DDRF) is just around the corner. As reported in the last progress report, GWU has promised the necessary space for the laboratory. We hope it will be available in the early spring.
11. No further progress was achieved with the Previously Released Information Management (PRIME) system. We are awaiting support from an interested member of the declassification community, preferable NARA to proceed with this valuable study and prototype demonstration.
12. A fall issue of the DPRC newsletter, The Communicator, was published and distributed widely, both in paper and over the DPRC web site. The Communicator is now reaches over 400 persons.
13. An OCR Corpus Development Plan was developed and delivered to DOE and to the AWG. The intention of this plan is to design, assemble and apply a representative corpus of documents to various aspects of OCR process testing. The plan will be improved and work on the corpus will progress during the coming months, as the corpus will be of critical importance for EDDS as well as further DPI research developments in the coming months.

Participants

The above accomplishments involved the joint efforts of the following group of eight (8) individuals at GWU :

Professor Richard Scotti, Principal Investigator (PI) and DPRC Director

Professors Hermann Helgert, and Robert Harrington, Co-principal Investigators

Mr. Jeffery Long, Senior Research Associate and DPRC Deputy Director

Ms Carol Lilly, Mr. Youngsuck Oh, and Mr. Nadir Khan, Graduate Fellows of the DPRC

Mr. Sameer Hussain, Graduate Researcher

The DPRC research program for the 1997-1998 contract year is described in our grant renewal/request letter to the DOE Administrative Officer, Ms. Mary Wideman (HR-561.1), dated July 24, 1997.