

**IX. APPENDICES FOR THE 2000 EDITION**

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC SECTOR/PRIVATE SECTOR TASK FORCE PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLES

The Task Force identified seven principles as the basis for determining policy decisions related to Federal government activities with respect to the distribution of information. The principles are discussed in detail in Chapter IV (pages 33 – 46) and discussed again in relationship to the Task Force recommendations in Chapter V (pages 47 – 60).

Issuing the principles, the Task Force stated:

There are two points to be made of general importance. First, the Task Force considers that these principles should be viewed as a whole and that none of them should be taken in isolation from the others. Second, in many situations, some of the principles may conflict with each other or with principles outside the scope of these deliberations. There is no way in which such conflicts can be resolved in the statement of principles; they can only be resolved in the specific situations in which they occur.

- Principle 1. The Federal government should take a leadership role in creating a framework that would facilitate the development and foster the use of information products and services.
- Principle 2. The Federal government should establish and enforce policies and procedures that encourage, and do not discourage, investment by the private sector in the development and use of information products and services.
- Principle 3. The Federal government should not provide information products and services in commerce except when there are compelling reasons to do so, and then only when it protects the private sector's every opportunity to assume the function(s) commercially.
- Principle 4. The Federal government, when it uses, reproduces, or distributes information available from the private sector as part of an information resource, product, or service, must assure that the property rights of the private sector sources are adequately protected.
- Principle 5. The Federal government should make governmentally distributable information openly available in readily reproducible form, without any constraints on subsequent use.
- Principle 6. The Federal government should set pricing policies for distributing information products or services that reflect the true cost of access and/or reproduction, any specific prices to be subject to review by an independent authority.

Principle 7. The Federal government should actively use existing mechanisms, such as the libraries of the country, as primary channels for making governmentally distributable information available to the public.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force also made twenty-seven recommendations that represent means for implementing the seven principles. Following each recommendation is the principle associated with it and the page number where it is discussed. For a variety of reasons, the Task Force did not develop recommendations for principles 4 and 6.

- Recommendation #1. Provide an environment that will enhance the competitive forces of the private sector, so that the market mechanisms can be effective in allocating resources in the use of information and in directing innovation into market determined areas. (Principle 1, Page 49)
- Recommendation #2. Affirm the applicability of the First Amendment to information products and services. (Principle 1, Page 49)
- Recommendation #3. Encourage Congress to be consistent in the language used and in the application of principles relating to information products and services, such as those identified in this Report, when it formulates legislation and when it exercises its oversight role. (Principle 1, Page 50)
- Recommendation #4. Encourage government agencies to utilize the most efficient (information) technologies. (Principle 1, Page 50)
- Recommendation #5. Encourage the setting and use of voluntary standards that will not inhibit the further development of innovative information products and services. (Principle 1, Page 51)
- Recommendation #6. Encourage and support educational programs that provide the professional skills needed to further the development and use of information as an economic and social resource. (Principle 1, Page 52)
- Recommendation #7. Encourage and support both basic and applied research in library and information science. (Principle 1, Page 52)
- Recommendation #8. Encourage and support statistical programs and related research to provide the data needed to deal with information policy issues. (Principle 1, Page 52)
- Recommendation #9. Conduct a periodic economic assessment of the impact of Federal government information product and services. (Principle 1, Page 52)
- Recommendation #10. Encourage Federal agencies to regard the dissemination of information, especially through the mechanisms of the private sector (both for profit and not for profit), as a high priority responsibility. (Principle 1, Page 53)
- Recommendation #11. Identify and evaluate alternatives to existing Federal information dissemination mechanisms. (Principle 1, Page 53)
- Recommendation #12. Develop and support the use of libraries as active means for access to governmental information by the public. (Principle 1, Page 53)
- Recommendation #13. Identify and eliminate legal and regulatory barriers to the introduction of new information products and services. (Principle 2, Page 53)

- Recommendation #14. Encourage private enterprise to "add value" to government information (i.e., to re-package it, provide further processing services, and otherwise enhance the information so that it can be sold at a profit). (Principle 2, Page 54)
- Recommendation #15. Provide incentives to existing organizations, such as libraries and bookstores, that will encourage them to expand their activities in dissemination of governmentally distributable information. (Principle 2, Page 54)
- Recommendation #16. Establish procedures which will create a realistic opportunity for private sector involvement in the planning process for government information activities. (Principle 2, Page 55)
- Recommendation #17. Involve the private sector in the process of formulating standards relating to Federal information activities. (Principle 2, Page 55)
- Recommendation #18. Create or improve mechanisms for ensuring that the actions of government agencies, in developing information resources, products, and services, are consistent with the policies, goals, and long-range plans that are announced. (Principle 2, Page 55)
- Recommendation #19. Announce intentions sufficiently ahead of time to provide an opportunity for private sector involvement when a government agency, for reasons it regards as compelling, should plan to develop and/or to market an information product or service. (Principle 3, Page 56)
- Recommendation #20. Review and approve, before implementation, any plans for the government to develop and/or market an information product or service, the review to be carried out by an agency appropriate to the branch of government (such as OMB, GAO, CBO). (Principle 3, Page 56)
- Recommendation #21. Include an "information impact and cost analysis" as part of the process of review, evaluation, and approval of any plans for the government to develop and/or to market an information product or service, the analysis to cover economic and social effects, effects on existing products and services, effects on potential private sector products and services, and benefits to the public. (Principle 3, Page 56)
- Recommendation #22. Review periodically to evaluate the desirability of continuation of any information product or service as a governmental activity. (Principle 3, Page 56)
- Recommendation #23. Do not arbitrarily restrict the Federal government from enhancement of information products and services, even if solely to meet the needs of constituencies outside the government itself. (Principle 3, Page 57)
- Recommendation #24. Announce the availability of governmentally distributable information and maintain one or more registers to help the public determine what governmentally distributable information is available. (Principle 5, Page 58)
- Recommendation #25. Deposit governmentally distributable information, in whatever form it may be available, at national and regional centers, including regional depository libraries, where it may be examined at no charge. (Principle 5, Page 58)
- Recommendation #26. Do not assert any Federal government copyrights on information the Federal government makes domestically available. (Principle 5, Page 59)

Recommendation #27. Use the nation's libraries and non-governmental information centers as means for distribution of governmentally distributable information instead of creating new governmental units or expanding existing ones. (Principle 7, Page 59)