REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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Request for Information

Who we are

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES/NSF) within the National Science Foundation is one of 13 independent U.S. federal statistical agencies. It is broadly responsible for collecting, interpreting, and disseminating information on the state of science and engineering and research and development in the U.S. The Center publishes approximately 50 publications and online products per year and maintains a website with online resources and database systems. The website contains data and information in a variety of formats, including data tables, data tools, and applications for online data interaction. All the Center's reports are released in electronic format. The Center posts its reports on NSF's centrally administered web servers (legacy site https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ and redesigned site https://ncses.nsf.gov/).

Scope of Work

The scope of work is to help us maintain the website and produce high quality analytical products. The Center's focus is web-first publishing that is also capable of outputting reports in classic formats such as Excel tables and PDF. Support is required for the NCSES portion of the NSF website (https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ and https://ncses.nsf.gov) and intranet.

NCSES Website Support

This request for information covers the activities and needs for the publication of interactive web-based reports and infographics. Requirements include allowing for an attractive layout, conducting reviews, and dissemination to the NCSES website. The Center's Web Team is responsible for developing and maintaining the tools that support those needs. The Center would like to see automation of loading a publication source from a Word document or spreadsheet resulting in multiple file outputs (HTML, Excel, PNG, PDF, etc.). The Center would also like to see the Content Management System be something relatively simple to use so IT experts are not needed to operate the publication process. The Center produces many different products, publications, and non-publication web pages that include various levels of complexity.

Some examples of these complexities include but are not limited to:
- Large data tables that include outputs in Excel and printable PDFs
- Dual text column PDF output with embedded charts
- Chapters/sections
- Sidebars and pull quotes
- Endnotes
- Maps (local, national, and international)
- Math Equations/Formulas

- • Ability to control which web content is included in the PDF version
- • Interactive figures
- • Tagging capability for all content types

Publication types

The Content Management System provides a variety of publication types to the Center analysts to author their reports. Our publications may contain some complexities that are common in print publishing but not standard web pages. For example, the Science and Engineering special report still requires quality print characteristics like dual column formatting for the PDF output. The web version of this report is single column. Graphics are embedded inline but because this can cause large white spaces in the print version the user will need some manual control of where to place these graphics in print output. The need to control formatting in the PDF output is important.

The following are common report types that we publish on our website.

InfoBriefs – Short, analytical reports that typically includes at least one interactive figure or table and about 2-5 pages of text. (ex. https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf22312)

Data Tables –A set of data tables presented in Excel, html, and pdf formats. Tables include formatting such as super scripts and indentation. The number of tables in a single data release may range from 10 tables to 100+. (ex. https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf21303)

Special Reports – These reports provide analytical overviews of particular topics or issues. The analysis and reporting is more extensive than that in InfoBriefs, but the audience is similar. Special reports consist of interactive figures and tables which are embedded within the text. The PDF output might require dual column text formatting which would be different than the web page formatting. Some special reports also publish in a hard copy book. (ex. https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20221)

Thematic Reports – Thematic Reports consists of large collection of interactive figures, tables inline within text and larger data tables. (ex. https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20212)

Working Papers –Working papers are like Thematic Reports but could contain miscellaneous items like math equations. (ex. https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/ncses22211)

InfoCharts – These short publications no more than one page that use a single interactive figure and concise text to highlight an important trend or topic related to NCSES data. (ex. https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf22306)

Some questions we have for interested parties

1. What content management systems are available off-the-shelf, either commercially or open source, that allow complex design of analytical reports?
2. What features in a content management system should we consider for creating the content described here?
3. What experience do you have with helping an organization switch or modernize CMS software? What did you learn that we should keep in mind?
4. Are there requirements you see listed above that are costly for which you recommend alternatives to accomplish similar goals?
5. What challenges do you see in making all the above 508 compliant at the WCAG 2.0 Level AA?

REQUESTED CONTENT OF RESPONSES TO THIS RFI

A response shall be submitted as either a Microsoft Word or searchable Adobe PDF document and should not exceed five (5) pages in length, 12-point standard font. **Do not submit resumes, marketing materials, slide presentations, or technical papers.**

After reviewing the responses, the NSF:
- May or may not choose to meet with responders. Such discussions would only be intended to get further clarification of potential capability and issues;
- Continue to refine the objectives of the requirement and/or associated tasks;
- May or may not choose to solicit proposals to procure one or more tasks identified in Section 2; and
- Will not provide responses to questions submitted as part of responses to this RFI.

The NSF is not obligated to contact any or all respondents, hold meetings with any or all respondents, or solicit proposals as a result of this request. NSF will not reimburse costs associated with responding to this request and does not intend to pay for the information received.

4. **RFI Due Date and Contact Info for Submission:** All Interested parties should provide responses to the contact representative below by email by the date delineated below.

Contact Information:	Jonathan Schmeelk jschmeel@nsf.gov
Responses must be received by:	5:00 p.m. ET Friday, December 2, 2022

Subject line shall reference RFI no. 49100423K0001