

# ILLUMINATED BUDGET

- 1 BUDGETS Online
- 2 BILLS and LEGISLATION
- 3 CORPORATE AUTHORS in social media
- 4 CONSENSUS on FACTS
- 5 REPUTATION
- 6 ATTRIBUTION
- 7 INFORMATION DISPLAY
- 8 REACHING an AUDIENCE

8.1 Need to send an e-mail but hard to format the data so it's complete AND clear.

- 8.1.1 Giant PDF is a hassle
- 8.1.2 Reference to Thomas is cluttered and hard to navigate
- 8.1.3 Copy-paste to web loses context
- 8.1.4 Be nice to have the source info broken up into SMALL CHUNKS
  - 8.1.4.1 Legislation is already numbered and indexed (like the bible)
    - 8.1.4.1.1 The numbering changes over time
    - 8.1.4.1.1.1 Impose an external reference structure on it and work from that, to buffer the expected changes
    - 8.1.4.1.2 Inherent cross-referencing already in a bill, which can be hard to follow.
    - 8.1.4.1.3 Leg. is not meant to be read as narrative text, but is in legalese
  - 8.1.4.2 Have bill text intermixed with commentary
    - 8.1.4.2.1 Talmud and ref. bibles have commentary along with the text
    - 8.1.4.2.2 Tracking a bill through it's entire lifecycle? Or just pick it up once it settles down at some relevant level?
      - 8.1.4.2.2.1 It becomes important when earmarks are attached
      - 8.1.4.2.2.2 Reduce complexity by reducing the scope of attention
  - 8.1.4.3 Follow the links backwards, to see the various issues a group has commented on

8.2 Quoting OTHER organizations is similarly hard

- 8.2.1 Organizations have a desire to keep traffic internal and won't want to let users leave their site
- 8.2.2 Allow orgs to keep a custom wrapper around all access to the common data
- 8.2.3 Each org has their own unique format and language and website
  - 8.2.3.1 Need to be able to customize content presentation to fit in with varying needs
  - 8.2.3.2 Need live support so that when sites change and links break, that someone fixes it in a timely manner

8.3 no good tools yet for this though PIECES exist

- 8.3.1 Databases, of course
- 8.3.2 Tools for Linking information in the databases
- 8.3.3 Currently hard to know when you are done searching (have covered all relative information/links)
  - 8.3.3.1 If the fragmented, indexed, annotatable bill is known to be online, people will use it
  - 8.3.3.2 All relevant info will eventually be in one place
  - 8.3.3.3 Able to tie into individual sites, with custom formatting/filtering.
- 8.3.4 Interface to show the pieces and comments and links
  - 8.3.4.1 can't make all decisions about UI now but can set commitments to usability and accessibility now.
  - 8.3.4.2 Need to architect for change; so we can adjust the interface over time and not lose data behind it.
  - 8.3.4.3 May ONLY be POWER USERS; people who want their existing access to be BETTER; but not targeting the casual user.
    - 8.3.4.3.1 Ordinary users may not want to read the budget
    - 8.3.4.3.2 External users may only want to read the interpretation or annotation of the budget
    - 8.3.4.3.3 However, we may be underestimating non-expert users; non-politicians (e.g. students) may have a need to find this information.
  - 8.3.4.4 Different CUSTOM interfaces to meet different needs
- 8.3.5 Open-source tools can allow different audiences to customize for their needs
- 8.3.6 We can already pull all house bills off the 'net and XML format them
- 8.3.7 FSF has developed a system for commenting on changes in the license.
  - 8.3.7.1 A few people wrote the license
  - 8.3.7.2 A bunch of people comment on it
    - 8.3.7.2.1 The comments were effective in changing the content
    - 8.3.7.2.2 Even stupid comments proved useful, highlighting subtle overlooked elements.
    - 8.3.7.2.3 The ABILITY to comment helps people be a part of the process
  - 8.3.7.3 One programmer built a usable system to manage it