

Case study: Statute Law Database



The Statute Law Database is the official revised edition of primary and secondary legislation in the UK, made available online. It replaced the publication *Statutes in Force* to provide a comprehensive source of UK legislation for government and the general public.

TSO worked with the Statutory Publications Office (SPO), then part of the Ministry of Justice and now part of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) / The National Archives (TNA), to develop the database. It was launched to government users in May 2006 and made freely available online to the general public in December of the same year. New legislation is constantly added to the database while existing legislation is revised to ensure that it provides a full, accurate and up-to-date picture.

The challenge

The Statute Law Database holds a significant amount of information, and is growing all the time. When creating the database TSO and SPO used 1 February 1991 as its 'base date,' taking all legislation in force on that date as a starting point for the database.

Legislation is continually changing, with the introduction of new Acts and the revision of existing legislation. These changes need to be reflected in the Statute Law Database. Adding and revising legislation is a time consuming process and SPO needs to ensure that the database is as up to date as possible, with the goal that it will eventually include all current primary and secondary UK legislation.

The solution

TSO provided SPO with its single source content management solution, ActiveText, which enables them to make revisions to the Statute Law Database quickly and easily. ActiveText holds all the data in one place, ensuring consistency, and maintains a document history so users can access a version of the content as it stood at any particular point in time. Multiple concurrent versions of documents can also be created to provide for differences in legislation across the UK. ActiveText was instrumental in the development of the online version of the database, which provides the public with access to UK legislation.

Case study: Statute Law Database



TSO provides SPO with ongoing support for the database, including further development of ActiveText to meet their changing needs. Updates have included improving the search facility on the website to give the public improved access to legislation.

Service mix

- ActiveText™ content management
- Web hosting
- Web design

Results

- Over 100,000 amendments processed
- 18,000 electronic pages of information handled each year
- The Statute Law Database contains over 30,000 items of primary and secondary UK legislation
- All legislation on the database has been updated to the end of 2002, with many items already up to date to the present.

Confidentiality Statement

The contents of this document together with all other information, data, materials, specifications or other related documents provided by TSO (together "materials") shall be treated at all times by the recipient as the confidential and proprietary information of TSO. The recipient shall not disclose any such materials to any third parties without the express, advance written approval of TSO. Where such express approval is granted by TSO, the recipient shall ensure that all third parties to whom disclosure is made shall keep any such materials confidential and shall not disclose them or any part of them to any other person. All intellectual property rights in the materials provided by TSO are and shall remain the property of TSO, or its third party licensors, and are protected by copyright. © 2008 Williams Lea Group

Disclaimer

This document may be incomplete without reference to any oral briefing provided by TSO, reflects current conditions and TSO's views as of this date and is subject to correction or change at any time. Although the information contained in this document is believed to be accurate in all material respects, neither TSO nor any of TSO's advisers, agents, officers or employees accepts responsibility or liability for or makes any promise, representation, statement or expression of opinion or warranty, express or implied, with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the content of this document (to the extent permissible by law) unless and save to the extent that such promise, representation, statement or expression of opinion or warranty is later expressly incorporated into a legally binding contract.