

1.3 System Overview:

The **Future** Digital System **will be** composed of the necessary technology and business practices that will enable GPO to ingest, manage, preserve, and provide access to content that is disseminated in hard Copy and to content that is electronically stored (Main GOAL). GPO **believes that** management of both electronic and non-electronic content **should be** an integrated process that provides maximum efficiency and value for users. When it becomes operational, The **Future** Digital System will enable GPO customers to obtain hard copy publications and to electronically access and retrieve the content they want, and it will enable GPO to deliver that content in the formats its customers desire. The **Future** Digital System tools and content must be accessible. Accessibility is making tools and content available and usable for all users including those with disabilities. The **Future** Digital System will follow established best practices and regulations for accessibility

3.1 Background, objectives, and scope

GPO systems currently in place have been developed **primarily** to support dissemination of printed publications. In general, GPO dedicates its in-house printing equipment to congressional printing and contracts out most printing for the executive branch. Contracting is accomplished through an acquisition program that relies on the commercial sector and passes the contractors' costs on to its Government customers. Pre-qualified businesses, small to large in size, compete for printing jobs that GPO printing experts oversee to ensure that the contractors meet all customer requirements for quality.

In addition, GPO provides a range of **services** to Government agencies, including, for example, CD-ROM development and production, archiving/storage, conversion of products to electronic format, Web hosting, and Web page design and development. **However**, GPO's capability to provide these products and services is not well known among its Government agency customers. **As a result**, the agencies are developing these products and services on their own, which further complicates the **issue** of "fugitive documents." In the past, GPO's implementation of new products and services has been conducted in an ad-hoc manner, which has resulted in the development of disparate systems. Additionally, GPO has **failed** to update its technological abilities to keep pace with changes in the information dissemination environment, and as a result it **must** update its technology to address the needs of today's customers and information users and stay alert to future trends and changing needs.