

*CHIEF FOIA  
OFFICERS  
COUNCIL  
TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE*

*September 5, 2019*

*UNCLASSIFIED*

# *How did we get here?*



In response to a recommendation of the 2016-2018 term of the FOIA Advisory Committee, the Archivist of the United States proposed that the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) seek to establish a *technology subcommittee* of the Chief FOIA Officer Council, in partnership with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) Council, to study the use and deployment of technology in FOIA programs across agencies and identify best practices and recommendations that can be implemented across agencies.

# *What have we been doing?*



- In September 2018, the Directors of OGIS and the Department of Justice Office of Information Policy (OIP), which are co-chairs of the Chief FOIA Officer Council, established the Technology Subcommittee (the Subcommittee).
- The Subcommittee is co-chaired by the Department of State and Veterans Health Administration (Department of Veterans Affairs).
- Membership includes the Departments of Homeland Security and Interior, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Institute of Library and Museum Services, American Battle Monuments Commission, Social Security Administration, Air Force Declassification Office, and the Bureau of Consumer Protection. The Subcommittee liaised with OIP and OGIS.

# *Three Main Subcommittee Objectives:*

Beginning in December 2018, the Subcommittee met at least monthly, usually twice a month, to implement its three primary objectives :

1. Study the use and deployment of FOIA technology solutions/approaches across agencies (goal is awareness -- who is doing what);
2. Identify and highlight best practices/programs; and
3. Make realistic recommendations that can be implemented across the FOIA practitioners spectrum (small-large operations).



*Tomorrow is today.*



---

*UNCLASSIFIED*

# *Status and Next Steps*

- Research conducted. 100+ Agencies surveyed.
- Identified best practices within agencies.
- Developed enterprise-wide recommendations.
- Discuss recommendations with the FOIA Advisory Committee
  - How to best Level the Playing Field
  - How to best Lend a hand
  - How to best Share the Word

# *Questions?*

Eric F. Stein, Director

Office of Information Programs and Services (A/GIS/IPS)

U.S. Department of State

202-485-2051

[steinef@state.gov](mailto:steinef@state.gov)

# *Connect & Contact*

Michael Sarich, Director

Veterans Health Administration, FOIA Program

Office: 202-461-5329

Email: [michael.sarich@va.gov](mailto:michael.sarich@va.gov)