Appendix B: List of Acronyms and Terms

AFDC—Aid to Families With Dependent Children

ACH—Automated Clearing House

analog— information transmitted using a continuously varying signal-e. g., radio transmission

ANSI—American National Standards Institute

ATM—automated teller machine

AUP—Acceptable Use Policy (for the Internet)

backbone-a set of links to carry messages between telecommunication switches

bandwidth-the range of frequencies or maximum information (in bits per second) that a system can transmit

BBS-electronic bulletin board system

BISDN—broadband integrated services digital network

broadband—systems that can transmit relatively large amounts of information, e.g., high definition television

BST—Big Sky Telegraph

CBO--Congressional Budget Office

CD-ROM- compact disk—read-only memory

CIC--Consumer Information Center

CIO-Chief Information Officer

CoREN—Corporation for Regional and Enterprise Networking

CRS--Congressional Research Service

CSL--Computer Systems Laboratory

DHHS--U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

digital--information transmitted using two discrete levels (high and low) and therefore less susceptible to small signal variations

DLP— Depository Library *Program*

DTIC—Defense Technical Information Center

EBT--electronic benefits transfer

EDI--electronic data interchange

EFT--electronic funds transfer

EFTA— Electronic Funds Transfer Association

EPA— Environmental Protection Agency

ESNet— Department of Energy's energy science network

Fax—facsimile

FedWorld—A bulletin board service maintained by NTIS that, in turn, accesses over 100 other government bulletin boards.

FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation

FCC—Federal Communications Commission

FILS--Federal Information Locator System

FMS--Financial Management Service

FNS--Food and Nutrition Service

FOIA—Freedom of Information Act

frame relay—an electronic format for sending packets

FSP— Food Stamp Program

FTS--Federal Government's telecommunications program previous to FTS2000

FTS2000--Federal Government's long-distance telecommunication services program

GAO—U.S. General Accounting Office

GPO--U.S. Government Printing Office

GIS--Geographic Information System

GSA—U.S. General Services Administration

HPCC—High Performance Computing and Communications program

hybrid card—a card using both a microprocessor and a magnetic stripe

I&R—Information and Referral (offices)

Internet—a family of interoperable computer networks

InterNIC— Internet Network Information Center

interoperability— the ability of one system to communicate with or operate with another

IRM—Information Resources Management

IRMS--Information Resource Management Service

ISDN—integrated services digital network

kbps--kilobits per second

kilobit—1,000 bits

LATA—local access and transport area

LAN—local area network

LEC—local exchange carrier (the traditional local telephone company)

Magnetic stripe card—a card with a magnetic stripe on the back-e. g., most bank or credit cards

Megabyte--l million bytes (8 million bits)

Mbps— megabits per second

NAPA—National Academy of Public Administration

NARA—National Archives and Records Administration

NASA—National Aeronautics and Space Administration

narrowband—systems that transmit relatively small amounts of information, e.g., telephone conversations

NII—National Information Infrastructure

NIST—National Institute of Standards and Technology

NLM—National Library of Medicine

NOAA—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NPTN—National Public Telecomputing Network

NREN—National Research and Education Network

NSF—National Science Foundation

NSFNET—National Science Foundation network

NSA—National Security Agency

NSI—NASA Science Internet

NTIA—National Telecommunications and Information Administration

NTIS--National Technical Information Service

off-line-not connected directly to a central computer— e.g., connections may be made at a later time

OIRA----Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

OMB--Office of Management and Budget

on-line- connected directly to a central computer either permanently or through a dial-up connection

OSTP— Office of Science and Technology Policy

packet—a set of data transmitted in a predetermined format and with an accompanying address

PCN— personal communication network

PCS--personal communication services-any of the many mobile services designed to serve individuals wherever they are

PEN—Public Electronic Network, Santa Monica, CA

PIN—personal identification number

POTS- plain old telephone service

POS--point-of-sale

PRA— Paperwork Reduction Act

RAN—rural area network

REA—Rural Electrification Administration

RFI—request for information

RFP—request for proposals

SeniorNet—a not-for-profit organization that provides computer services to senior citizens

SIGCAT— Special Interest Group on CD-ROM Applications and Technology

Smart card—a card the size of a bank card with an embedded microprocessor

SS7— common charnel signaling system 7

SSA--Social Security Administration

SSI—Supplemental Security Income Program

SupDocs--Superintendent of Documents

T1—protocol for sending data at 1.544 Mbps

T3-- protocol for sending data at 45 Mbps

TCP/IP— transport control protocol/internet protocol—the electronic format used for Internet messages

TDD--Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf

TRI— Toxic Release Inventory

Tulare Touch-electronic kiosk system used in Tulare County, CA for its welfare eligibility program

USDA—U.S. Department of Agriculture

VA—U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VAN—value- added network

WAIS--wide area information servers

WIC--Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children

WORM—write-once, read-many times optical disk

WEDI—Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange

WyoCard--State of Wyoming's pilot project to deliver WIC benefits