GeoArchiving 101 For Fun, Profit and Peace of Mind

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How We See Each Other
How We See Each Other (cont.)

Nad83 rules!

Rock on, bro!
What is GeoMAPP?

- Preservation of “at risk” superseded geospatial content
- Building the relationship between State GIS and Archives staff
- Interstate partnerships
- Exploration of business case drivers
- Data replication among several states
- Implementation of a geographically dispersed content-exchange network
- Local, state and national outreach
Who is GeoMAPP?

- NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA)
- North Carolina State Archives
- NC State University Libraries
- Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA)
- Kentucky Division of Geographic Information (DGI)
- Kentucky State University
- Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC)
- Utah State Archives
- 10 Informational Partners: DC, GA, ME, MD, MN, MT, NY, TX, WI, WY
- Currently releasing an RFP to include additional partners

The subject matter is becoming more timely……. The Library of Congress and Columbia University recently announced “an agreement to create a web-based clearinghouse of information about best practices for preserving significant geospatial data.”
GIS Approach to Geoarchiving

• Data on our machines

• Backups from a Database

• Data moved and stored on another live system
Archivist’s Approach to GeoArchiving

- Business planning for sustainable archives
  - Translation: We know we have stuff that’s worth keeping, but how do you convince others?
- Inventory
  - Translation: What stuff do we have?
- Appraisal
  - Translation: What stuff is important to keep, why, and for how long?
- Data transfer and ingest
  - Translation: Giving important stuff to the archives and making sure it gets to the right place.
- Accessibility
  - Translation: Making this stuff available to people who might be interested in seeing or using it.
- Long-term preservation
  - Translation: Making sure this stuff is kept forever, forever, forever…
Why Preserve Geospatial Data?

Counties change over time
Aerial photography over time

Different Vintages of Aerial Photography

Noxious weed movement..
Why Archivists Care

- Legally bound to preserve and make it available to the public.
- This information may be of interest to researchers in the future.
  - Potential for spurring “new” knowledge from existing data
  - Re-using, re-analyzing and recombining datasets in innovative ways (e.g. mashups)

... in conclusion, that’s how historical GIS can solve world peace.

My hero!

http://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalarchives/3008584298/
Uses for Superseded Geospatial Data

- Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species tracking
- General Wildlife Habitat studies
- Community meetings looking at issues
Uses for Superseded Geospatial Data (cont.)
Philosophical Shift

- Early GIS days we always focused on the latest and greatest data.
- Once a new layer was produced ... out with the old!
- Now we save data based on a vintage, when is the data updated? Sometimes based on a tax year. Taxes were assessed by the boundaries that were current for X year.
A New Way of Thinking
What can I do to make my data more useful for others now

…and more “preservation ready” for the future?
Making GIS Data Preservation Ready

- Is your data complete?
- Is it clean?
- Are your attribute names understandable?
- When you create data do you do it with an eye to a wider audience?
- What format did you put it in? – some formats are easier to share than others
Where the $@!* is the metadata?
What Archivists Need

- Metadata
  - Just do IT! (no, really, we mean it)
  - Ideally FGDC compliant
  - Important fields:
    - Who (creator)
    - What (title/description)
    - Where (geographical extent)
    - When (publish date)
    - Why (reason it was created)
  - Make the metadata as “good” as possible
Other Best Practices

- File naming
  - Descriptive title
    - “Shellfish_Growing_Areas_2009” versus “SGA”
    - “0608_014.sid”

- Attributes
  - Logical Name
  - Explanation in metadata record

- Format awareness
  - Versioning and file type
Why should you care about this stuff?

Archivists need to take all this information, combine it …
Geospatial content on the State Library of North Carolina Digital Repository

Geospatial content on KDLA's digital repository.
Shameless Plug

- Want to learn more about preserving geospatial data?

- **Wed, Jul 14, 3:15 - 4:30PM**
  Mapped Today; Zapped Tomorrow? Preserving Government Digital Geospatial Data
  Room 28 B

- **Thu, Jul 15, 12:00PM - 1PM**
  Data Preservation Special Interest Group
  Room 28 D

- Visit the **GeoMAPP website** at [www.geomapp.net](http://www.geomapp.net)
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