The Value of Metadata

Why is metadata important to your agency / organization?

Metadata has tremendous value to individuals within your organization, as well as to individuals outside of your organization.

The Current Concept

Primary internal value
- Critical data asset protection
  (Data insurance policy)
- “Inheritance”
- Cataloging
- Sharing
- Limiting liability

“Properly documenting a data set is the key to preserving its usefulness through time.”

The Current Concept

Primary external value
- Discovery
- Assessment
- Access
- Use

Using metadata within your organization adds value to your data to users outside of your organization…
The Value of Metadata

An Emerging Concept
An aid to data management

*Internal value*
- Discovery
- Assessment
- Access
- Use

Additional data management benefits

*Data Currency*
- Date of last edit/update
- Age of source files

*Data Utility*
- Track source file usage
- Track distribution frequency

Monitoring Data Development

*Data Processing*
- Data processing steps
- Status of development

Estimating Development Costs
- Data processing – time and extent
- Source file availability
Make metadata part of the process

To realize the full potential of metadata under this new concept, metadata creation must become integral to the data development process.

*The question is “How?”*

We’ll touch on this later…

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**Metadata as a Data Discovery Tool**

Metadata clearinghouses enable you to search for metadata records based on a customized search criteria.

It is more efficient to conduct a search on metadata records…

This can provide a valuable “initial searching filter” before downloading large spatial data sets.

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**Discovering Data Through Metadata**

*The FGDC metadata clearinghouse is a decentralized system of Internet servers you can use to search for available geospatial data.*
Discovering Data Through Metadata

The descriptive information that fuels this system is metadata, which is collected in a standard format to facilitate query and consistent presentation across the multiple participating sites.

A Brief Look at the Geospatial One-Stop Portal

Geospatial One-Stop operates the portal at geodata.gov “to provide “one-stop” access to all registered geographic information and related online access services.”

http://gos2.geodata.gov

A Brief Look at the Geospatial One-Stop Portal

The portal can be accessed through the FGDC Web site, or by going directly to http://gos2.geodata.gov

Access through FGDC Web site

Direct access
Simple searches can be performed from the main page, or more advanced searches can be performed by clicking on the “Show Advanced Search Options” link.

Results from searches return a list of matching metadata records, along with links to the full record, a summary version of the record, or a link to the website related to that record.

Choose to view a summary version of the record, or select to view the full record in FGDC format.
Summary

- Metadata has internal and external values.
- Non-existent or poor metadata can cost an organization both time and money.
- Personnel changes can result in loss or duplication of data.
- Poor documentation can lead to poor business decisions.
- Improper or incomplete metadata exposes the data creator to liability.
- As data exchange over the web continues to grow, so will the demand for accurate metadata.