

Abstracts in this session

A (International) State and Local Government Geospatial Metadata Profile

Lynda Wayne, GISP, ASLA, Principal, GeoMaxim, LLC, Asheville, North Carolina, United States

Sarah Wray, GISP, CGCIO, Spatial Data Manager, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, North Carolina, United States

Abstract text: Metadata is important. Metadata is useful. Metadata is a pain in the butt. Metadata presents a special challenge to highly productive, publicly accountable, decision-driven organizations such as state and local governments. The fiscal restrictions and high demand placed on these data shops require maximum efficiency and effectiveness with little time available to document data in a standardized and robust manner.

In an effort to enhance the sharing of data across jurisdictions and enterprises, the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (NCGICC) tasked an ad hoc Metadata Committee to explore options for improving metadata creation and quality with a focus on metadata implementation -to develop practical resources that could be incorporated into data and metadata development. Interest in this effort spread internationally to include committee participation by GeoDiscover Alberta CA and a formal requests for use from Namibia.

The result of this effort is the creation of a standardized state and local government geospatial metadata profile that: promotes International Standards Organization (ISO) geospatial metadata standards, remains applicable to the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) legacy standard, operates across GIS applications, and can be customized for key thematic communities such as municipal boundaries, parcels, and roads.

Join us to learn more about the profile content, format, and current efforts to promote and train profile implementation. Participants should have 1) a basic understanding of geospatial metadata standards and XML and 2) a high tolerance for metadata reverence and geek humor. Eager participants can preview the profile work at:
<http://www.nconemap.com/DiscoverGetData/Metadata.aspx#iso>.

Leveraging Open Data with Ontario, Entrepreneurs, and GIS

Devin Tu, Founder, MapYourProperty, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Abstract text: This presentation will discuss the opportunities available, from both an entrepreneurial and governmental perspective, of open data. Ontario Open Data team will discuss how organizations and businesses can access the government Open Data and its new Open Data by Defaults directive. Devin Tu and Ryan Doherty will show how organizations can access and pull Open Data from multiple agencies to make better decision making through GIS.

Learning Outcomes:

By attending this presentation, participants will:

- Accessing government Open Data
- Requesting data from government and what Open Data by Default means
- Understand what open data sources are available and on which platform
- Learn how to aggregate different data into a single standardized database and convert multiple government datasets into single coordinates for display on web platforms

Learn how and when certain government open datasets are updated

Thinking beyond the Download

Karen Stewart, GISP, Municipal Solutions Industry Manager, Esri Canada, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Lorelei Luchkiw, Manager, Solutions Marketing, Esri Canada, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Abstract text: Opening up data is not an end but rather a means to enable appropriate decisions, scrutiny, input and also innovation. Our challenge is to think beyond the data download and expand our thinking about what open data means.

The potential users of your open data are many—public consumers, knowledge workers in other organizations, developers, entrepreneurs and the media. With a broad landscape of potential users and uses, it's vital to consider "openness" in the context of other delivery mechanisms to serve engagement.

Engagement can come in a variety of forms. It can be as simple as a spreadsheet download but that should not be a one-way street. That download should, at a minimum, include a way to subscribe to the source, to learn of updates or changes once the data has been fetched. That content must be curated and authoritative, updated and timely. But more importantly it must be actionable—presented in ways that make sense to the user.

Building applications and information products is also a way of opening up your data for engagement. While not traditionally thought of as open data, these are valuable ways not just to open your data, but more importantly, to present information in a meaningful context that will engage a broader audience.

Regardless of which options you choose, the goal is not just to open up your data but to offer ways to interact with its experience it and amplify the inherent value of your work by delivering opportunities for engagement.

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Submitted by: Mary Lackner, GISP, GIS Lead, Pitkin County, Aspen, Colorado