

Key Questions



- 1) Are current appraisal and selection policies and practices robust and adaptable enough to address geospatial data?
- 2) Which pieces of existing policies and practices are the best candidates for sharing across institutional boundaries?
- 3) What specific aspects of appraisal and selection require more investigation?
- 4) Are there models of shared services and cooperation between data managing agencies, on the one hand, and archives and libraries, on the other hand, around the long-term preservation of geospatial data?
- 5) What are some basic next steps that can be taken to advance the practice of geospatial data appraisal and selection?

Federal Geographic Data Committee Users/Historical Data Working Group



The Users/Historical Data Working Group is established under the auspices of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to promote and coordinate activities among Federal agencies who are primarily users of, not generators of, geospatial data.

The group will promote an awareness among Federal agencies of the historical dimension to geospatial data; to facilitate the long-term retention, storage, preservation and accessibility of selected geospatial data; and to establish a mechanism for the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of historically valuable geospatial data which have been financed in whole or part by Federal funds.

Potential Workplan Items



- Coordinate WG activity with Geospatial Platform activities
- Explore ways to provide input to Data.gov on accessible historic geospatial datasets
- Establish subcommittee to monitor and report on geospatial standards activity
- “Cheat sheet” on current archival standards of interest to the geospatial community that affect WG members
- Support outreach to federal agencies to encourage recruitment of historic and superseded materials to data.gov
- Recruit members for working group, identifying points of contact in all pertinent Federal agencies
- Provide input to Library of Congress Geospatial Data Preservation Resource Center
- Report on and liaison with the ICSU CODATA Task Group on Data at Risk
- Encourage agencies to schedule the disposition of geospatial data in coordination with the National Archives and Records Administration and the Library of Congress in order to provide for the permanent preservation of valuable geospatial data and to make this data available to other Federal Agencies and patrons of these institutions
- Report on archiving practices among the portfolio managers of high value geospatial data sets