

Date

Wednesday 18 July 2007

Title of session

Workshop 3 - Archiving Geospatial Data for Long-term Preservation.

Name of presenter/chair

Chair: Adrian Brown, Head of Digital Preservation, The National Archives, UK

Presenters; Linda Stewart and Eunice Gill, The National Archives, UK.

Rapporteurs

Nicholas Hutchings, Defence Geographic Centre and Jenny Harding, Ordnance Survey

Presentation title: Archiving geospatial information: A look at the work of the national archives.

The briefing summarised the varieties of geospatial information that are to be found in The National Archives (TNA) of England and Wales. TNA was formed in 2003 by the amalgamation of the Public Record Office (PRO) and other organisations.

The original of the Domesday Book, a description of land ownership in England compiled over 900 years ago, is one of TNA's oldest treasures, and is itself an example of geospatial data. Somewhat more recent examples include the maps and files produced by numerous government departments. These should be transferred to TNA not more than thirty years after their creation. The majority of TNA's records are indeed paper files, stored in cardboard boxes on shelves, but the time is fast approaching when records will increasingly be in digital format.

The issue of loss of current digital data due to, for example, recording media becoming obsolete and the transience of information on web sites was outlined, together with the project: Spatio Temporal Records Action on Timely Archiving (STRATA).

The presentation and discussion which followed the workshop examined the problems and challenges which confront the staff of TNA when dealing with digital data. Geographical information needs to be preserved in such a way that it can be read by future society.

Questions	Answers