

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

Presenter: Steve Morris, Head, Digital Libraries Initiatives, North Carolina State University, USA

Rapporteurs

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

Presentation title: Geospatial Data Preservation Challenges at the Sub-National Level: The North Carolina Experience

The North Carolina Geospatial Data Archiving project was described; it focuses on state and local geospatial content with the central objective of engaging existing state or federal geospatial data infrastructures in preservation. Data types involved include vector GIS, digital orthophotography and other place-based data including street view images. Digital orthophotography may be considered static data, as opposed to more dynamic vector data, and so not as much at risk of being lost, though quantities of imagery are increasing rapidly.

There are a number of points of failure for digital preservation, such as obsolete media and formats. These and other factors such as inadequate metadata and producer focus on current data are risks to geospatial data preservation (see details in slides).

Preserved data has value, for example, in harvesting data from past records to support business cases. An example is given of the 'Sanborn Maps' which were originally developed for fire insurance purposes but are now used for many other purposes.

Challenges are described for the preservation of geospatial information, for example the fact that PDF files are used as a type of geospatial format. Increasingly geospatial web services are used as information sources to base decisions on, but a challenge is how to document this as web information changes - it is hard to go back to it at a later date.

Solution factors are then described (in the slides), including engagement with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). Technical and organisational next steps for the project are outlined to conclude.

Questions	Answers
Are universities best placed to preserve data - do they have more vested interest in the data?	The aim really is to encourage other organisations to see that it is in their own interests to preserve and archive information.