

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: Prof. Fraser Taylor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Canada

Rapporteurs

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

Presentation title: The Preservation and Archiving of Geospatial Digital Data: Some Challenges for National Mapping Agencies

While National Mapping Organisations and others are producing more and more digital data, much of it is being lost and some of it permanently. Cost of recovery has been shown to be very high, as for example in recovery of information from the British Domesday Survey of 1986. In terms of the scale of the problem, we are losing map data faster than it is being created.

Causes of the problem include insufficient attention to archiving by data producers (often seen as 'someone else's problem'), difficulty in preserving ephemeral and rapidly changing data and rapidly changing technologies leading to obsolescence. After summarising two case studies which are addressing the problem, nine points towards potential solutions were described; these are detailed in the presentation slides. The final slide suggests what action National Mapping Agencies should take to ensure that information is available to future analyses, for example investigations involving analysis of change through time.

Questions	Answers
<p>Brendan Boyle, (Land Information New Zealand): Is there experience of organisations implementing the preservation and archiving of geospatial information?</p>	<p>National Mapping Agencies are not doing this effectively yet. The need is recognised but the challenge is in implementation. There is an OGC working group looking at development of standards in this area.</p>
<p>Trevor Shaw (National Land Agency, Jamaica): Is copying and storing data on microfiche and digital records sufficient?</p>	<p>In general metadata is needed on how the record was created, by whom and in what context or by what process. Data quality needs to be considered when deciding what to preserve.</p>