

NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
Metadata Implementation Project
Agreement Number: #04HAG0145 Final Report

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Project Narrative

Measurable Project Results:

This grant allowed the Leslie F. Malpass Library has implemented a plan to catalog and document 400,000+ maps and data layers in its collection. The long term plan is find a repository for all metadata files. The short term plan is to use the metadata records to catalog these data layers and map. In order to make library personnel and map users more easily find needed maps, we wrote software that takes metadata files organized in hierarchical folders and makes web sites that can be easily navigated. The root web site for this project is <http://www.wiu.edu/users/mma108/Earth/>. During the term of the grant, five people were trained and made capable of creating metadata. Initially, Charles Ehlschlaeger, Marcy Allen, and William Thompson were initially trained. (Claude Hanhart, one of the grant writers, left WIU before the grant was awarded.) Once the three principal researchers were trained, the software was designed to automatically create the web sites. Once all known bugs were discovered, the Malpass Library began putting an employee on part time duty to create additional metadata files. Part time metadata creation continued to Fall, 2006. The Spring Semester of 2007, however, has no one creating metadata files: Marcy Allen, the manager of this effort, is leaving WIU for another position on March 30. Until her full time replacement is hired, the metadata project is on hold. At this time, there are two full time WIU faculty with metadata creation skills. If we include part time staff, the number is about six. At last count, 1010 maps now have metadata files associated with them. However, only a subset of the metadata files is on the web site. Hopefully, the other files will be included before Marcy Allen leaves WIU's employ. Charles Ehlschlaeger is on the hiring committee for the

librarian to replace Marcy Allen. Hopefully, Ms. Allen's replacement will have the same skills.

Describe metadata service:

As mentioned in measurable results, metadata records were created for 1010 maps and data layers. Some of these records are currently posted at <http://www.wiu.edu/users/mma108/Earth/>. All of these data records should be posted at this web site before Marcy Allen leaves WIU on March 30. A more permanent location for these files is currently being negotiated. WIU is currently hoping that a statewide metadata record hub will be maintained by someone in the near future. Should Marcy Allen's replacement show interest in this area and no one else has started the process of creating a hub, WIU may put together a grant proposal. At this time, WIU is confident in its metadata creation abilities but may need assistance for more advanced services.

The web site WIU designed and Charles Ehlschlaeger implemented provides an easy to use user interface as well as simple mechanism for getting new metadata records into the database. A complete description of the software is in the appendix file metadataOrganizer.pdf.

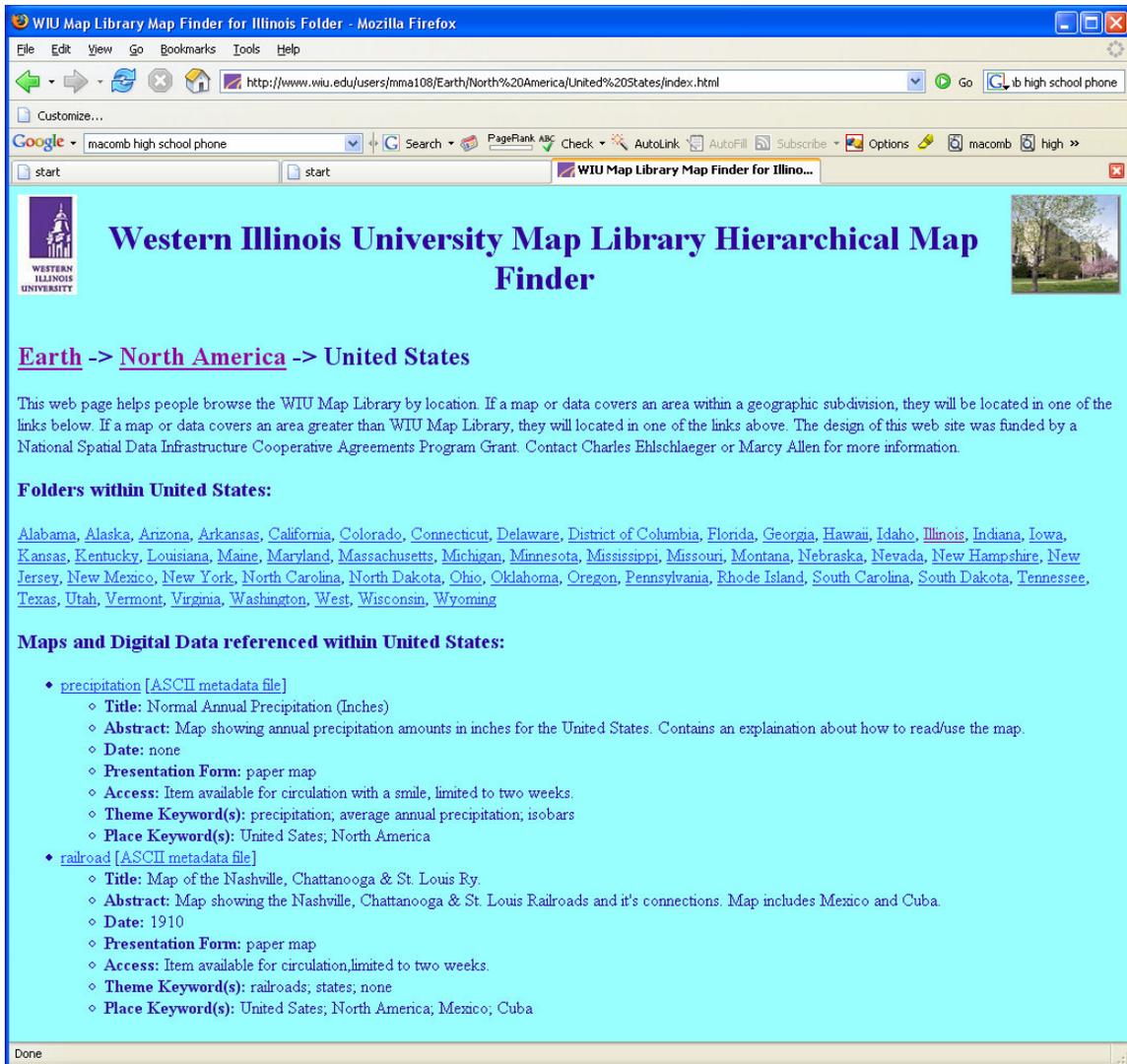


Figure 1. Sample web page for WIU metadata

Next Steps:

Unless someone from IL decides to create a metadata hub, WIU's next step is to set up a metadata hub. This can only be done if the right people are at WIU in the Library. Given the right circumstances, including the correct person to replace Marcy Allen, we can advance to the next metadata stage. Whether or not we provide a metadata hub, there are still many thousands of maps and map layers at the library that will slowly be cataloged and placed on the web site.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program:

All interaction with the Cooperative Agreements Program worked well. Marcy Allen reported the initial workshop was very informative, and provided sufficient instruction for us to be effective. Were WIU to redo the project, we would have involved more

people at the beginning of the project. Charles Ehlschlaeger didn't expect the other principal investigators to leave WIU. The time frame for grant is appropriate.