

2004 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
Category 2: Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance
Final Progress Report
University of Idaho Library

Our metadata outreach activities this year were very successful. We did numerous presentations at regional conferences and visited several Idaho state agencies to explore integrating metadata creation into their workflow. We also built upon last year's training successes that involved the creation of a metadata extension for ArcCatalog. Using the metadata extension we developed last year, we worked with several state agencies to create metadata records for items in their collections. This extension has enabled the clearinghouse to implement a spatial search component to the metadata catalog. The new interface is available here: <http://insideidaho.org/geodata/Search.htm>. The implementation of this new interface has allowed us to demonstrate how well-maintained, well-populated metadata can be used as a reporting and management tool and as a way to discover geospatial resources. The new interface has allowed us to 'sell' the concept of metadata more effectively to federal, state, and local government agencies operating in the state. These efforts have allowed for the integration of numerous items into the Idaho geospatial data clearinghouse and therefore Geospatial One-Stop. The clearinghouse is publishing approximately 235 metadata records through Geospatial One-Stop.

We did a number of outreach and training activities under this grant award. In early October 2004 we presented options for metadata creation and management at the NWGIS User conference in Sun Valley, Idaho. In February 2005 we presented metadata concepts to Idaho legislators at Digital Government Day in Boise, Idaho. That same month we addressed attendees at the Idaho Weed Conference in Nampa, Idaho. In March, we were delighted to be invited to participate in a FGDC cooperative agreements program panel discussion at the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. In April, we had the opportunity to discuss our new search functionality on INSIDE Idaho at the Intermountain GIS Conference in Pocatello, Idaho. At that same conference we were able to demonstrate the metadata extension we developed to allow users to expedite metadata creation and maintenance in ArcCatalog as well as talk about a method for searching geospatial metadata using Microsoft Indexing Service.

We spent significant time working with the Idaho Department of Water Resources creating metadata. They create and maintain a great deal of natural resources data for the state of Idaho. While the full integration of metadata creation into their workflow will take time, numerous successes were realized. Our efforts resulted in the creation of approximately 350 metadata records available through the clearinghouse. The majority of these records are on digital aerial photographs from southern Idaho. We also worked with the Department of Water Resources on creating metadata records for their land use and land cover data. Additionally, we worked with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to integrate their metadata records into the clearinghouse. For both departments, the metadata records reside at the authoring agency. The clearinghouse is harvesting their records to facilitate searching and discovery. Enabling this infrastructure has been an important component of the state success.

Toward the end of the grant award period, we worked with the Idaho Geospatial Committee to recommend the state adopt the FGDC metadata standard as the official Idaho metadata standard. <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/plan&policies/Standards/s4220.htm>. This adoption has laid the groundwork for a metadata guideline to be approved in early 2006 resulting in geospatial metadata creation and management having a more prominent role in state government.

These efforts and accomplishments under this grant award position Idaho well for continued metadata successes. Under our current metadata outreach and training award we will be implementing a management tool that will allow us to more effectively harvest metadata records that exist on remote servers. Additionally, we will be creating additional metadata on a number of data sets at the clearinghouse and we will be enhancing our metadata tool as well as increasing the functionality of our Internet search interface. Most importantly, we will continue to do training and outreach activities in and around Idaho in order to aid in metadata creation and maintenance. Visiting and working with willing entities on their metadata programs is the core of discovering the distributed geospatial resources that exist across the state.

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