

Metadata Implementation Final Report
#04HQAG0173
Gila County Public Works Division
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Narrative:

Metadata is vital to the success of every GIS project. Without it, there is NO way to validate, quantify or in any fashion accurately analyze different data sets.

Gila County Public Works Division embarked on a Metadata Creation and Implementation Assistance Program in May of 2004. With this program many things were accomplished, several goals met and items for continuing research/learning were identified.

One of the biggest strengths of the project was getting upper management to see the need for the project thus allowing necessary time for project learning and implementation.

One of the biggest weaknesses of the project was getting people to understand the need for this information and to have it properly documented. As a rural county, personnel turnover is relatively low and the reliance on individual's recollection of events for a given project is commonplace. There was initial resistance with senior management with the common problem of spending the time to get it done right the first time. The other large stumbling block is the general inability of smaller spatial data content creation companies (photogrammetric firms, etc) to even recognize the need for metadata.

Further challenges will be getting other departments within Gila County to be cognizant and supportive of metadata creation tasks for the long term

For collaborative efforts, The Arizona Professional Land Surveyors association Geospatial committee, of which I'm a member, is currently developing curricula for the upcoming annual conference. Metadata will be one of the prime GIS tracks. This conference is generally attended by members of the Arizona surveying professions.

Accomplishments:

- Formal training on metadata creation by county personnel received
- Presented twice to peer groups at separate conferences regarding metadata creation and the need for complete records to accompany generated content.
- Developed complete metadata for the undocumented data sets within the county(4)
- 1 Person trained for metadata entry
- Worked on policies for department and division regarding guidelines for metadata development.

Metadata Service:

While developed metadata sets were posted to FGDC GOS server during the time frame of this project, future datasets will be posted to the State metadata clearinghouse Node currently under development by State Cartographer's office.

Next Steps:

The next steps include completion of departmental policies regarding requirements that spatial data received must include valid, complete and accurate metadata content as part of the contract validation process. Additional steps include working with other departments that generate spatial data to help them develop metadata programs.

CAP feedback:

Nothing directly to note. The class time was very enjoyable and informative. Gila County Public Works Division was extremely pleased to receive this grant which has us the ability to expand our GIS Department knowledge and expertise.