

Category 1 – 2007

FGDC Endorsed Standards Implementation Assistance and Outreach

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Project Title: NBII Outreach and Training Program for FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata
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Project Narrative: The purpose of this NBII metadata project is to provide outreach assistance to, primarily, US Geological Survey (USGS) Biological Resources Discipline (BRD) Science Centers and their partners so that, as a world renowned science research agency, the USGS should be setting an example of best practices in biological informatics.

Accomplishments: The NBII has visited 5 USGS BRD Science Centers since the start date of the project and has conducted 3 workshops for conferences related to USGS-NBII activities. The USGS Science Centers accepted the offer of a planned visit and presentation through a phone conference with Center Directors. Each Center planned to host NBII for 1 ½ days, during which a presentation called “Metadata from a Data Management Perspective for USGS Managers” was presented during a morning session, and “Creating Metadata Records Using Metavist” was presented during an afternoon session. Each participant in each session was provided with a notebook of instructional materials. During the afternoon session, participants used laptops to practice with the software. NBII met with small focus groups on the second day to arrange a strategy for metadata production and NBII assistance in creating records.

Challenges: The most evident challenges to this type of project involve the follow up with each Center. In order to pro-actively prevent the natural tendency for participants to file away materials from the workshop and return to their research, the NBII arranged to meet with the management of each Center on the second day to reinforce the importance of metadata creation and offer assistance. Center Directors were open and enthusiastic in some cases about the prospect of metadata production taking place for their Center. The next step for NBII is to follow up with the individual Centers and remind them of the presentation, help them implement a program, and extend the offer of metadata creation assistance once again. This action will be incorporated into the second half of the grant year.

Training and Outreach Assistance:

Total Number of Workshops - 8 (October 2007 – March 2008)

Duration: 1 day (+ ½ day strategy meeting)
Venue: USGS Columbia River Research Laboratory
Organization Name: USGS Columbia River Research Laboratory
Organization Type: government
Number of participants: 19
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

Duration: 1 day (+ ½ day strategy meeting)
Venue: USGS Florida Integrated Science Center

Organization Name: USGS Florida Integrated Science Center
Organization Type: government
Number of participants: 17
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

Duration: 1 day (+ ½ day strategy meeting)
Venue: USGS National Wildlife Health Center
Organization Name: USGS National Wildlife Health Center
Organization Type: government
Number of participants: 35
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

Duration: 1 day (+ ½ day strategy meeting)
Venue: USGS Alaska Science Center
Organization Name: USGS Alaska Science Center
Organization Type: government
Number of participants: 8
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

Duration: 1 day (+ ½ day strategy meeting)
Venue: USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center
Organization Name: USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center
Organization Type: government
Number of participants: 52
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

Duration: ½ day
Venue: University of Vermont
Organization Name: Northeast Arc Users Group
Organization Type: varied -- conference
Number of participants: 14
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

Duration: ½ day
Venue: The Hotel Captain Cook
Organization Name: Alaska Marine Science Symposium
Organization Type: varied -- conference
Number of participants: 18
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

Duration: ½ day
Venue: The Hotel Captain Cook
Organization Name: Alaska Marine Science Symposium
Organization Type: varied -- conference
Number of participants: 9
Level of proficiency: creators
Means of Instruction: lecture and computer assisted

New organizations engaged in the project: USDA Forest Service – a graduate of Train the Trainer from a previous year assisted in teaching one workshop.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

The CAP Program is very organized and showing strength in staying in touch with its grant participants. FGDC staff is always helpful and prompt when answering questions about the program. Further, FGDC has provided metadata leads to grant participants that help expand the audience for outreach and allow more participants to attend workshops. It is unfortunate that federal government agencies are no longer eligible for the grant, but hopefully the grant has proven that this type of program is successful and can be carried on beyond the CAP...