

Getting Started with Metadata

GIS II Data Management



Metadata?

- Information about data
- Describes the content, quality, condition, origin, and other characteristics of data
- In this module we will introduce the use and application of metadata in the context of GIS



- **GIS is both a data extensive and *intensive* enterprise**

Most data have a geographic component = many types of data

Geoprocessing tasks allow users to produce data quickly and efficiently

Increasingly datasets are offered via online services



- Staff turnover
- Collaborative projects
- Planning

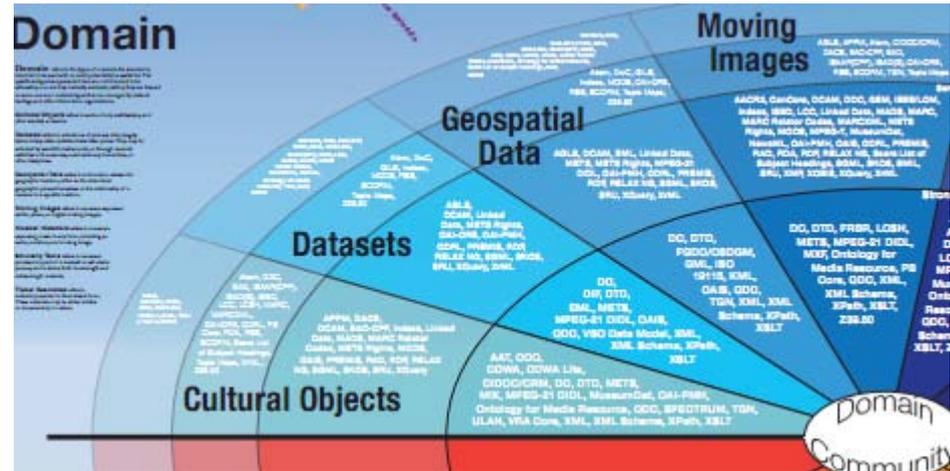


- **Start by thinking about internal sources of metadata**
 - **Digital or hard-copy forms of metadata**
 - Spreadsheets
 - Databases
 - Maps
 - Data attributes
 - Models
 - Communication
 - Documentation from legal department
 - **Other forms**
 - Oral tradition
 - Institutional knowledge



A few words on standards...

- Metadata standards provide a common set of terminology and definitions for the documentation of digital spatial data.
- Applying metadata standards makes the search for and use of spatial data easier.
- There are predefined metadata standards.
 - FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata(CSDGM)
 - ISO 19139, Geographic Information – Metadata – Implementation Specification
 - **North American Profile of ISO 19115:2003 (NAP)**
 - INSPIRE Metadata Implementing Rules, for Europe



“As crazy as it seems to the metadata community, some GIS professionals have no interest in, or requirement to create standards-compliant metadata. While ArcGIS clearly embraces metadata standards, it must also support people who aren't required to follow them.”



From Esri's ArcGIS Desktop Blog

- Item Description is the default metadata in ArcGIS 10
 - Simple description
 - Information to know about an item
 - How accurate/recent
 - Restrictions associated with use and sharing
 - Important processes steps

Data Source Item Description - infoUsa

Print

Infogroup Business Locations

SDC Feature Database



Tags
point, businesses, SIC codes, NAICS codes, sales, assets, employees, economy, location, United States, 2008, 2009, 2010

Summary
There is no summary for this item.

Description
Infogroup Business Locations represents the locations of over 12 million private and public companies in United States. It includes address information, estimated sales or assets, number of employees, franchise/specialty information, and Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

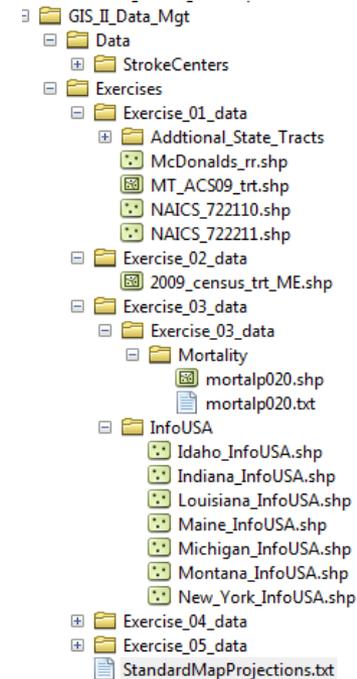
Credits
There are no credits for this item.

Access and use limitations
See legal constraints.

ArcGIS Metadata ▼

FGDC Metadata ▼

- In ArcGIS all *items* now have a description- another term for metadata
- What are *items*?
 - Spatial datasets
 - Geoprocessing models
 - Other items in addition to spatial data



- In ArcGIS, you work with metadata in ArcCatalog and other ArcGIS Desktop applications
- For most items in ArcGIS, metadata is stored in a XML file

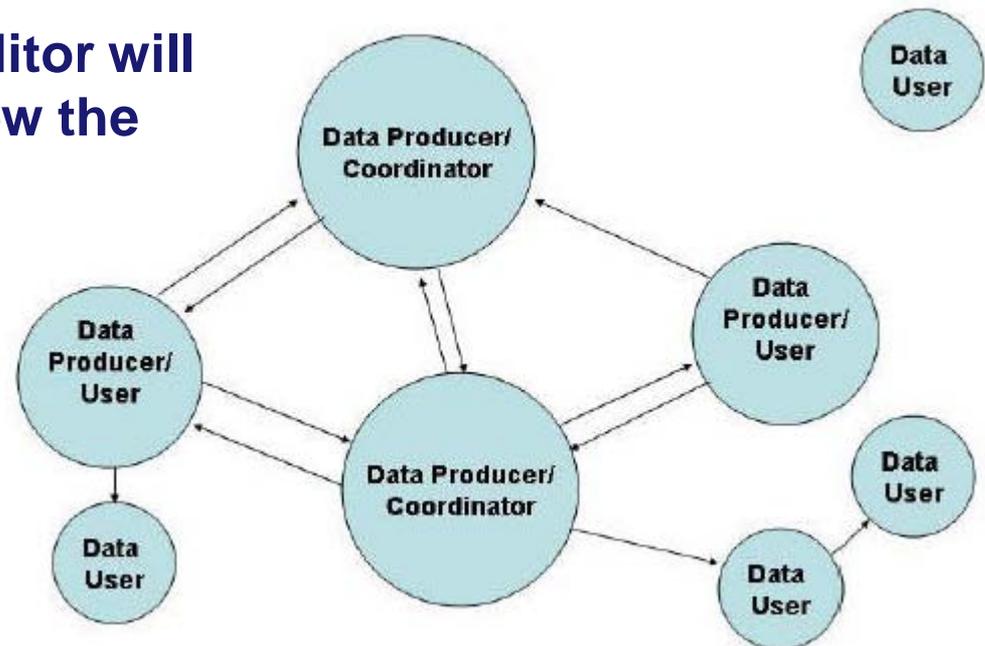
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 Idaho_InfoUSA.dbf	4/19/2011 1:55 PM	DBF File	11,741 KB
 Idaho_InfoUSA.prj	4/19/2011 1:55 PM	PRJ File	1 KB
 Idaho_InfoUSA.sbn	4/19/2011 1:55 PM	SBN File	692 KB
 Idaho_InfoUSA.sbx	4/19/2011 1:55 PM	Adobe Illustrator ...	16 KB
 Idaho_InfoUSA.shp	4/19/2011 1:55 PM	SHP File	1,923 KB
 Idaho_InfoUSA.shp.xml	7/14/2011 4:32 PM	XML Document	860 KB
 Idaho_InfoUSA.shx	4/19/2011 1:55 PM	SHX File	550 KB
 Idaho_InfoUSA...	4/19/2011 1:55 PM	DBF File	27,150 KB

- **Does it meet your standard?**
 - **Documented usability and status**
 - **Contains contact information**
 - **Access and use constraints documented**
 - **Sources documented /credited**
 - **Update schedules documented**

- Take inventory
- Prioritize
- Organize
- Train



- What works best for your users?
 - Hard copy
 - Electronic: ArcCatalog/ArcMap
- Some users may not have ArcGIS licenses
 - Web browser or text editor will allow these users to view the metadata



- **It's a beautiful thing!**

- <http://ww4.doh.wa.gov/gis/gisdata.htm>

- <http://gos2.geodata.gov/wps/portal/gos>