

**Metadata Implementation Project
NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program**

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Final Report



Organization:

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Project Narrative

The Texas Department of Information Resources developed course materials following the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata Workbook, Version 2.0 (CSDGMW) and conducted four metadata training courses during the month of March 2006 with sponsorship from the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC) and the Texas Association of Regional Councils. The training included content on archiving metadata through registered clearinghouse servers, Open Archives Initiative Protocol (OAI-PMH) and FGDC browse-enabled Web Directories.

A total of 61 professional staff from state and local government received the training. All the participants received the CSDGM Workbook along with a package of other related metadata training materials from the FGDC and other sources. Mike Ouimet and Rob Aanstoos from DIR provided the training. Both of them have participated in the FGDC Metadata “*Train the Trainer*” program in Denver, Colorado.

DIR staff will continue past these specific training sessions to provide metadata helpdesk support to all who request it and to encourage metadata development through ongoing state coordination

efforts. In addition, there is planning underway to continue metadata training into FY-2007 (*see next steps*).

Work was also conducted on exploring the feasibility of adapting and customizing the Minnesota metadata editor for use in Texas as a means to encourage the development of metadata documentation in Texas. Texas staff received invaluable technical support and advice from the Minnesota Land Management Information Center (LMIC). A prototype Texas Metadata Editor was produced that was built upon the visual basic programming code used for the Minnesota Metadata Editor.

The prototype editor was demonstrated to the TGIC Technical Advisory Committee at its March 1, 2006 meeting and received very positive feedback from the group. However, the prototype also revealed inherent limitations in the visual basic code particularly with regard to use on the Internet. There are also some technical issues with regard to the Minnesota editor that would have required a sizable programming commitment to overcome for use in Texas.

DIR has now completed its evaluation of the project and is waiting to see what trends emerge from the release of the U.S. ISO standards and private sector metadata tool offerings. If something satisfactory does not emerge then DIR would consider developing a new customized Internet based metadata editor for Texas using .Net code.

Comments

1. Where does the program make a difference?

The program provides both an opportunity and a motivational element for the states to put together a metadata training program using a consistent approach based upon the CSDGMW.

2. Was the assistance you received sufficient or effective?

Sharon Shin and Lynda Wayne have been my two primary contacts for FGDC metadata. Both have been particularly responsive and supportive of all my needs and questions.

3. Requirements (more technical assistance, software, other?)

My understanding is that the FGDC is working toward providing Internet based metadata training courses in the near future. This resource will be most welcome in our large state where we lack enough trainers with the ability to freely travel to support the demand. We will in turn make every effort to support the use of the on-line training through our council list serve and coordination activities.

Next Steps

I have been in telephone discussions with Sharon Shin, FGDC, most recently on October 19, 2006 on how to support metadata training for the Gulf States with administrative support from Texas A&M University. I will be following up by providing Ms. Shin with some potential venues and staff resources to support select metadata training opportunities for FY-2007. This proposed collaborative effort should help to build upon this grant and lead to further progress in metadata training efforts in Texas.