03HQAG0152
2003 Category 1: Metadata Implementation Project
Final Report, 6/21/04

Wabasha County
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513 metadata files resulted in this project

Clearinghouse service:
The County is working on a data distribution policy.

We adapted the metadata to ArcGIS. Now the metadata files are contained in the same locations
as the data. The GIS Coordinator received intense training, while 10 other county staff were
introduced to metadata and how to search for data by geographic entiry or theme keyword,
11 Individuals trained.

Project narrative:
   1.   Prepared Metadata and browse graphics for 513 data sets.
   2.   Prepared a Metadata Search tool (HTML document) called the GIS Gateway.
The user selects a theme or geographic keyword and is presented with a list of relevant files with
a link to the Metadata and to the Browse Graphic.
   3.   Adapted the metadata records to ArcGIS by creating XML files in the relevant
directory.
   4.   Conducted generalized training for 11 county staff members and distributed the
GIS Gateway Search Tool and files on CD.
   5.   Conducted intensive training for the GIS Coordinator, and prepared a manual of
the procedures.
   6.   Held an informational meeting for 15 representatives of cities and townships
regarding Wabasha's GIS. Distributed the GIS Gateway CD.

CAP Feedback:

Your program is very flexible and allowed us to adapt to changing personnel. Documenting of the data to such a degree would not have occurred without the grant. Based on the changes we made in the later tasks, the Metadata became part of the data, by importing it into ArcGIS. This was extremely helpful in making sure the Metadata becomes part of the workflow process.

Our biggest concern is the many data formats for Metadata and the conversions that must be made. For example, we used the Minnesota DataLogr software to create the Metadata files. This was very helpful because of the templates that could be used. However, it did not allow for relative path names to the browse graphic. The files were converted to HTML for the search tool. For use in ArcGIS, they had to be converted to XML. If we had changes, all 3 file versions had to be changed. For large changes, such as the name of the GIS Coordinator which had to be changed in 513 files, we had to create DOS batch programs to run the conversion and copy the files to the appropriate folder. The fact that neither the DataLogr software or the editing tool in ArcGIS supported relative pathnames for the browse graphic made it difficult to move files between different computers and search environments.
A better metadata editing tool is needed.