

Interim Report Summary Information

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2010 CAP - Category 1
DC Metro Metadata Dissemination

Interim or Final Report

Interim

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Executive Summary

The Westat/Global View team offered metadata training to geospatial professionals in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Our proposal included a panel of four sessions that would be offered during the fall of 2010, and again in the spring of 2011. To date, the initial four sessions have been completed and included over 50 geospatial professionals drawn largely from the federal government, and from state and local agencies in Maryland. Evaluations of the initial four classes have been very positive. Dates have been established for the 2011 classes, and outreach will continue with a major focus on geospatial professionals in Virginia, as well as those in the District of Columbia, and Maryland. The project will continue with the same four seminars, two of which again will be hosted at Westat, and two offered on-line via WebEx.

Project Narrative

The project completed four seminars that were designed to cover introductory to advanced metadata issues. The titles for these classes are:

- 1) Introduction to Metadata
- 2) Managers Overview of Metadata: A Cooperate Resource
- 3) Good Data Management and Metadata Maintenance
- 4) Transitioning Metadata from the FGDC Content Standard to the ISO Metadata Standard

The lengthy introductory class and transitioning to international standards seminar were hosted by Westat, and meals were provided. The shorter classes on data management and managers overview were hosted by Westat via WebEx. The seminars were designed this way to reach a broad range of metadata users and creators interested in the topic regardless of their level of experience. The WebEx classes were also convenient for those unable or unwilling to travel to Rockville, Maryland for the on-site lectures. The project has been successful so far in reaching out to a wide range of metadata managers, creators, and users.

The same format will be used for the four seminars that will be conducted in the spring. The two seminars that were hosted at Westat's Rockville, MD campus were a great success. The conference facilities were well received. However, a modification for both seminars that will be hosted at Westat's Rockville campus will be to start the seminars at 9:30 AM instead of 9:00 AM to make the commute to Rockville easier for people who plan to attend.

For the first Introduction to Metadata seminar, Mark Reichardt, president and CEO of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), was the lunch speaker. We will ask Mr. Reichardt, to be a guest lunch speaker again. Mr. Reichardt offered a unique aspect to the course looking at

metadata from the point of the OGC. He received rave reviews from the people who attended the seminar. If he is unavailable we will get another dynamic guest speaker from the OGC or another organization. The people who attended were happy with the speed and content of the information that was covered. Many of the people who attended the first class also attended the following seminars.

For the Transitioning Metadata from the FGDC Content Standard to the ISO Metadata Standard, we will continue with the same format. We will stay abreast of any changes that are occurring with the standards and incorporate those changes in the presentation. We will also continue to focus on a discussion and overall understanding on how the transition process is proceeding for individuals or organizations that are going through the changes or for individuals or organizations that have not begun to transition.

Some adjustments have been made to plans for the WebEx seminars for the spring. Both of the WebEx seminars will be held later in the day to accommodate some people's schedules. Another adjustment will be to try to make the WebEx seminars more interactive. The initial WebEx, Managers Overview of Metadata: A Cooperative Resource did not engender participation from the audience. We had more success in having a discussion during the Good Data Management and Metadata Maintenance seminar. Overall, people were generally very happy with attending via WebEx, due to limited budgets on travel, and we were asked if the other two courses could be hosted via WebEx. We were also asked if the WebEx sessions could be recorded for future distribution.

For each of the seminars we had more people sign-up than who could actually attend. We will send reminders to people who have registered for future classes.

Training and Outreach Assistance:

Details on the four classes offered to date are shown below.

1. Introduction to Metadata

- A one day seminar hosted at Westat's Rockville, MD conference facility on September, 9, 2010.
- The seminar was designed to be a lecture with discussion and metadata exercises.
- The lunch guest speaker was Mark Reichardt, the president and CEO of the OGC.
- 29 people had registered for the seminar and 21 people attended.
- The attendees were from a variety of organizations including USDA, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of the Environment, Worcester County Government, US General Service Administration,

Maryland State Archives, KCI, Education and Consulting Firm, Lockheed Martin, The Gatewood Company and a student.

- 94% of the people, who completed the evaluation agreed or strongly agreed that the overall experience of the seminar was positive. Some of the major strengths of the course included: “knowledgeable instructors”, “useful content”, and “good variety and quality of the material”. Some of the weaknesses listed by the attendees included: they would like to see more “real-world examples” and “more application of specific examples”.

2. Managers Overview of Metadata: A Corporate Resource

- A one hour WebEx seminar was hosted on October 7, 2010.
- The seminar was designed to be a lecture with discussion.
- 23 people registered for the seminar and 18 people attended.
- The attendees were from a variety of organizations including USDA, NOAA, Census, NIH, Worcester County government, Maryland State Archives, Mind Spring, and students.
- 100% of the people, who completed the evaluation agreed or strongly agreed that the overall experience of the seminar was positive. Some of the major strengths of the course included: “speakers were clear and concise”, “insightful approach”, and “enlightening to managers”. Some of the weaknesses listed by the attendees included: they would like to see “examples of tools” so the managers could see metadata in action and “ more internet links for follow-up information”.

3. Good Data Management and Metadata Maintenance,

- A two hour WebEx seminar was hosted on October 28, 2010.
- The seminar was designed to be a lecture with discussion.
- 26 people registered for the seminar and 20 people attended.
- The attendees were from a variety of organizations including, NOAA, Census, EPA, US General Service Administration, NIH, University of Baltimore, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Bowie.
- 100% of the people who completed the evaluation agreed or strongly agreed that the overall experience of the course was positive. Some of the major strengths of the included: “good pace”, “good coverage of various topics”, and “good interaction with the audience”. Some of the weaknesses listed by the attendees included: they would like to see the “list of available metadata tools earlier in the presentation” and more “focus on best practices”.

4. Transitioning Metadata from the FGDC Content Standard to the ISO Metadata Standard,
 - A four hour seminar was hosted at Westat's Rockville, MD conference facility on November 11, 2010.
 - The seminar was designed to be a lecture with discussion.
 - 22 people registered for the seminar and 10 people attended. Note that inclement weather created commuting difficulties in the metropolitan area.
 - The attendees were from a variety of organizations including EPA, NOAA, Census, Department of Defense, Maryland Department of the Environment, and a student.
 - 100% of the people who completed the evaluation agreed or strongly agreed that the overall experience of the seminar was positive. Some of the major strengths of the course included: "expertise of the instructors", "quality of the information", and "class discussion". Some of the weaknesses listed by the attendees included: they would like to see "examples of ESRI" and "less of an explanation of standards".

The dates for the upcoming seminars are as follows:

1. Introduction to Metadata: February 3, 2011
2. Managers Overview of Metadata: A Corporate Resource: February 22, 2011
3. Good Data Management and Metadata Maintenance: March 17, 2011
4. Transitioning Metadata from the FGDC Content Standard to the ISO Metadata Standard: March 29, 2011

Next Steps

The project's activities will continue as scheduled with the conduct of the panel of four seminars as listed above. Modifications, based on suggestions, will be incorporated into the next seminar. A Final Report will be submitted during April, completing the requirements for this cooperative agreement.