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Partners Providing Public Access Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access: A Partnership to Provide Access to Government Data

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Introduction

- This presentation

- The nature of geographic data
- The PASDA partnership
- Creating metadata
- The Library's opportunity

Geographic Data

- Example: USGS Digital Orthophoto Quarterquad (DOQ)

- Approx 45 Mb each
- 4 per 7.5 min quad
- 3600 for PA
- 162 Gb for the state
- 300 CDs

  A stack over 6 feet high

- Locally developed more detailed

Partnership

- PA Department of Environmental Protection

- Penn State University
  - Environmental Resources Research Institute
  - Department of Geography
  - Cataloging Department of PSU Library
- Numerous participating groups, such as
  - PA Topographic and Geologic Survey
  - County governments
  - Non-governmental organizations

PASDA

- Spatial Data Library Approach

- Data-related tasks include
  - identification
  - storage
  - documentation
  - retrieval and distribution

PASDA is a spatial data clearinghouse that provides organized access to spatial data from government, business, academia, and non-governmental organizations in a repository for easy query, analysis, and display. It is an easy to use system that catalogs and serves spatial data critical to the decision making processes.

PASDA Results

- Over 7000 datasets documented
  - 3000 Digital Orthophoto Quads
  - 1800 Digital Raster Graphics
  - 900 Digital Elevation Models
  - 1500 Locally Developed Digital Datasets
- "Pull" approach for metadata collection

- 200 Gb of "native" format data

- Over 1.6 million hits per year

- Over 1 terabyte of data served

- Close working relationships with Federal, state, and local gov't agencies and public, private, nonprofit groups

- High use and satisfaction from GIS professionals

Data Documentation

- Metadata is the often unappreciated crucial element

- Cataloging Department of PSU Library is a key partner