

Proceedings of the 8th Annual Federal Depository Library Conference

April 12 - 15, 1999

Partners Providing Public Access The Library's Role in the PASDA Partnership

Chris Pfeiffer, Pennsylvania State University Libraries
University Park, PA

Why Metadata?

- Standardized metadata is the backbone of the Spatial Data Library
 - Makes possible a catalog of available data
 - Describes content and relevance of data
 - Allows integration into larger scale services
 - Documents authenticity and reliability
 - Provides necessary usability information
 - Identifies distribution mechanisms

Participation Barriers

- No sense of need
- Resistance to data sharing
- Lack of cataloging skills
- Quantity of undocumented data

Making Contact

- Create relationships with data producers
- Overall benefits of participation
- Organizational benefits of metadata

- Provide basic guidance about metadata
- Gather information about data

Process

- Metadata creation
- Review with data provider
- Changes and additions
- Validation and XML mark-up
- Incorporate into Web site and index

Follow-up

- Continue relationships
- Tools for update
- Validation of updates
- Pursue additional sources

Results

- Doesn't reinvent the wheel
- Wide variety of participants
- Direct input of professional users
- Increased value on data documentation
- Support from broad governmental base