Envisioning a Geospatial Data Portal and Curation Network

Kim Ricker

GIS/Data Center | Email gisdata@rice.edu | Lab (713) 348-2599 | library.rice.edu/gdc
HISTORY

→ One workstation in the Government Documents department

→ 1992: ACRL Geographic Information Systems Literacy Project

→ 1995: Intro to GIS classes in the engineering school

→ 1998: GIS/Data Center opens
GIS/Data Center Lab

- Open to the public. Priority for Rice affiliates.
- Hours: M-F 9 am – 6pm
- Seven workstations with two 24” monitors
GIS Reference

• In person
• Email
• Phone

Request Individual Assistance with GIS

Texas Conference for Digital Libraries 2016
GIS Instruction

- 24 short courses (GIS and Census)
- Custom GIS instruction for University courses
- 20 workstations in Collaboration Space
Background

- GIS on campus 25+ years
- In Geography:
  - Geography, GIS certificate, archaeology
  - ~13 faculty
  - ~150 students
  - Ecology integrating
  - Active alumni presence
- UNT-wide:
  - 100 bachelor’s, 83 master’s, 37 PhD
  - ~37,000 students
Campus Offerings

- College of Arts & Sciences holds license
- Geography (currently) in charge
  - In process of switching to libraries
- ArcGIS distributed campus-wide via libraries
- Two dedicated labs in EESAT + one grad lab
- Also a FEMA-related lab + new EOC
- Business computer lab?
- Libraries positioning to become GIS data hub
Staffing

“Themed library”
Services

- GIS small presence considering size
  - “critical mass” not yet achieved
  - Needs better course integration
    - (Ecology/Logistics)
  - Requisition to hire full time GIS professor

- Public Services:
  - Resource access / “hidden collections”
  - Library Instruction
  - One-on-one training
  - “center” support
  - Data visualization lab?
Collections

- Book collection...
  - Dated/limited available
- Paper map collection
  - “finding aid”
- GIS Data repository
  - Attached to Digital Library
  - Target data is local (UNT research, city, county)
- Portal for ArcGIS
  - For licensed data (e.g., RRC); tied in with AGOL
Data Delivery

- ArcGIS Server
- Portal for ArcGIS
- Digital Library $\rightarrow$ GIS Data Repository
  - Background: NCTCOG clearinghouse
  - Ingest form (small files)
  - ??? (large files)
- **licensing**
  - Grey area
Challenges

• Bureaucracy
  • LandScan acquisition
  • Lead time
  • Cost...

• Limited IT support / multiple IT levels
  • Internal vs. external
  • Conflicting responses

• Duplications elsewhere (online)
  • USGS Topos
  • Why use library resources when you can do a Google search?
Community
Support / Instruction Challenges

• “What is Google?”
• Adjunct position offered
• Interest, but...
  • “1 hour package”
  • Conversation about “data visualization”
Texas A&M University

- 60,000 Students
- 3,000 Faculty
- 130 Undergrad Degree Programs
- 170 Master Degree Programs
- 93 Doctoral Degree Programs
- Agencies: AgriLife, Forest Service, Transportation Institute, etc.

Emphasis on STEM programs
Coordinated efforts for growth & development under Vision2020
• Geosciences
• Campus ArcGIS & ArcGIS Online licenses
• University Libraries maintain student ArcGIS licenses
• FOSS GIS on Open Access Lab computers
Maps & GIS @ Evans Library

Staffing:

1 GIS Librarian
4-6 GIS Student Technicians

Additional support:
1 full time staff position
2-3 student workers
Maps & GIS @ Evans Library

Software
- FOSS
- Proprietary

Data
- Reference Service
- Database Subscriptions
- Library Collection

GIS Help
- Guides & Tutorials
- General GIS Help
- Consultations
Maps & GIS @ Evans Library

Data

Reference Service
- Walk-ins
- Online Request Form

Database Subscriptions
- BAO
- Social Explorer
- Geolytics
- SimplyMap
- ArcGIS Online
- Reference USA

Library Collection
- 175 datasets: 10,982 themes
- Brazos County aerials
- College Station & Bryan city data
Data Challenges:

- Time
- Storage
- Distribution
Maps & GIS @ Evans Library

Curriculum Support:

- Geosciences
- Ecosystem Science and Management
- Liberal Arts
- Agriculture & Life Sciences
Instruction Challenges:

• Time
• Scale
• Measuring success
Thank you

Cecilia Smith
Geospatial Librarian
Texas A&M University