

GROUP EIGHT:

Geospatial Data: A special case

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This group considered the research issues in the utilization and dissemination of the increasingly large amount of geospatial data. How can this community gain better access to existing sources, provide guidance in its manipulation and dissemination to users of all expertise.

DISCUSSION

While the group did not come to any consensus as to the most important issues in the area of GIS, there were many issues presented for consideration. These can be categorized in three general areas: Data Content: Data Access; and Data Context.

Data Content issues were: Accuracy; matching data sources; Resolution; Metadata (temporal as well as spatial content); Remote sensing

Data Access issues were: Standards; Infrastructure; Real-time data; Section 508, non-visual presentation; Providing wider access while maintaining expert knowledge Over-dependence on off-the-shelf software

Data Context issues were: selection among datasets (appropriate to user context); static vs. dynamic (adaptable to changing context); context-sensitive resolution; integration with non-spatial datasets and applications; decision-making tools.

While no specific next steps emerged from the discussion, the group agreed to the value in maintaining a dialog among the group members. An e-mail list has been created by David Chase for the group. You may email David if you wish to be added to this discussion list (David_E._Chase@hud.gov).