Ionian University
Department of Archives and Library Science
Laboratory on Digital Libraries and Electronic Publishing

“Geospatial Collection Development Policies (GCDPs) in Academic Libraries: a worldwide research”

Ifigenia Vardakosta
Sarantos Kapidakis
Laboratory of Digital Libraries and Electronic Publishing
Department of Archives and Library Science
{ifigenia, sarantos@ionio.gr}
Session Overview

Geospatial Collections Development Policies

Previous Studies

Objectives of the study

Methodology

Findings

Future work
Collection development policies consist of a universal process in the library world that permits the library to develop a collection in correspondence with the information needs of the user thus currently establishing various trends:

- the satisfaction needs of the users,
- the use of new technologies,
- the increase of the plans for cooperation,
- the forms of presentation of information,
- the increase of technological and financial resources

(Sanchez Vignau & Meneses, 2005)
Geospatial Collections Development Policies (GCDPs) (2/2)

«Geospatial data collection development policies (GCDPs) differ from traditional paper-map policies” (Erwin & Sweetkind-Singer, 2010)

• there is no uniform data model,
• geospatial data vary widely in the amount of information they show,
• these data are being stored in relational geodatabases requiring sophisticated storage and archiving schemes,
• geospatial imagery datasets are often quite large and metadata may be voluminous as well,
• geospatial data may be produced over time,
• are subject to versioning because of updated information being made available or to correct past errors in the data (Janee, 2009; Erwin & Sweetkind-Singer, 2010)
Previous researches in GIS in Libraries

- 1999 (ARL) ▶ 53/64 libraries were using GIS services
- 2005 (Kinikin and Hench) ▶ 22/138
- 2005a (Kinikin and Hench) ▶ 11/21
- 2006 (Gabbaldon and Repplinger) ▶ 31/103
- 2009 (Good) ▶ 90% of univ.
- 2011 (Vardakosta and Kapidakis) ▶ 95/133

Previous researches in CDPs in Libraries

- 1977 (ARL) ▶ 29% out of 70 libraries had written policies
- 1980 (Bryant) ▶ 43% of libraries had some texts
- 1989 (Taborsky & Lenkowski) ▶ 58% had written policies (some were mission statements)
- 1995 (Futas) ▶ 1/3 of academic libraries in USA didn’t have written policies
- 2007 (ARL) ▶ 98% of libraries had a librarian devoted to CDPs
Objectives of the study

1) How many libraries with GIS services have geospatial collection development policies?
2) What kind of services they offer?
3) Do they use commercial or open source software?
Methodology

• Lib-web-cats and Libweb directories for locating academic libraries

• Academic libraries in universities which operate departments whose curricula are based in the use of geospatial information and GIS e.g. geography, earth sciences, environmental sciences etc.

• From initial list excepted those libraries that prevent access or there was an absence of translated pages in the english language.
Sample: 160 Academic Libraries
Libraries with GIS

GIS from the Library
48/160

GIS from Department/Lab
10/160

Libraries with no GIS
102/160
1) How many libraries with GIS services have geospatial collection development policies?

11/48 had Geospatial Collection Development Policies
2) What kind of services they offer?

- Infrastructure  
  16/48

- Remote Access  
  10/48

- User Education  
  17/48
3) Do they use commercial or open source software?

- Commercial Software
  29/48

- FOSS (supplementary)
  11/29
RESULTS ACCORDING REGIONS
Libraries with GIS/Region

CANADA (30)
EUROPE (10)
AFRICA (0)
MIDDLE EAST (0)
ASIA (0)
AUSTRALIA (7)
NEW ZEALAND (1)
Libraries with GCDPs/Region
Resuming results (1/2)

- Geospatial collections are not particularly developed by academic libraries worldwide even if they serve academic communities with geospatial interests.
- Geospatial Collection Development Policies are not used by geolibraries.
- User Education is recognized as an important service.
- Commercial software covers the main needs of libraries.
- FOSS are used supplementary by libraries and not as the main software for covering their needs.
Resuming results (2/2)

• Canada is the geographic region that mostly incorporates geospatial collection policies and GIS services in academic libraries.
• Europe and Australia although they have developed geospatial collections however they do not seem to follow specific policies.
• Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America are not familiar with the development of geospatial collections.
• In Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand libraries selects commercial software for providing services, although FOSS are used supplementary.
Future work

• What are the main characteristics of the existence geospatial collections policies?
• Are there any homogeneity among policies;
• Are policies related to a well developed collection and services?
Thank you!!!

Any Questions??