

MEMO

To: State Library Commission
From: Kris Larson
Re: Metadata Survey Results
Date: March 27, 2000

The Montana Metadata Coordinator was hired near the end of October 1997. The focus of the Metadata Program to date has been on outreach, and that outreach has been primarily extended to GIS professionals & technicians. In this initial phase, we focused on the educational component and addressed issues such as: Why is metadata important; What is the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Metadata Standard; What tools and resources are available to implement the standard; etc.

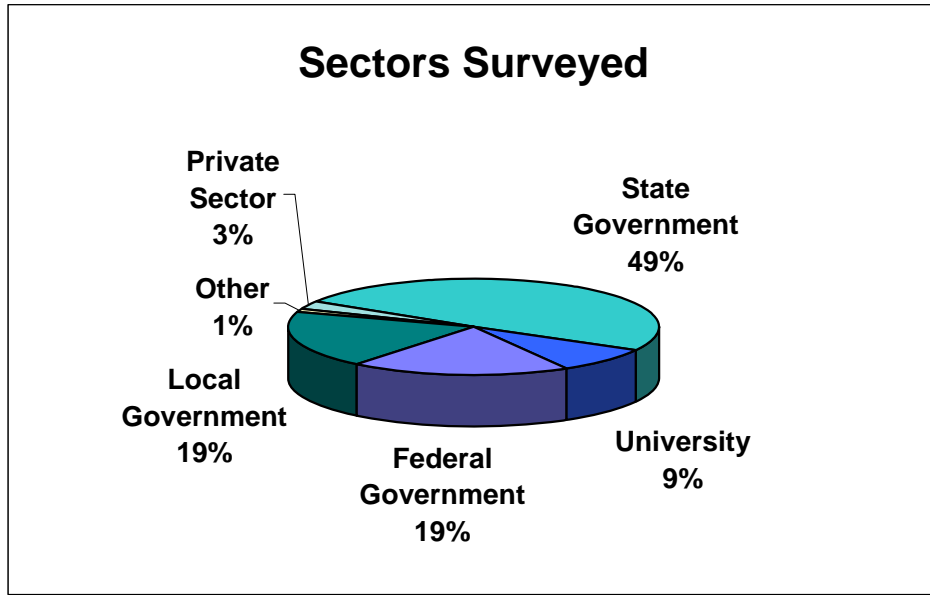
In December 1999, a metadata survey was mailed to people that had contact with the Metadata Program through a presentation, a workshop, or request for information on the FGDC Metadata Standard or tools to implement the standard. We mailed out 274 surveys and received 105 responses, a very high return as surveys go.

The following pages are a draft summary of the results of the survey. A few things immediately leapt out at me. During the next phase of our program, we need to work harder to address managers, we need to provide more hands-on types of services, and we need to provide more education about the GIS Clearinghouse Nodes that are accessible via the Internet. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the results and/or our next steps with you. Please feel free to contact me at 444-5691 or klarson@state.mt.us.

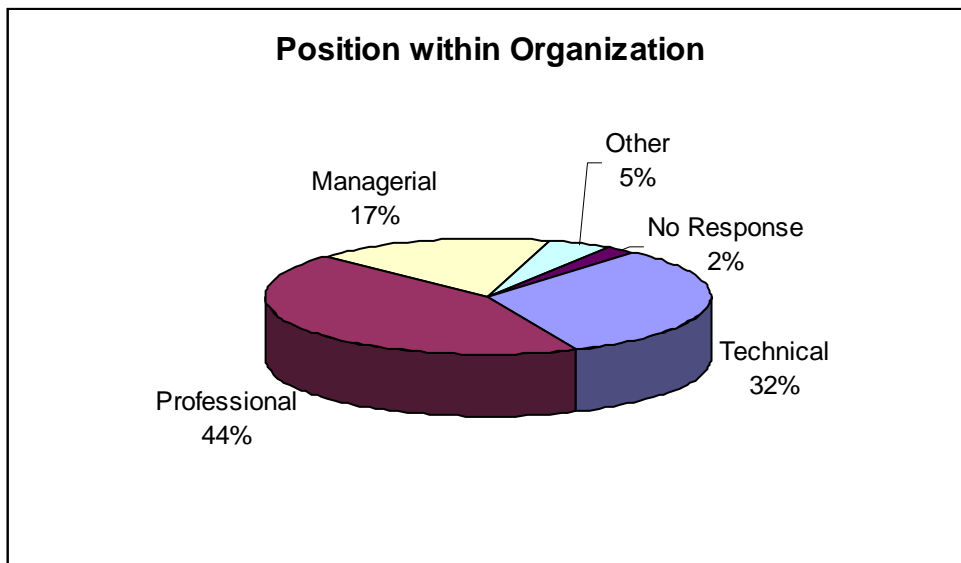
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Metadata User Survey Results

1. Where do you work?

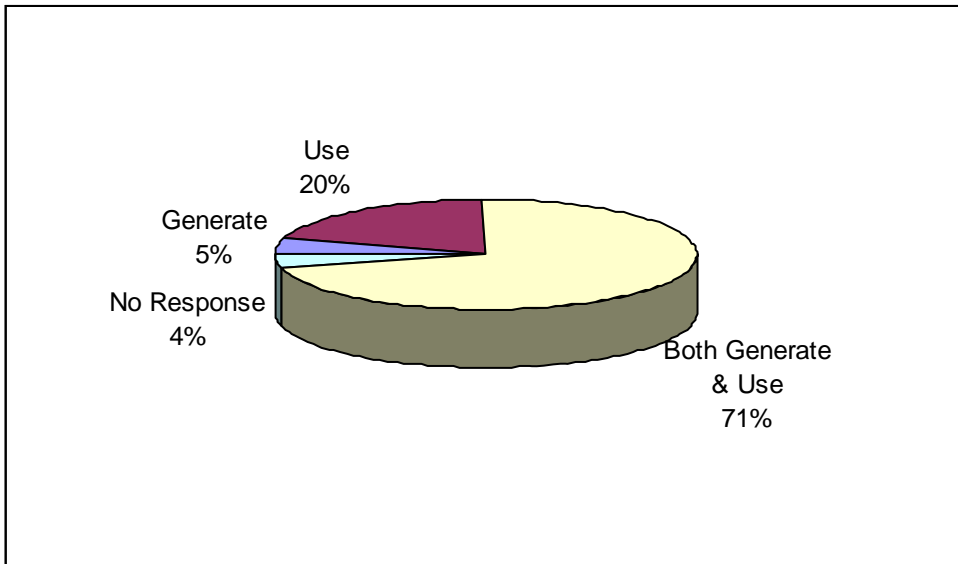


2. What best describes your position within your organization?

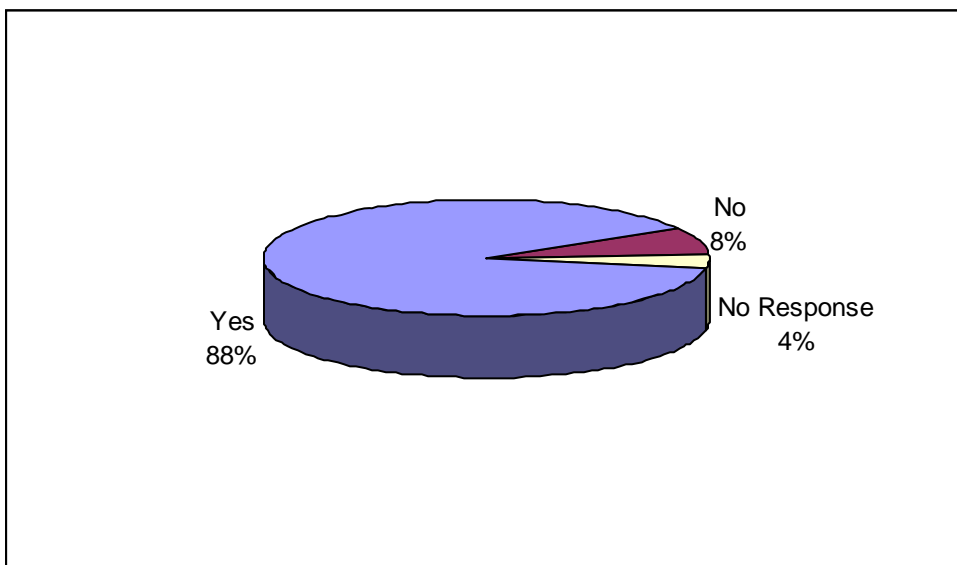


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3. Does your organization generate or use spatial data?



4. Does your organization obtain spatial data from the web?



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5. Have you ever had problems with undocumented geospatial data?

	Count	
Yes	35	37%
No	59	63%
Total	94	

6. What information is most valuable to you in determining if spatial data or a GIS layer is usable in a project? Please circle one of the following responses for each question below: (1) Critically important, (2) Important, (3) Useful but not essential, or (4) Not important.

	1	2	3	4	No Response
Projection or coordinate information	69	20	3	0	13
Description of the database fields ("attributes")	50	34	8	1	12
Information about the positional accuracy of data	34	46	13	1	11
Information about when the data were created	23	46	20	5	11
Information about how the data were created	18	37	36	3	11
Information about how complete the dataset is	21	49	24	0	11
Information about the original scale of the data	36	34	17	6	12
Information about the software/hardware	6	28	39	20	12
Other	0	5	0	0	100

7. Does your organization have a policy about using data from unknown sources in public documents or professional work products?

Policy	Count	
Yes	23	26%
No	66	74%
	89	

8. Have you received training or assistance in understanding the FGDC Metadata Standard?

Yes	57	56%
No	44	44%
	101	

9. If you answered yes to question 8, please indicate the source of the training or assistance you received:

Accessed metadata information via a website	1
Communicated with the NRIS staff about	9
Montana Metadata Coordinator-NRIS	48

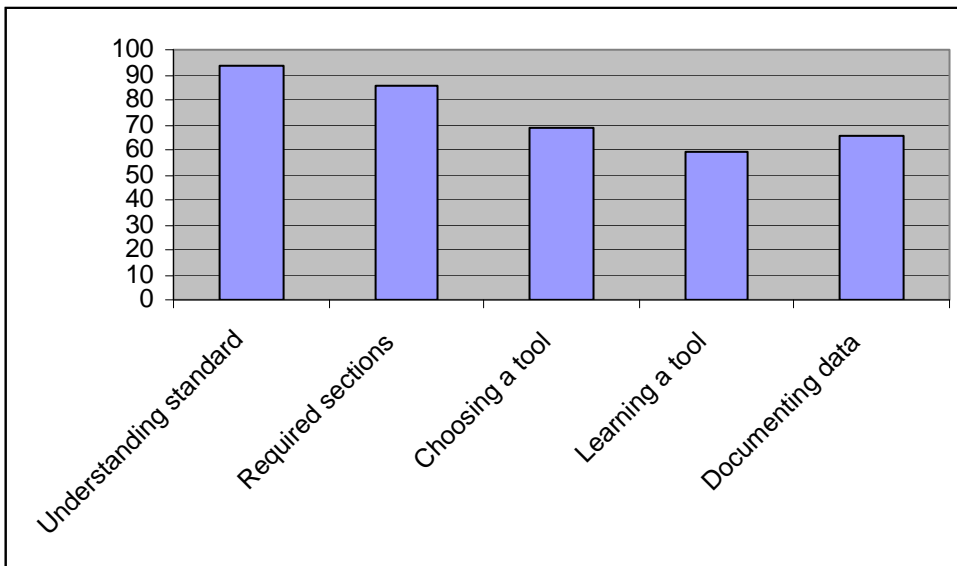
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10. Did the training help equip you to document your spatial data holdings?

Yes	36	55%
No	29	45%
	65	

If yes, please indicate if the training was helpful in:

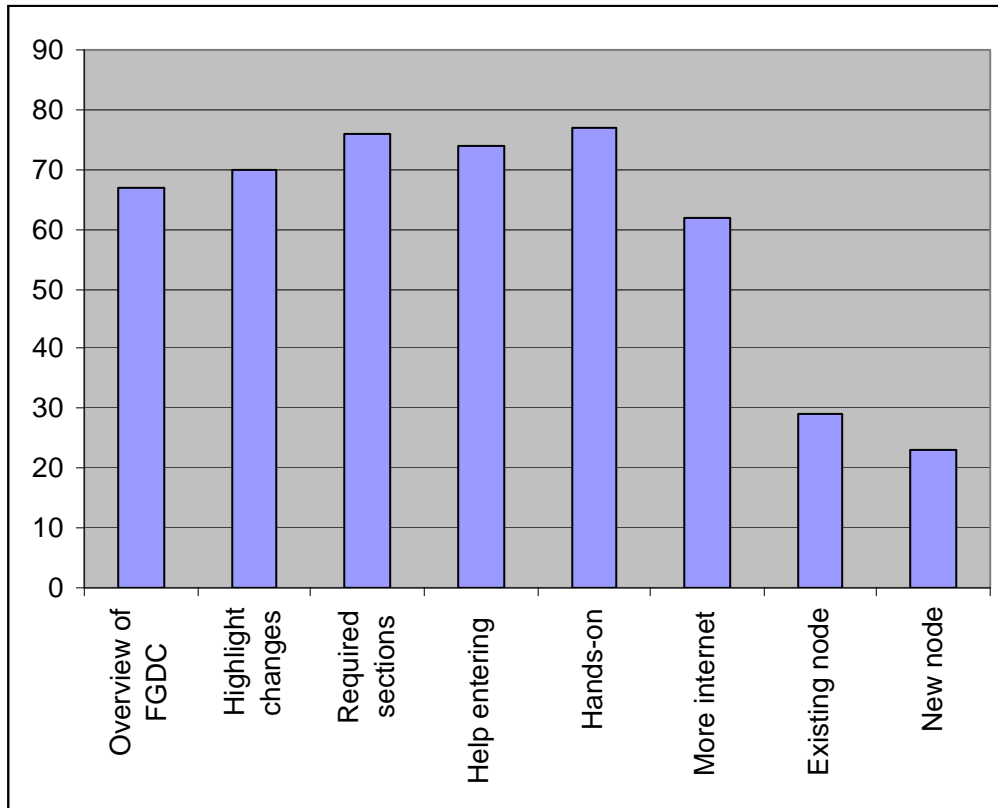
- Understanding the FGDC Metadata Standard
- Understanding which sections of the Standard are required
- Choosing a good metadata entry tool
- Learning to use a metadata entry tool
- Complete metadata documents for your data



11. What metadata services would be the most helpful for you in the future? (1) Very helpful, (2) Helpful, (3) Useful but not essential, or (4) Not helpful.

- General overview of the FGDC Metadata Standard 1 2 3 4
- Highlight of recent changes to the Metadata Standard 1 2 3 4
- Highlight required vs. optional Standard sections 1 2 3 4
- Help in entering metadata 1 2 3 4
- Hands-on Training Courses 1 2 3 4
- More metadata resources on the internet 1 2 3 4
- Help to serve my data on an existing Clearinghouse Node 1 2 3 4
- Help to set up my own Clearinghouse Node 1 2 3 4
- Other (please specify)_____ 1 2 3 4

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This histogram was created using only those responses that said a particular task would be “Very helpful” or “Helpful.” The results didn’t seem to change much, no matter how the data was manipulated. Hands-on training consistently scored in the number one slot. In fact, if the “Useful but not essential” category was included, 95% of the respondents wanted to see more Hands-on Training. Hands-on Training, Overview of the FGDC Standard, Help in entering metadata, and Highlighting required vs optional sections consistently scored highly no matter how the data was manipulated. More metadata resources on the Internet and Highlighting changes to the standard varied from the mid- to high range. Creating a new Internet node or putting data on an existing Internet node consistently scored lower.

12. How many of your organization's geospatial databases are documented:

Yes	13	34%
No	25	66%
Total	38	

13. Where do you store the documentation for your geospatial databases?

In a database	13
In text files in various places on the computer	27
In text files in one place on the computer system	14
On a clearinghouse node	7
Other	5
Total	66

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