University of Florida Geospatial Task Force

Minutes of 11/05/14 Meeting

Collaboration Commons, Conference and Visualization (Room L136), Marston Science Library

Task Force Members Present:

Peggy Carr, (Chair) Landscape Architecture - College of Design, Construction and Planning
Lily Elefteriadou, College of Engineering and UF Transportation Institute
Mike Kutyna, UF Apps
Bob Swett, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science
Alexis Thomas, Geoplan Center, College of Design, Construction and Planning
Paul Zwick, Urban and Regional Planning – College of Design, Construction and Planning
Michael Binford, Geography – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Joe Aufmuth, UF Libraries, ICGIS (Interdisciplinary Concentration in GIS), SFRC
Renato Fiqueiredo, iDigBio
Jaclyn Hall, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, College of Medicine
Xiaohui Xu, Epidemiology, College of Health Professions & College of Medicine
Crystal Goodison, GeoPlan Center (Reporting Minutes)

Task Force Members Absent:

Erik Deumens, Research Computing
Paul Gader, Chair of Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Grenville Barnes, Geomatics, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, IFAS

Introductions

New task force member - Xiaohui Xu, Department of Epidemiology

Review classified course list

- Discussion on courses and their categorization. What courses are using spatial versus geo-spatial? Many courses are teaching 3-D modeling/ visualization techniques, but not associated with an actual x/y location on the earth.
- Need for a 4th category – which is the "growth category". These are courses using digital spatial modeling (like 3-D modeling/ visualization) without geospatial coordinates/ components, but could potentially incorporate geospatial coordinates if software and means were accessible.
- Assignments to everyone – review course list and re-categorize based on new category and discussion

Adopt Vision/Mission/Goals Statement

Made minor modifications to statement.

Motion to adopt final version (Lex) and seconded (Paul). Unanimous vote in favor of adoption.

Review and discuss template for tangible examples
Chair Carr discussed purpose of template – to tell the story of geospatial through example projects. Individual task force members are asked to choose a few good examples to illustrate geospatial work being done in their departments.

Brainstorm a list of potential investments, institutional enhancements, organizational elements, staffing additions, hardware additions, software additions, etc. that will move UF towards our goal of preeminence in Geospatial Information.
Suggested approach: Consider obstacles that you have experienced in your teaching/ research/ service/ extension/ outreach/ clinical practice and what could be done to overcome that obstacle.

Categorize needs in a matrix: Hardware, software, data, people, institutional/organizational on x-axis and learning, research, service, extension, outreach, and clinical on y-axis.

Draft Matrix (separate doc)

<u>Notes from Needs Discussion:</u>

Discussion on increasing capacity of UFApps/ ResearchApps to serve ArcGIS licenses over time

- Current capacity (for all software packages) is 250
- How to estimate optimal number of concurrent GIS users and how much to grow per year
- Start with estimate of current GIS users
    - Students – currently about 700-800 that request Esri licenses
- In Collaboration Commons, 80 computers have ArcGIS installed. Should these computers be using UFApps instead? That would work if the data they are working with is also stored with software.
- Should all student data and software be centralized via UFApps so students can use from anywhere?
- What about ArcGIS software needs for research use? How to estimate optimal number of concurrent users
- Should we be laying out a timeframe with targets for each year?
- How to evaluate growth from each year? Need benchmarking to evaluate if system is too slow.
- How to assure reliability and speed so system is utilized and effective

ArcGIS Online for Visualization

- Does it have a role at UF? Has potential role for visualization. Serves a role for people who do GIS but don't want to get into web map authoring.
- Could it be functional for classes as well?
- Current issue administering ArcGIS Online. UF gets credits with its campus site license, but no good method for distributing credits per user. Also, tasks such as tiling or geo-coding consume a lot of credits. Would need to lock down roles (just publisher, no analytical tasks)

- For research users –could crunch tiles/ do geocoding and analytical processes on HPC servers and then push to ArcGIS Online to save credits.

Need: Centralized data access

- What about large datasets that are continually downloaded and used?
- Need to store derived data products from research projects
- Data Management for centralized data access? Institutional need to store and manage data

Assignments:

- Everyone – submit tangible examples of GIS work/ projects/ coursework.