

University of Florida Geospatial Task Force

Minutes of 12/03/14 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
Mike Kutyna, UF Apps
Bob Swett, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science
Alexis Thomas, Geoplan Center, 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
Jaclyn Hall, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, College of Medicine
Grenville Barnes, Geomatics, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, IFAS
Paul Gader, Chair of Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Lily Elefteriadou, College of Engineering and UF Transportation Institute
Paul Zwick, Urban and Regional Planning – College of Design, Construction and Planning
Xiaohui Xu, Epidemiology, College of Health Professions & College of Medicine
Crystal Goodison, GeoPlan Center (Reporting Minutes)

Task Force Members Absent:

Erik Deumens, Research Computing
Renato Figueiredo, iDigBio

Review of Needs Matrix

The discussion focused on hardware and people needs. Some discussion notes are below. Discussion was summarized into the current version of the Geospatial Needs Matrix. Next meeting will continue the discussion on the other needs in the matrix: data, software, and institutional/ org.

Discussion on Hardware Needs

STUDENT Hardware Needs:

- Distinguishing on types of storage needs (short-term/ long-term, etc).
- Need shared, centralized temporary storage for student projects during a course (that is wiped away after course). Student's responsibility to save final products. Set max capacity per class? Hard to set as space needs varies per class. Maybe 3 categories of space needed? Binford – 20 GB per GIS classes. 50 GB per remote sensing classes. Mike K - Latimer is using approx. 200 GB for his undergrad GIS class. Perhaps three size categories: 20gb/ 200gb/ 500gb. . Above that particular level, need special request for space.
- Masters & PhD work – does that qualify as learning or research? Also need centralized storage for theses and dissertations (maybe the Institutional Repository) ?
- Mike K – Possible archival storage on slower, cheaper disks or tapes. Create long-term archival space for long-term data storage needs.

Research Hardware Needs:

- Need to store source data used by multiple people on campus. Where should it be stored? Library? What about large datasets like Lidar and Hyper-spectral imaging? Does the library have the capacity to store or want to take that on?
- Categories of data needed for storage:
 1. Original source data (both public and commercial datasets). Perhaps store at UFApps and have project storage nearby to increase access and processing.
 2. Intermediate datasets derived during research. Individual research project has responsibility to pay for intermediate data storage. University already provides space as fee for service. Should we call for an expansion of this kind of storage? What about non-funded researchers who are starting off?
 3. Final products from research projects.
- How to estimate how much space is needed for the data categories above? Paul G – maybe each department/ unit in the task force can estimate?
 - Paul G/ CISE - 500 TB/ 2 PB/ 500 TB (includes hyper-spectral data processing)
- Centralized repository for final data products
 - Final data products should be accessible by staff/ faculty for research and learning.
 - If final data goes into the Institutional Repository (IR), then it will need metadata/ documentation
- Faster network speed
 - Jaci's project – slow to access network drives. Is it a network issue or maybe an issue with the plates/ switches in her office?
 - Mike K - 1 gigabit to the desktop is the campus goal.
- Server stacks for visualization
 - Web servers and map servers configured for visualization and interactive web mapping so individual researchers don't need to purchase their own hardware
 - Not sure on quantity needed - need an estimate to quantify (how many people/ projects need web/map servers?)

Data needs: EXTENSION/ OUTREACH

- Server stacks – Bob – it could be covered under research umbrella

Discussion on People Needs

- GIS Help Desk – Jaci and Binford think the need for people to support is very important
- Discussion on distributed funding mechanisms – partial FTEs in multiple departments to support geospatial activities.
- Need **spatial database managers** to manage the data that knows the disciplines. Centralized or disbursed? Do we need one per college? (Binford thinks yes). Need to coordinate with centralized DB (GIS Librarian)
- Do we combine GIS support people and database managers? Skillsets are different.

- What about software – same needs as data and people for acquisition and maintenance of software. Need someone to oversee
- Binford – Need to include call for Geospatial information science faculty – beefing up tenure-track faculty. Attracting and investing in geospatial information sciences. Possibly under geomatics
- Add FTE(s) to Library for GIS Librarian services and consulting/ general support for projects