

Everything Your Mother Never Told You About Metadata

Thursday, August 10

Atlanta, GA

Metadata Panel

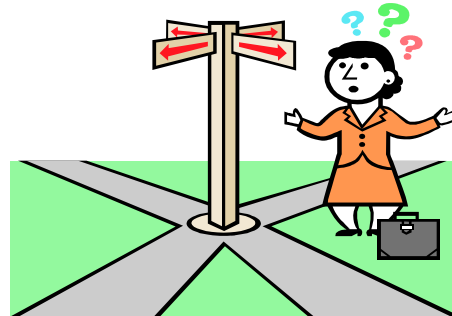
Moderator:

- **Thomas Talbot**, *MSPH, New York State Department of Health*
- **Panel Members:**
 - **Robert Levey**, *M.B.A, NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene*
 - **Lisa Parker**, *M.S., State of Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention*
 - **Rodney Garland**, *M.S., Oregon Department of Human Services Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology*

What is Metadata?

Metadata is “Data About Data”. They help a person to locate and understand data by describing the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of the data.

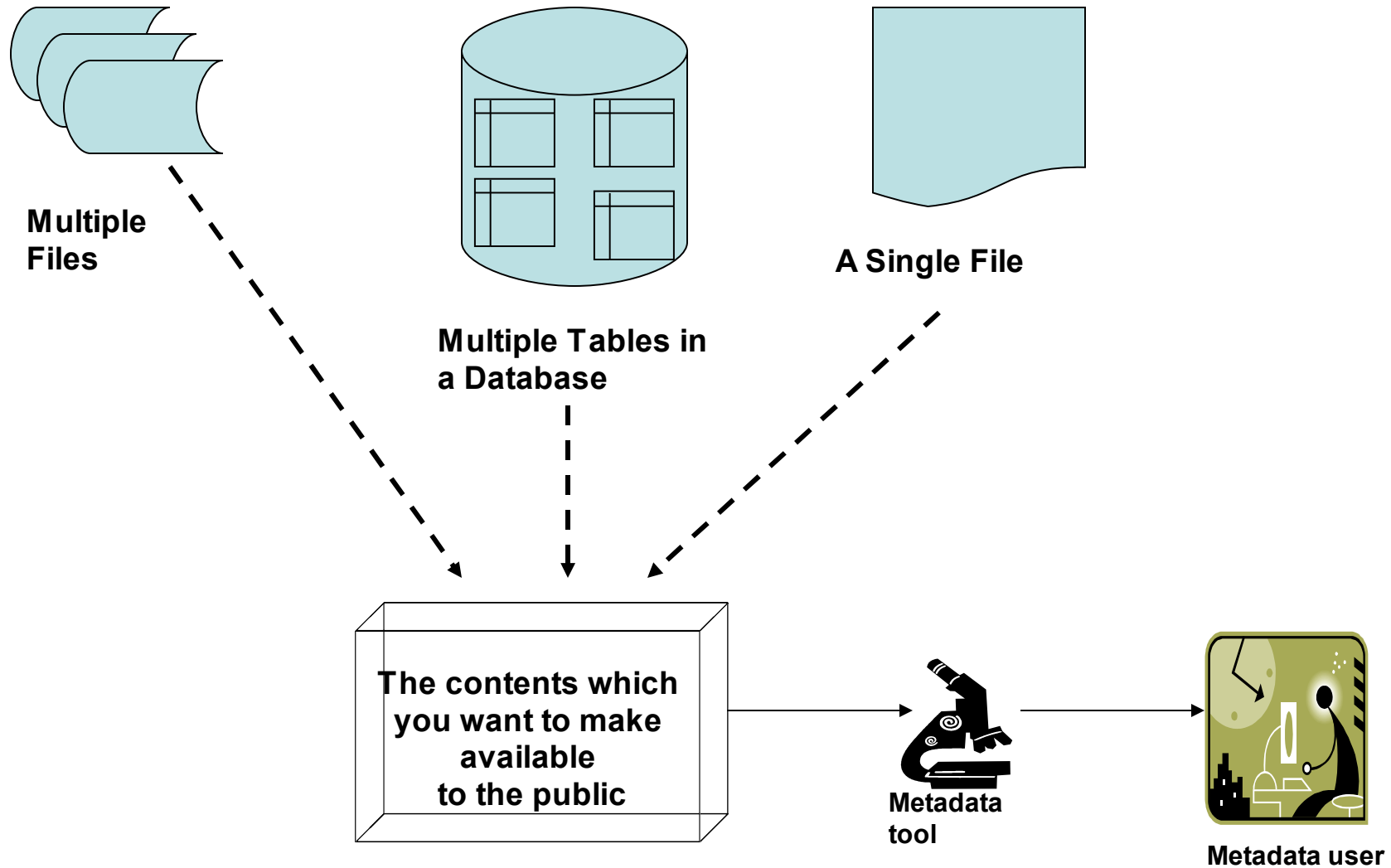
The word Metadata can be confusing



Metadata tags for XML namespaces

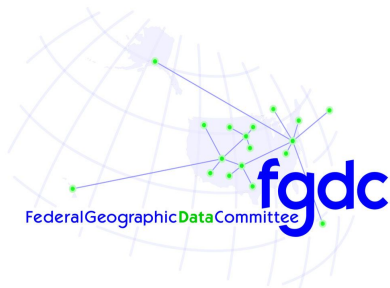
Database modelers use the term to describe specialized logical data models

Another confusing term is Data Set



Commonly Used Metadata Standards

- **Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standards for Digital Spatial Metadata**
- **Dublin Core**
- **ISO 11179**
- **ISO 19115**
- **ISO 19139** (*currently undergoing review*)

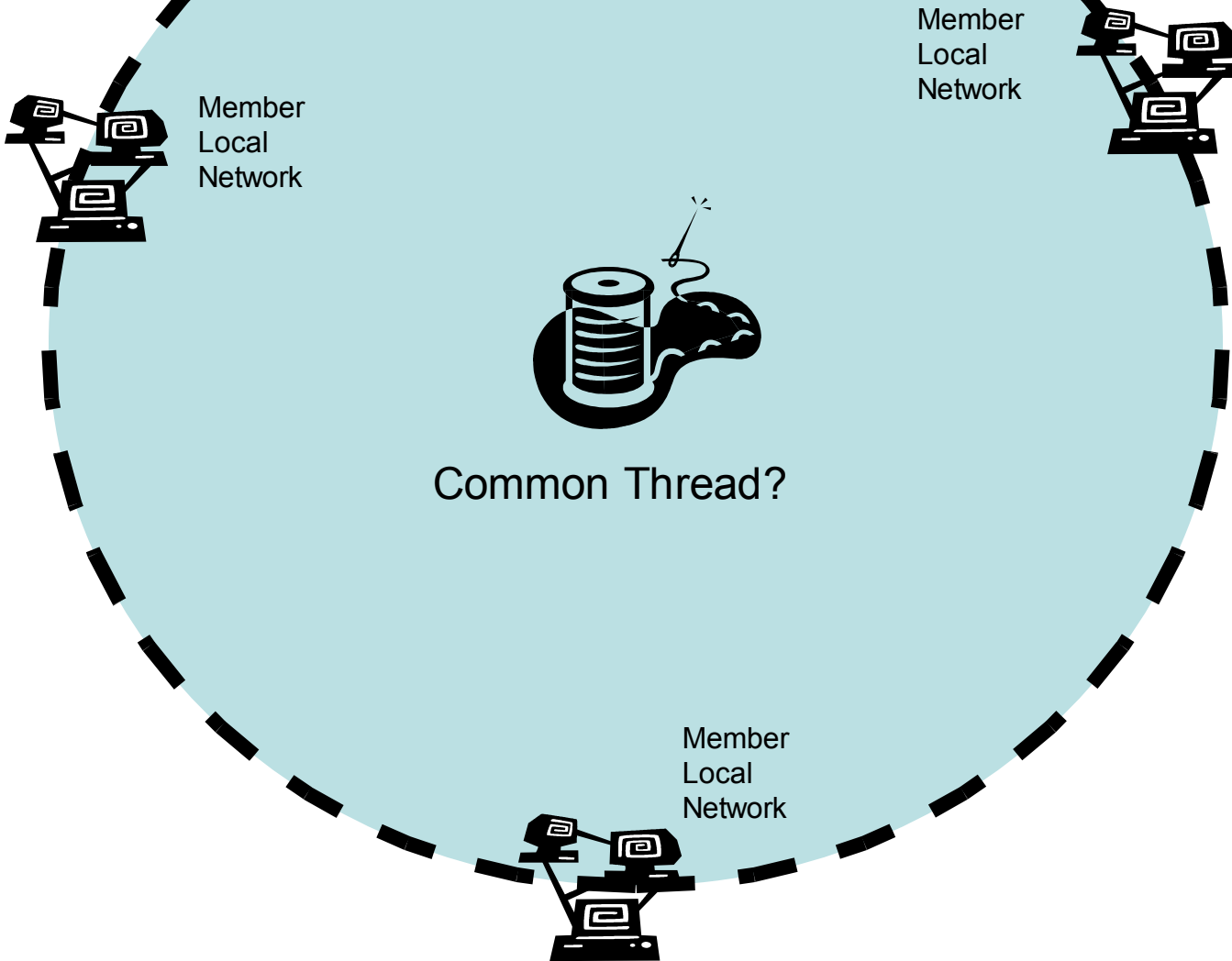


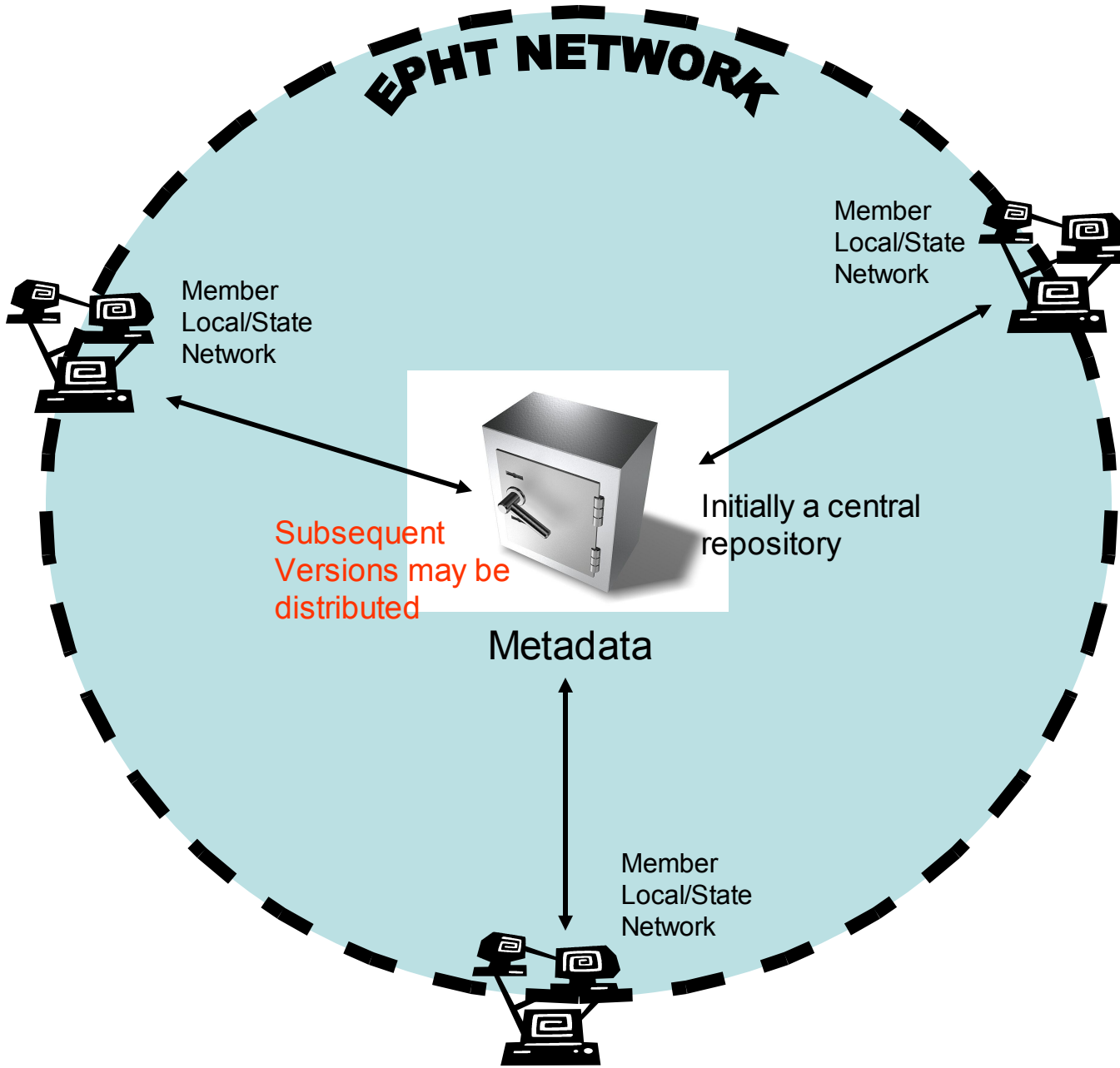
Why is Metadata Important?

- **Protects investment in data**
- **Helps users to understand data**
- **Allows for users to discover the existence of data**
- **Limits liability**
- **Can reduce staff workload (once created)**

HOW DOES IT WORK?

EPHT NETWORK





EPHT NETWORK

Member Local/State Network

Member Local/State Network

Subsequent Versions may be distributed

Initially a central repository

Metadata

Member Local/State Network

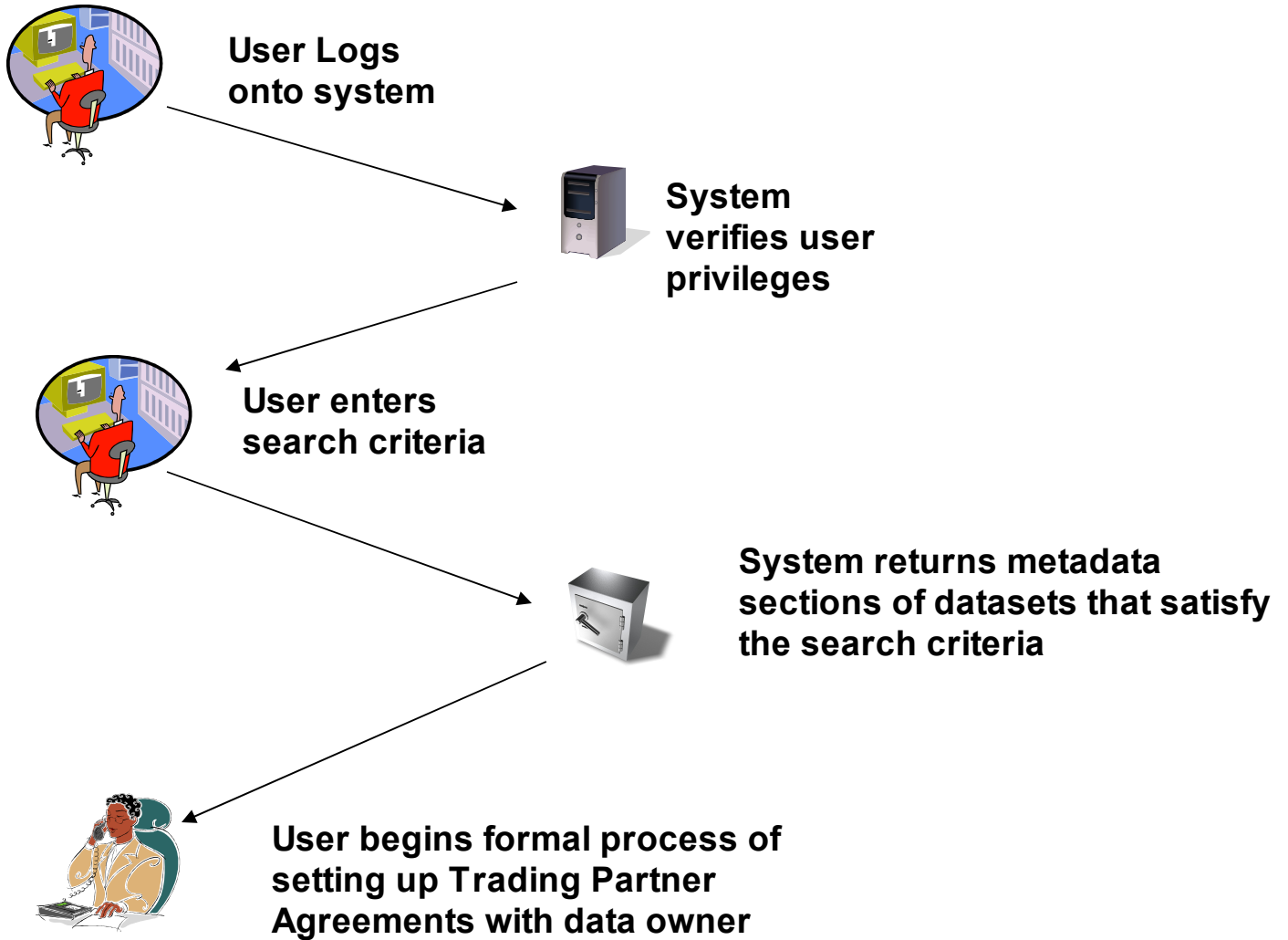
Metadata is the primary portal that members use to locate data they want **access to or to **advertise** the data they want to make available to the other network members.**

Metadata describes the contents of each member data set. It describes items such as:

- Content**
- Location Reference**
- Use Constraints**
- How to gain access**
- Data Quality**

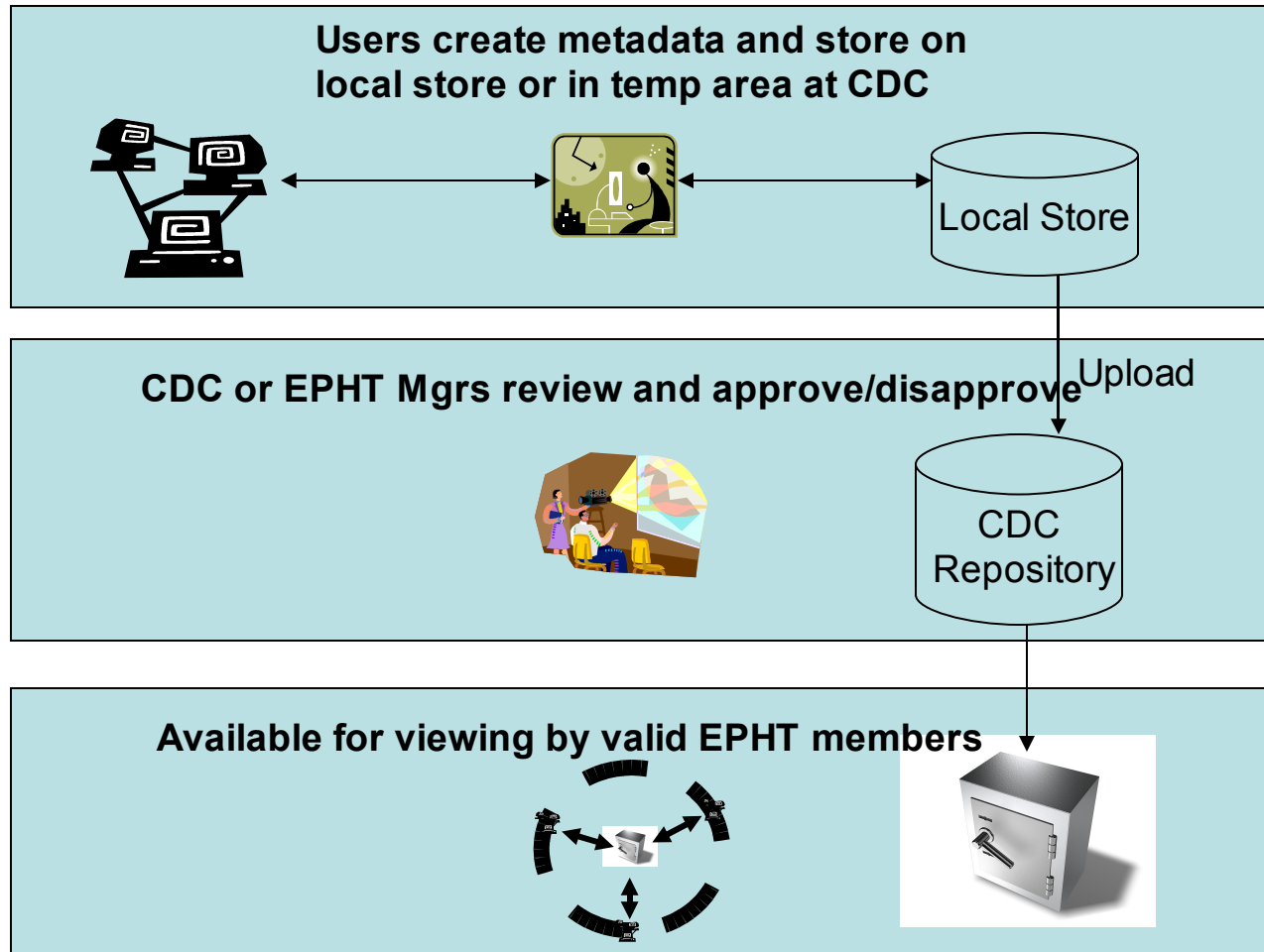
In addition to its descriptive power, Metadata is also searchable.

Typical Metadata User Session



Where will the Vault Reside and how do we get metadata into it?

XML is the export/import language of metadata data exchange. We create the data in a local tool using ESRI, Intergraph, freeware products such as TKME.



What's Under the Hood?

FGDC Standard Lists 10 sections

- 1. Identification Information**
- 2. Data Quality Information**
- 3. Spatial Data Organization Information**
- 4. Spatial Reference Information**
- 5. Entity and Attribute Information**
- 6. Distribution Information**
- 7. Metadata Reference Information**
- 8. Citation Information**
- 9. Time Period Information**
- 10. Contact Information**

[\(<http://geology.usgs.gov/tools/metadata>\)](http://geology.usgs.gov/tools/metadata)

Identification Information:

Browse Graphic:

Browse Graphic File Name: http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/images/HGDW_BrowseGraphic.jpg

Browse Graphic File Description: HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse

Browse Graphic File Type: JPG

Citation:

Citation Information:

Title: HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse

Online Linkage: <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/>

Originator: HRSA Call Center

Publication Date: 20040301

Publication Information:

Publication Place: Rockville, MD

Publisher: Health Resources and Services Administration

Geospatial Data Presentation Form: Website

Edition: 3.4

Description:

Abstract: The HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse and its associated applications provide HRSA with access to a broad range of information about HRSA programs, related health resources, and demographic data useful for planning and policy purposes. A data warehouse is a centralized store of an organization's data resources implemented specifically for query, reporting, and analysis purposes.

Purpose: The HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse captures grants, scholarship and loan programs, designation of underserved areas, and service demonstration programs and integrates these with data acquired from external sources.

Keywords:

Theme:

Theme Keyword: health

Theme:

Theme Keyword: Health

Theme Keyword: Primary Care Service Areas

Theme Keyword: Ryan White Care Act Providers of Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care

Theme Keyword: HRSA Investments in Women's Health

Place:

Place Keyword: Republic of Palau

Place Keyword: Federated States of Micronesia

Point of Contact:

Contact Information:

Contact Person Primary:

Contact Person: Call Center

Contact Organization: HRSA Call Center

Contact Address:

Address Type: Mailing and Physical

Address: 12530 Parklawn Drive Suite 350

City: Rockville

State or Province: MD

Postal Code: 20850

Country: USA

Contact Electronic Mail Address: CallCenter@hrsa.gov

Contact Voice Telephone: 1-877-464-4772

Contact Facsimile Telephone: (301) 998-7377

The SND Minimal Metadata Template

<i>Element</i>	
1. Identification	7. Metadata Reference
Citation	Metadata Date
Originator	Metadata Contact
Publication Date	Metadata Standard Name
Title	Metadata Access Constraints
URL	Metadata Use Constraints
Description	9. Time Period Information
Abstract	Single Date
Purpose	Calendar Date
Supplemental Info	Multiple Dates
Time Period of Content	Range of Dates
Currentness	Beginning Date
Time Period Information	Ending Date
Status	10. Contact Information
Progress	Contact Information
Maintenance and Update Frequency	Contact Organization
Spatial Domain	Contact Position
West Bounding Coordinate	Contact Address
East Bounding Coordinate	Address Type
North Bounding Coordinate	Address
South Bounding Coordinate	City
Keywords	State or Province
Theme Keyword Thesaurus	Postal Code
Theme Keyword	Country
Place Keyword Thesaurus	Contact Telephone Number
Place Keyword	Contact TDD/TTY Telephone
Access Constraints	Contact Fax Number
Use Constraints	Contact E-mail Address
Point of Contact	Hours of Service
Native Data Set Environment	Contact Instructions
5. Entity and Attributes	
Entity and Attribute Overview	
Entity and Attribute Detail Citation	Subset of 357 FGDC elements

Searching Metadata

	Field Name	Operator	Value
	abstract	contains	'lead levels'
AND	keyword	contains	'child cases'
AND	beginning date	>=	1/1/05
AND	ending date	<=	12/31/05

Results

Data Set Name	Owner
Leadquest	NYC DOHMH
State Childhood Lead database	Maine

Potential Search Criteria

Metadata FGDC Section	Searchable Field Name	Search Criteria
Entities and Attributes	attribute_lbl	CONTAINS
Entities and Attributes	attribute_def	CONTAINS
Identification	pub_dte datetime	>,<=
Identification	title	CONTAINS
Identification	other_citation_dtl	
Identification	originator	CONTAINS
spatial Reference Info	datum_nm	CONTAINS
spatial Reference Info	datum_description	CONTAINS
Identification	e_bounding_coord	>,<=
Identification	w_bounding_coord	>,<=
Identification	n_bounding_coord	>,<=
Identification	s_bounding_coord	>,<=
Identification	purpose	>,<=
Identification	use_constraint	>,<=
Identification	Data_set_Credit	CONTAINS

Metadata FGDC Section	Searchable Field Name	Search Criteria
Identification	supplement_info	CONTAINS
Identification	Access_constraint	CONTAINS
Identification	abstract	CONTAINS
Identification	keywords	CONTAINS
Identification	metadata_name	CONTAINS
Identification	metadata_description	CONTAINS
Identification	meta_access_constraint	CONTAINS
Identification	meta_use_constraint	CONTAINS
Identification	place_keyword	CONTAINS
Identification	theme_keyword_name nvarchar	CONTAINS
Identification	theme_keyword_description	CONTAINS
Identification	currentness_ref	>,<=
Identification	calendar_dte datetime	>,<=
Identification	begin_dte datetime	>,<=
Identification	end_dte datetime	>,<=

Thesauri – Vocabularies

Examples:

LOINC – Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes

SNOMED – Standard Nomenclature of Medicine

ICD-9 (International Classification of Diseases)

ICD-10

MARC – Machine Readable Code sets from Library of Congress

ISO International Standards Organization

The SND Vocabulary subgroup is working on a way to traverse these vocabularies and possibly include them in our metadata search.

Trying out the template

2. Selected a dataset
3. Had the data owners apply the SND template
4. Report back to SND how it works

PHASE

PHASE Metadata Experience

Presented by Lisa Parker

Contributions from the PHASE team:

Chris Paulu (ME),

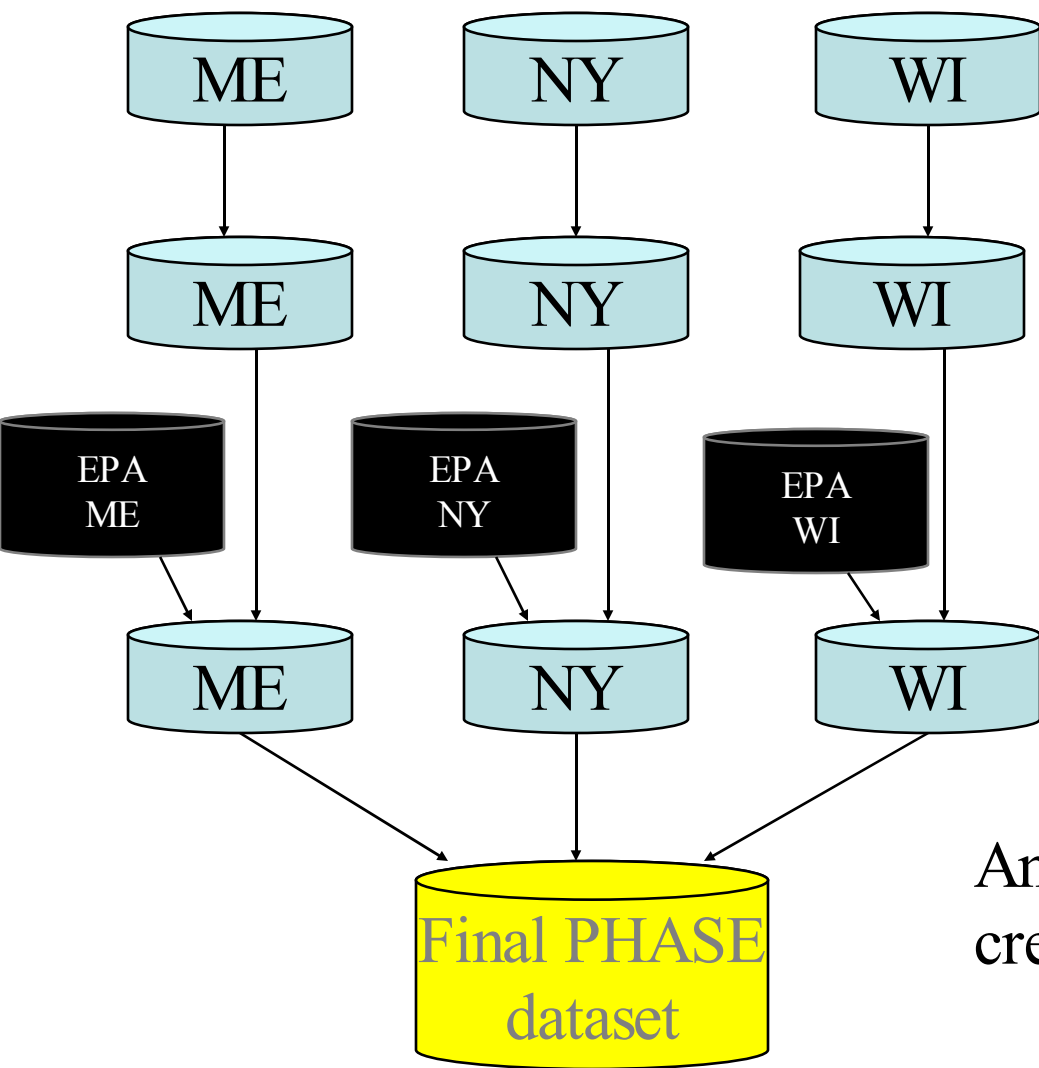
Tom Talbot and Valerie Haley (NY),

Mark Werner and Marni Bekkedal (WI)

Presentation Format

- How we did it –
 - What PHASE data was metadata'd
 - Who created the metadata
 - The metadata tool selected and why
 - Our process of creating and reviewing PHASE metadata
- What we thought –
 - Feedback for SND

What PHASE data was metadata'd?



Each state started with their own Hospitalization data

Extracted the records
For asthma & heart attack

Used the coordinates from
EPA

Created a PHASE file

And this was the final file that we
created metadata for

Who Created the Metadata?

- For the PHASE supplemental project, the three states divided responsibilities
- Maine was assigned the IT lead
- Metadata fell under IT
- I am the IT person from Maine and a member of the SND workgroup

The Metadata Entry Tool

- Requirements were that the tool be free and easy
- (USGS's) Tkme was selected, and blessed by Metadata Team
- Metadata team provided installation notes, getting started document and guidance (links on last page)

Creating and Reviewing the Metadata

- Found examples of metadata
- Used publicly available documentation
- Initially entered all (possible) FGDC fields
- Distributed for the team to review
- Made adjustments based on team comments and repeated
- And repeated
- And repeated

Feedback

- Feedback on the process
 - The tool, who should create metadata, how to efficiently review and agree on the metadata
- Feedback on the template
- Review of FGDC Sections
- Points of discussion on the FGDC sections / fields
- Wish list for the new metadata entry tool

Feedback on our Process

- We think / recommend...
 - Decide up-front who will actually create the metadata and what you want included. Consider creating a questionnaire, or interview for gathering metadata
 - Metadata entry is not necessarily a “technical” task
 - When multiple locations are involved, use conference calls to conduct the discussions
 - You may already have a metadata entry tool in house, like ArcCatalog. If not, Tkme worked for us (the price was right!)

Feedback on the Template

- We think ...
 - The word template implied it was a starting point for entry (and it was not)
 - The definitions need to be more meaningful
 - The fields that require entry need to be made obvious (versus a “compound” category type that does not allow entry)

FGDC Metadata - Sections

1. Identification
2. Data Quality
3. Spatial Data Organization
4. Spatial Reference
5. Entity and Attribute
6. Distribution
7. Metadata Reference
8. Citation
9. Time Period
10. Contact Information

Feedback - Section 1 – Identification

Basic information about the dataset, including status-contacts-keywords

- We think
 - There should be a specific place to say the kind of EPHT dataset this is: health, hazard, exposure
 - The “Bounding Coordinates” needs discussion (data is non-contiguous)
 - We need a better understanding on keywords and how a search tool will use these
 - There should be a place specifically for “multiple contributors”

Feedback - Section 2 – Data Quality

A general assessment about the quality of the dataset

- We think
 - a section on data quality is important
 - A better understanding of “positional accuracy” is needed. For non-GIS, multi-contributor data, (how) can this be used?
 - Is the “completeness report” the proper place for notes about non-contiguous data?

Feedback - Sections 3 & 4 Spatial

The mechanism used to represent the spatial information and a description of the reference frame for and means to encode coordinates

- We think
 - these sections pertain specifically to GIS generated data (which PHASE was not), but we also think that when coordinates exist (and they do in our data), there should be a required place to say where those coordinates were generated

Feedback - Section 5 – Entity and Attributes

Information about the content of the dataset

- We think
 - Could “entity” be the description for the kind of EPHT dataset? (health, hazard, exposure)
 - We wanted to use this section as a “data dictionary” and would recommend EPHT use

Feedback - Section 6 – Distribution

Information about the distributor and options for obtaining the data

- We think
 - EPHT data should be required to say whether the data can, or cannot, be obtained
 - We need to talk about how to handle a dataset, like PHASE, that cannot be distributed. Conceivably one could go to the data sources and obtain the data on their own. Where would we say this?
 - We liked having the ability to enter the size of the dataset, but that field is embedded in a distribution field (and our data is not distributable)

Feedback – on the new tool for metadata entry

- We want
 - Easy-to-understand definitions
 - To know up-front what fields are used for searching
 - A tool that could “interview” the users to prompt for entry using examples and instructions
 - The output of the tool should be a clear and easily understood document (the next two slides show screen shots of a page of .txt metadata and a page from ArcCatalog)

Entity_and_Attribute_Information:

Detailed_Description:

Attribute:

Attribute_Label: STATE

Attribute_Definition:

Char(2).

The State of the hospital admission

Attribute_Definition_Source: Hard Coded by State providing the data

Attribute_Domain_Values:

Enumerated_Domain:

Enumerated_Domain_Value: ME

Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition: Maine

Enumerated_Domain:

Enumerated_Domain_Value: NY

Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition: New York

Enumerated_Domain:

Enumerated_Domain_Value: WI

Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition: Wisconsin

Attribute:

Attribute_Label: ID_PATIENT

Attribute_Definition:

A value that attempts to uniquely identify a patient.

When combined with the State abbreviation, this will identify persons within a state. Singular identification may be approximate, depending on state/hospital coding policies (e.g., the ID may only be unique to patients within a hospital facility).

In NY, unique persons were identified using the first and last two digits of the person's last name, the first two characters of the first name, and the last four digits of the social security number. If the social security number was missing (i.e. for young children), the birthdate was used instead. The identifier was encrypted to maintain confidentiality

Attribute_Definition_Source: Assigned by each State



WellBuffers
SDE Feature Class

Contents Preview Metadata

Description Spatial Attributes

Details for WELLSBUF.PAT
Type of object: Feature Class
Number of records: 2183

Description

Attributes

BUFFER_ID
Alias: OBJECTID
Data type: OID
Width: 4
Precision: 10
Scale: 0
Definition:
 public water supply buffer identifier, -1 indicates PWS protection areas for this feature are depicted in WELLSBUF.PAT

OBJECTID
PWSID
SHAPE
SHAPE.AREA
SHAPE.LEN
TYPE

WellBuffers
SDE Feature Class

Contents Preview Metadata

Description Spatial Attributes

Details for WELLSBUF.PAT
Type of object: Feature Class
Number of records: 2183

Description

Attributes

BUFFER_ID
Alias: OBJECTID
Data type: OID
Width: 4
Precision: 10
Scale: 0
Definition:
 public water supply buffer identifier, -1 indicates PWS travel time or probabilistic source protection areas for this feature are depicted in WELLSBUF.PAT and there is no circular buffer

OBJECTID
PWSID
SHAPE
SHAPE.AREA
SHAPE.LEN
TYPE

Summary

- We think ...
 - EPHTN could definitely benefit from consistent, reliable, informative metadata
 - A good metadata entry tool will be key to ensuring consistency
 - The repository and its functionality must be identified prior to confirming the tool

Websites that were helpful

- Here's a list of tools:
<http://www.nbii.gov/datainfo/tools/index.html>
- Website to download Tkme:
<http://geology.usgs.gov/tools/metadata/>
- This site will find example of metadata:
<http://mercury.ornl.gov/nbii/>
- Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata:
<http://geology.usgs.gov/tools/metadata/standard/metadata.html>
- This is another way of presenting the FGDC Standard
http://www.nbii.gov/datainfo/metadata/standards/BRD_metadata/version2/metav-2.html
- A “quick guide” to metadata:
www.fgdc.gov/metadata/documents/MetadataQuickGuide.pdf

Proposed Next Steps for EPHT Metadata

OBJECTID	OBJECTID	StationID	StationName	StationType	StationLat	StationLon	StationElev	StationAlt
1	01000	Baker City Tenn 3165 0th Street Air Monitoring	44.78744	-117.84036	1047 meters			
2	01000	Concho Veneal RA 3 Box 529 C Air Monitoring	44.47444	-123.30333	79 meters			
3	01000	Covea - Spangor 15275 Spangor Ave Monitoring	45.26972	-122.50736	176 meters			
4	01000	Mulberry Vista Upper end of Cl Air Monitoring	45.28333	-121.78077	1547 meters			
5	01000	Band Co 3rd St Truck and Green Air Monitoring	44.88722	-121.33667	1188 meters			
6	01001	Band Plaza Near 82095 Douglas Air Monitoring	44.28242	-121.26299	917 meters			
7	01003	John Day Blvd 1116 800 Bridge Air Monitoring	44.41722	-119.84722	938 meters			
8	01005	Burns - Madson 287 E Madison Air Monitoring	43.63639	-119.05111	1208 meters			
9	01006	Medford - Dodge 4555 Dodge Rd Air Monitoring	42.58161	-122.456	414 meters			
10	01007	White City - Pie 761 Crater Lake Air Monitoring	42.43839	-122.65833	400 meters			
11	01008	Medford Met at 1440 Rossney Air Monitoring	42.24972	-122.09363	417 meters			
12	01009	Medford Baker 7175 Stage Lane Air Monitoring	42.22444	-122.7875	598 meters			
13	01011	Medford - Blough 10 N Central E Air Monitoring	42.28844	-122.81389	430 meters			
14	01012	Medford - Pogue 1822 N Rowena Air Monitoring	42.34987	-122.87663	450 meters			
15	01013	Medford - Wags 711 Watch St Air Monitoring	42.23222	-122.87972	417 meters			
16	01014	Country Drive - 9215 925 City Air Monitoring	42.44222	-123.33667	294 meters			
17	01018	Klamath Falls - 4958 Clinton St Air Monitoring	42.18889	-121.7226	1244 meters			
18	01019	Klamath Falls - 2220 Hope Ave Air Monitoring	42.20111	-121.28889	1244 meters			
19	01020	Lakewater - Carr Center Lamp Air Monitoring	42.18278	-120.81944	1448 meters			
20	01026	Big Lake viallet Big Lake Rd E Air Monitoring	44.38831	-121.88333	1432 meters			
21	01026	Corona Station 741 5th Street Air Monitoring	44.78611	-122.81639	250 meters			
22	01028	Holsey Water No Street side Air Monitoring	44.38	-123.18933	80 meters			
23	01029	Sweet Home DC 26th Ave Street Air Monitoring	44.43278	-122.74789	160 meters			
24	01030	Turner Cascade 1026 Mason Dr Air Monitoring	44.80972	-122.91361	192 meters			
25	01031	Salem - Lincoln 1864 Lincoln Air Monitoring	44.90278	-122.89366	66 meters			
26	01032	Portland HPTV - 212 NW Miller Air Monitoring	45.52222	-122.74833	303 meters			
27	01033	Portland HPTV - 212 NW Miller Air Monitoring	45.52222	-122.74833	440 meters			
28	01034	Portland HPTV - 212 NW Miller Air Monitoring	45.52222	-122.74833	556 meters			
29	01039	Portland - SE 11624 SE Lane Air Monitoring	45.48641	-122.62077	79 meters			
30	01040	Portland - Trans 1328 NW 20th Air Monitoring	45.54628	-122.70889	79 meters			
31	01041	Portland Poreo 510 SW 7th Air Monitoring	45.51967	-122.67333	13 meters			
32	01042	Portland East 0120 SE Denver Air Monitoring	45.50467	-122.67778	84 meters			
33	01043	Rockwood field 18796 Hwy 22 Air Monitoring	44.84184	-123.24967	60 meters			
34	01044	Grand Forks 14 9200 Grand Flw Air Monitoring	46.37389	-123.66566	121 meters			



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Abstract: OGC content source, sample and analysis air, water, soil, bioassay and cold water, and pollutant discharge.

Language: English

Supplemental Information: USF value of trust field

Comments: OGC content source, sample and analysis air, water, soil, bioassay and cold water, and pollutant discharge.

Table Test: The data and/or collection information for inspection, helps manage events involving air quality parameters and important air quality information. Laboratory and field sample results and technical assistance in the areas of environmental chemistry, biological assessments, air and water measurements, and/or methods, and quality assurance.

Table Data Set: Microsoft Windows 2000 Version 5.0 Build 21

Table Data Set: Microsoft Windows 2000 Version 5.0 Build 21

Table Test: An attribute provided as sample data entered at a constant value. This table sets specifically designed field patterns for use by a collector or processor when the spreadsheet (XLS) table is used as a sampling tool. Cells like a regular table and also variable collection information will give the field patterns. The table information is the actual value of the column as the table is used as a sampling tool. The table is used for the actual value of a constant, and is collected for OGC STP (Spatial Data Engine).



Next Steps



- Reconvene the Metadata Subgroup
- Create a manual describing FGDC elements
- Oversee the development of a metadata creation tool
- Develop a metadata 101 training
- Develop a process for improving the template, tool, and message

Reconvene the Metadata Subgroup

- We need you!



- Subgroup will need to work rapidly on some tasks.
- Address issues such as completeness and accuracy
- Will work closely with PMO and CWG

Create a Manual Describing EPHTN Elements

- Work with PMO to develop a more user-friendly manual. The manual should include:
 - Descriptions of EPHTN elements as they pertain to EPHT
 - Provides examples pertinent to EPHT of the types of information needed in an element
 - Gives examples of completed EPHTN standard metadata for data such as:
 - Cancer
 - Birth defects
 - Hospitalizations
 - Air pollution

Oversee the Development of a Metadata Creation Tool

- Metadata tool requirements document developed with grantee input in 2005.
 - Available at the EPHT workgroups website (<http://www.ephtn.org/>) in the SND document library for metadata.
- CDC will hire a contractor to create the tool
- Will need to outline a procedure to test and provide comments on functionality

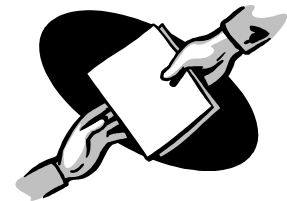


Develop a Metadata 101 Training

- Investigate other trainings available
 - For example: USGS has “Train-the-Metadata-Trainer” materials and courses available (<http://www.nbii.gov/datainfo/metadata/training/index.html>)
- Investigate coordinating with FGDC
- Determine type of training(s)
 - Self guided web-based or paper training?
- Determine who will lead development of training(s)
 - Metadata subgroup, CDC, contractor, other?

Develop a Process for Improving the Template, Tool, and Message

- PMO to improve communications and message development
- CWG to suggestion content/vocabulary requirements
 - E.G. questions on data quality
 - Possible standard terms/language
- Overall process to receive, review, and implement revisions to the template, tool, registry, and documents



Official Next Steps Will be Up to the Metadata Subgroup



Questions

Panel Discussion