CSISS and the DDI

The Power of Spatial Metadata.

Scott Crosier – UCSB-CSISS
SSHA Conf – Oct 24, 2002
CSISS: closing the gap
What is CSISS?

• The Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science
  – To integrate spatial concepts into the theories and practices of the social sciences by providing infrastructure to facilitate: (1) the integration of existing spatial knowledge, making it more explicit, and (2) the generation of new spatial knowledge and understanding.

  Workshops  Learning resources
  Best practices  Spatial analytic tools
  Specialist meetings  Search engines

www.csiss.org
CSSAST

the CSISS Social Science Archive Search Tool

• A place-based search tool to extract social science datasets from distributed archives.
  – Look for data based on a location
  – In prototype phase
  – Resolution of country
Results from the ICPSR Data Archive

1. **International Social Survey Program: Religion II, 1998**
   International Social Survey Program (ISSP). SUMMARY The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) is an ongoing program of crossnational collaboration. Formed in ...
   http://www.legsr.umich.edu:8080/ABSTRACTS/03065.xml Size: 6K

2. **Eurobarometer 43.1: International Trade and Radiation Protection, April-May 1995**
   This round of Eurobarometer surveys queried respondents on standard Eurobarometer measures such as public awareness of and attitudes toward the European Union (EU), ...
   http://www.legsr.umich.edu:8080/ABSTRACTS/00839.xml Size: 6K

3. **Eurobarometer 43.0 and 43.1: Drug Abuse and AIDS, March-May 1995**
   This round of Eurobarometer surveys merges the responses to identical questions concerning drug abuse and AIDS from two waves of Eurobarometer surveys. EUROBAROMETER ...
   http://www.legsr.umich.edu:8080/ABSTRACTS/06661.xml Size: 6K

4. **Eurobarometer 43.0: Cross-Border Purchases, Smoking Habits, and Cancer Risks, March-April 1995**
   This round of Eurobarometer surveys queried respondents on standard Eurobarometer measures such as public awareness of and attitudes toward the European Union (EU), ...
   http://www.legsr.umich.edu:8080/ABSTRACTS/06662.xml Size: 6K
Some of the problems

- Limited access to archives
  - Limited metadata
  - Limited access to datasets
- Minimal spatial elements
- No established vocabulary
  - Everyone describes things differently
Spatial elements

• Extent
  – What is the total area covered by the study?

• Resolution
  – What is the smallest thing that I can see?
We all define a location differently

- United States of America
- United States
- America
- USA
- US
- EEUU
Dear Waldo,

View of the Outer Banks of North Carolina from Apollo 9

This photograph was taken on March 19, 1969 at 10:00 a.m. EST, from an altitude of about 20 miles.

Posted at the old seafaring Village of Hatteras, I know this card, with its complete and accurate address will get to you.

A pinhole shows you where we are.

Yours Geographically,

[Signature]

Elizabeth City News Co., Elizabeth City, North Carolina

POST CARD

Professor Waldo Tebbler
34° 26′ 41″ N
119° 48′ 26″ W
Resolution

• Limited access to archives
  – Increasing awareness of data use
• Spatial descriptions
  – Spatial elements in the DDI
• No established vocabulary
  – Emphasis on the need to define source data
Thank you

ECOLOGY

CSISS AND THE DDI

Anthropology