GIS Trends in Libraries

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WAML
What We are going to Cover

- Introduction to GIS
- ARL GIS Literacy Project
- Skills and education of GIS librarians
- Reference Service and Hardware
- Outreach
- GIS and its Expanding Roles
GIS: Its Beginnings

- Usage began in the fields of landscape architecture, geography
- Introduction into libraries stem from a need to support research
ARL GIS Literacy Project

• Began in 1992- partnership between ARL and ESRI
  ▫ total of 101 libraries participated
• TIGER files inspired this project
• Had 5 goals: Yet 1 overarching goal
• Survey in 1999 showed ARL GIS Literacy Project's affects in libraries
• Last update came out in 2005
GIS Librarians Skills

• Traditional skills
  ▫ Identify, Collect, Organize, Preserve and Make Available

• Communication and Computer Skills
  ▫ Communicate effectively with IT
  ▫ Have some aptitude with programming

• GIS Skills
  ▫ Understand GIS software (GIS theory, GIS databases, and GIS applications)
  ▫ Know metadata standards

• Other Useful Skills
  ▫ Project Management
  ▫ Able to do interdisciplinary work
GIS in LIS

- 2004 by Martindale survey of ALA accredited programs showed
  - 77% responded: 53% did not offer classes in GIS
  - New students not encouraged to take GIS
- Weimer 's 2006 article
  - Showed how map librarianship and now GIS librarianship are missing from LIS programs
- Only one ALA accredited program offer a dual degree in Geography and LIS
- Thus students coming out of LIS schools often lack the GIS experience they need
Reference Services

• Highly individualized to the organization
  ▫ Znamirowski (2003)
• Tiered service levels
  ▫ Abbott and Argentati (1995) discuss three service levels
  ▫ Yu (1998) has four service levels
  ▫ Beard (2003) five non-sequential service levels
Reference Services continued...

- Centralized vs. Decentralized

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3
Hardware Service Levels

- Generally mirror Reference service levels
  - Tiered
    - Boissé and Larsgaard (1995) suggest three levels of hardware
Outreach

- Important to success of services
- Types
  - **Targeted**
    - Sweetkind-Singer and Williams (2001)
  - **Indirect**
    - Dodsworth (2010)
GIS Outside the Map Library and Government Documents Area

- 2000 Norris discusses GIS in Business
- 2005 ARL GIS Literacy update showed high areas of use
  - Geography, Architecture, Geology, Health Sciences, Sociology, and Business
- 2006 Weimer discussed other fields for GIS
  - Civil Engineering, Life Sciences, including those mentioned above
Wrap Up

- GIS is still expanding
- No GIS librarian specialization exists in LIS schools
- Successful services require knowledge of your community
Questions & Contact Information

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