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Submitted on: 07/12/2003
Principal Investigator: Onsrud, Harlan J.
Award ID: 9506485
Organization: University of Maine

Project Participants

Senior Personnel
Name: Onsrud, Harlan
Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes
Contribution to Project: PhD adviser for the research and dissertation

Post-doc

Graduate Student
Name: Lopez, Xavier
Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes
Contribution to Project:

Undergraduate Student

Technician, Programmer

Other Participant

Research Experience for Undergraduates

Organizational Partners

Other Collaborators or Contacts

Activities and Findings

Research and Education Activities:
The investigation examined how government information policies affect the transfer of spatial datasets to the scientific community and commercial information industry. National mapping agencies in Canada, France, Great Britain and United States were selected as the units for a comparative analysis. The study combined two formal research methods -- questionnaire survey and case study techniques. The research questions explored the impact of national policy priorities, intellectual property rights, and pricing practices on the acquisition and commercialization of spatial data.

Findings:
Three principle findings are as follows: 1) According to respondents,
nationally mandated policies are the primary determinant driving the cost-recovery practices being undertaken by those mapping agencies following such policies; 2) Responses indicated that academic end users and commercial intermediary users in Canada, France, and the UK face significant impediments in accessing mapping agency spatial data. For the commercial sector, the ability to commercialize spatial is perceived by potential users as impeded as well. In contrast, at the US Federal level, pricing, copyright and licensing were not identified by respondents as significant impediments; and 3) The study strongly evidenced that the imposition of intellectual property rights by government on public information was a key variable in determining access to and commercialization of national mapping agency datasets.

Training and Development:
The work resulted in the formal training of a PhD student in comparative research methodologies who went on to a ChancellorÆs Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley prior to entering a research position in industry.

Outreach Activities:
Outreach to the public was through primarily the publication of two books.

**Journal Publications**


**Books or Other One-time Publications**


Bibliography: Norwood, NJ: Ablex


Bibliography: University of Maine

Hernon, Peter and Xavier R.

Editor(s): McClure, Charles, Peter Hernon, and Harold Relyea

Collection: Federal Information Policies in the 1990’s: Conflicts and Issues

Bibliography: Norwood, NJ: Ablex, 233-257
Contributions within Discipline:
In addition to the refereed literature, methods and findings were communicated to the discipline through numerous conference presentations.

Contributions to Other Disciplines:
While the study focused on spatial data, the findings are relevant concerning access to scientific and technical data held by the government generally. Thus the study suggests areas of inquiry relative to experiences in additional scientific and technical data domains.

Contributions to Human Resource Development:
The work resulted in the formal training of a PhD student in research methodologies.

Contributions to Resources for Research and Education:
No substantial contributions to physical infrastructure developments or pedagogy.

Contributions Beyond Science and Engineering:
The work provides insights of benefit not only for the scientific and technical communities but also for the commercial marketplace.

Categories for which nothing is reported:
Organizational Partners
Any Web/Internet Site
Any Product