

Evaluating Geospatial Information

Activity 2: Examining the Metadata

Learning objective: Review available metadata to evaluate a geospatial dataset for authority, quality, and fitness for use

For this activity, use the metadata you located for one of these data sets:

- [Existing Land Use: Dublin, Ohio](#)
- [Functional Class Roads - Existing](#)

If you are unable to find the answer by examining the metadata, please explain that in your response.

1. What individual, agency, or organization created the data? Would you consider this to be an authoritative source? Why or why not?
2. In what format(s) is the data available? Ex: vector/raster; shapefile; file geodatabase; web service(s).
3. What is the resolution/scale of the data?

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4. What is the spatial reference or coordinate system used? What does it mean if it doesn't say?
5. What is the geographic extent of the data? What time period is covered by the data?
6. How was the data created? What does it mean if it doesn't say?
7. What attributes are included in the dataset? Is information about the attribute units/codes available?
8. Was all of the information you needed to answer these questions available in the metadata? If not, what other questions would you want answered before deciding to use (or not use) these data?
9. In addition to the questions above, what other factors might you consider when assessing the quality of this dataset?
10. In addition to the questions above, what other factors might you consider when assessing this dataset's fitness for use for a given application?