Informal geospatial data-sharing and GRADE has 5 central pillars of work:

- Lack of willingness to share
- Locating data
- Mechanisms for sharing and accessing data

Geospatial Repository for Academic Deposit and Extraction (GRADE) is investigating the technical and cultural issues around the reuse of geospatial data within UK academia.

GRADE has 5 central pillars of work:

- The aim of GRADE is to lay the foundations for a sustainable infrastructure (both cultural and technical) that underwrites the communities’ substantial and ongoing investment in the utilisation of geospatial resources within the learning, teaching and research environments of UK academia.

The legal difficulty now is to assess what an insubstantial part of the contents of a database means. The database right is to prohibit the extraction and re-use of a substantial part of the contents of the database. However a lawful user (someone who has the right to use a substantial part of the contents) may extract and re-use an insubstantial part for any purposes whatsoever – any contractual restriction is void.

Thus a lawful user could extract, re-use, including share, use for research, further distribute an insubstantial part of the contents of a database without consent from the maker.

A user-based star rating system (like on Amazon) will be a coping a repository make its assets interoperability GAINING ACCESS TO GEOSPATIAL RESEARCH DATA

- Easy download
- Reuse/time-cost savings
- Data formats/Accessibility
- Search existing datasets

The £4 million programme consists of 25 projects, five of which (including GRADE) are considered ‘data repositories’.

GRADE is explicitly addressing a number of JISC Digital Repository Programme priority issues via:

- Estimating the size of UK HEI data repositories
- Investigating the role of institutional repositories versus media-centric repositories
- Review of strengths weaknesses of institutional v media-centric repository
- User Survey to determine the requirements of a geospatial repository
- Survey of informal geospatial-data-sharing and ‘informal demonstrator’
- Proposal for a data sharing framework for UK Academia
- Conclusions

There are 4 search methods (search on title, data and depositor, and browse the entire collection alphabetically).

These are being extended to include a map-based search interface for location searches, and ‘institution’ searches. Once a dataset of interest has been found it is downloadable straight to desktop GIS (in zipped file format), a plug-in ‘data preview tool’ (under development) will also help to judge dataset fit-for-purpose before download.

Although the existing metadata schema is Dublin Core extendable, it is not being used in the UK. Although the maximum compressed file size fits all?

For the purposes of the repository demonstrator, the total maximum uncompressed (or unzipped) size of the files comprising submitted datasets is restricted to 1GB. Submission of datasets is also restricted to those which have coverage of the UK, and specific geospatial file types. Although the existing metadata schema is Dublin Core extendable, it is not being used in the UK. Although the maximum compressed file size fits all?

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The main thrust of legal entanglement and work is in database rights and geospatial data.

A geospatial database is a collection of independent works, data, or other material arranged in a systematic way accessible by electronic or other means and this (contrary to views that copyright is the relevant right) in the UK is protected by the database directive (within Europe).

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