

Data Services Web Sites: New Ideas, Best Practices, Lessons Learned

ACCOLEDS Training, December 1, 2010

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Data Services Websites

- According to a 2009 OCLC report, datasets are beginning to be made available online for “collecting,” but libraries still need to learn how to support discovery.¹
- "It is important to establish a Web presence ... one way to accomplish this is through the creation of a separate category of data resources and by posting research guides . . . and serve as a reminder to refer in-depth questions to the data librarian." ²

ACCOLEDS Members

- There are 26 DLI members in Western Canada
- ACCOLEDS members fall into 3 broad categories based on FTE students:
 - Large = 15,000+ (7)
 - Medium = 6,000-15,000 (12)
 - Small = under 6,000 (7)
- Most large & medium sized institutions have graduate programs

Our Approach Was To:

- Visit each Library's website to locate Data Services
- Use an upper-level undergraduate student perspective
- Be descriptive not prescriptive
- Look for commonalities, differences, interesting features and overall usability

General Observations

- Only 60 % of ACCOLEDS libraries have a web 'presence': a portal, subject guide, or other website focused on Data Services.
- Approx. 25% have separate GIS and Data webpages
- LibGuides are used in several libraries
- Very few libraries utilized RSS feeds and/or blogs

Collections

- Greater proportion of prairie libraries have access to other Data/GIS collections beyond DLI (e.g., DMTI, ICPSR)
- Datasets are not listed in most libraries' online catalogues
- CD-ROM products were not mentioned on most websites

Tools

- Most Data websites include links to at least one web-accessible search & retrieval tool
- There's a wide range of tools used including:
 - Equinox
 - UT/DLS (CHASS)
 - NESSTAR
 - Abacus
 - LANDRU
- More prairie libraries had links for downloading software (e.g. Beyond 20/20)

License Terms

- Very few websites mention DLI license terms
- License terms on authentication screens were sometimes only generic though we suspect that more specific terms were hidden behind a firewall
- Some libraries also required users to explicitly accept the DLI license terms
- Very few libraries seem to use paper forms

Help

- Almost all websites identify the Data librarian
- Less than half of websites had links to help/training materials

Putting Ideas Into Action


- The University of Lethbridge Data Services website has been extensively revised in order to:
 - Improve usability
 - Incorporate general “best practices” for library websites
 - Encourage interaction with users

Concepts/Approaches Used To Improve Website Usability


- Transform from a Mediated Service to Self-Serve
- Utilize “discovery” systems currently in use
- Integrate the discovery of datasets with other types of resources
- Highlight LOCAL datasets – i.e., City of Lethbridge datasets
- Build a “Community of Practice” related to each type of Data
- Facilitate use by non-practitioners through the building of FAQ's & HELP tools based on community requests/contributions

Current Website


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Data & GIS Services

NOTE: Most of the Data & GIS products listed here are under licensing agreements and are RESTRICTED to University of Lethbridge students, faculty and staff for academic research and teaching purposes only. If you are unable to obtain a file using the products listed below, please send your request to: data.library@uleth.ca

Data [\[More\]](#)

- [Statistics Canada's DLI \(Data Liberation Initiative\) *More*](#)
 - [Equinox data delivery system](#)
 - [LANDRU \(Local Access to Networked Data Retrieval Utility\)](#)
 - [UT/DLS: Microdata Analysis and Subsetting \(SDA\)](#)
- [ICPSR \(Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research\) *More*](#) [\[New Search Interface Sept/09\]](#)
 - [ICPSR Summer Program](#) in Quantitative Methods of Social Research
- [China Data Online](#)

GIS [\[More\]](#)

- [GeoConnections Discovery Portal](#)
 - [GeoBase](#) (Unrestricted geospatial data including: geopolitical boundaries, digital elevation data (DEM), geodetic network, geographical names, land cover, national hydro network, national road network, satellite imagery)
- [Natural Resources Canada:](#)
 - [GeoGratis](#) (Unrestricted geospatial data including geopolitical, thematic and topographic maps/charts as well as airborne and satellite imagery)
 - [The Atlas of Canada](#)
 - [Topo 101 - The Basics](#)
 - [Topographic Map Search](#)
 - [National Air Photo Library](#) (See also the links under the "Aerial Photography" section on the [GeoConnections Discovery Portal](#))
- [DMTI Academic Consortium *\[More\]*](#) (Mediated access - please send file requests to data.library@uleth.ca)
- Alberta geospatial data from [AltaLis](#) acquired by the [GEODE](#) consortium (Mediated access - please send file requests to data.library@uleth.ca)


[DMTI Permission Form](#)

[Permission to Access Data Files Form](#)


Maintained by [Maxine Tedesco](#)
Content Revised: February 26, 2010

New Website

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Geospatial (GIS) and Numeric Data

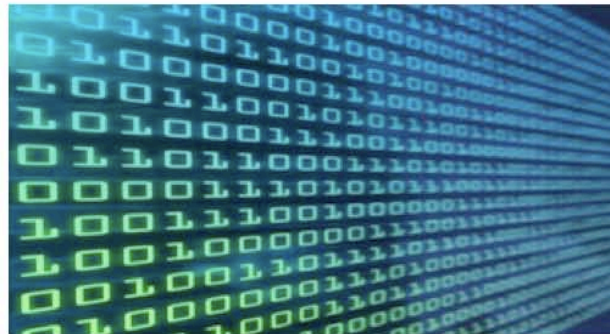
What kind of data do you need?

Geospatial (GIS) Data



[ACCESS DATA](#)

Numeric Data



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Subject Contact

Location:
Phone: (403)
Email: @uleth.ca

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Access to Geospatial Data Webpage



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Subject Contact

Maxine Tedesco

Location: L1152

Phone: (403)329-2273

Email: data.library@uleth.ca

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Geospatial (GIS) Data

Search

Search the U of L Library Geospatial (GIS) Data Collection:

All Terms

boundaries

Search

Browse Other Geospatial Data Collections

- [GeoConnections Discovery Portal](#)
- [GeoBase](#)
- [GeoGratis](#)
- [The Atlas of Canada](#)
- [National Air Photo Library On-Line](#) (See also the links under the "Aerial Photography" section on the GeoConnections Discovery Portal)

Resources

- U of L Collection's Related Websites
 - [ArcCanada](#)
 - [City of Lethbridge Interactive WebMAP](#)
 - [DMTI Academic Consortium \[More\]](#)
 - [GEODE Consortium \(AltaLis\)](#)
- Geospatial Data by Geography
 - [Provinces & Territories](#)
 - [Canada](#)
 - [USA](#)
 - [World](#)
- Help
 - [Air Photos 101 - Principles of Aerial Photography](#)
 - [ArcGIS Desktop Tutorials](#)
 - [ESRI Virtual Campus Courses](#) | [\[How to Register for Free Courses\]](#)
 - [GIS Glossaries](#)
 - [How to Unzip a File](#)
 - [Topographic Map Search](#)

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University of Lethbridge Library Geospatial (GIS) Data Collection



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results 1-1 of 1 item(s)

page 1 of 1 : (<< 1 >>) :: [previous](#) : [next](#)

[select all](#) : [clear all](#) : [add to favorites](#)


Image:	▲ Title:	Subjects:	Description:
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. 	City of Lethbridge Boundary	Boundaries--Alberta--Lethbridge; Geospatial data--Alberta--Lethbridge	Boundary files for the City of Lethbridge.

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Geospatial (GIS) Data Collection



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City of Lethbridge Boundary

[Access this item.](#)

Title	City of Lethbridge Boundary
Type	Dataset
Method of Access	Web
Date	2010/07/15
Formats	Shapefile
Data Creator	City of Lethbridge
Publisher	City of Lethbridge
Description	Boundary files for the City of Lethbridge .
Copyright Owner	City of Lethbridge
Permission Required to Use?	None
Acknowledgement Required to Use?	Citation
Who Can Use Data?	University of Lethbridge FACULTY/STAFF/STUDENTS
Subjects	Boundaries--Alberta--Lethbridge ; Geospatial data--Alberta--Lethbridge
Geography Covered	Lethbridge
Contact	mailto:data.library@uleth.ca

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Metadata

Authorization Screen

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Data-GIS Verification

Username * (e.g., john.doe--not your email address)

Password *

I am a/an: *

Conditions of Use Agreement * I am a faculty member, staff member, or student at the University of Lethbridge and agree to the following terms of use:

- These data products are provided for the exclusive purposes of teaching, academic research and publishing, and/or planning of educational services within the University of Lethbridge.
- I am prohibited from using these data products in the pursuit of any commercial or income-generating venture either privately, or under the auspices of the University of Lethbridge.
- The distribution of any data obtained under this agreement through sale, donation, transfer or exchange is strictly prohibited.

☐ I agree to the Conditions of Use Agreement

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File Manager

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File

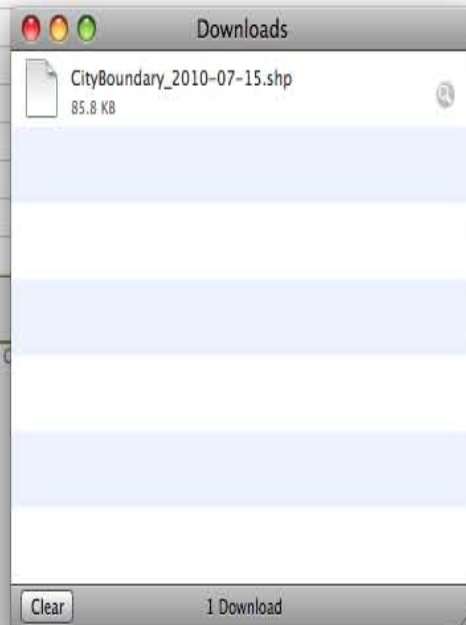
Size

Type

AllFiles-Boundary-Lethbridge.zip	68851	File
CityBoundary_2010-07-15.dbf	179	File
CityBoundary_2010-07-15.prj	415	File
CityBoundary_2010-07-15.sbn	132	File
CityBoundary_2010-07-15.sbx	116	File
CityBoundary_2010-07-15.shp	87852	File
CityBoundary_2010-07-15.shp.xml	10342	File
CityBoundary_2010-07-15.shx	108	File

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Links

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[Institutional Repository](#)

About Digitization

The University of Lethbridge Library digitization program is funded by the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library (LHCADL). Materials selected for digitization are of particular relevance to Southern Alberta and Southern Albertans. [\[More...\]](#)



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Search all digitized collections:

All Terms

Search

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Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Lethbridge Research Centre Archival Photos - The photo archive collection, maintained by the Canadian Agriculture Library, is a sample of a collection that consists of over 1200 photos and negatives.

Canadian Gaming News

Canadian Gaming News - This collection contains digitized versions of all issues of the Canadian Gaming News from 1994-2007.



University of Lethbridge Library Geospatial (GIS) Data Collection - This collection contains spatial datasets for use with GIS and CAD software. Datasets related to Lethbridge and the surrounding area are the focus of the collection but other regional, provincial and national datasets are also available.

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About the Collection

This collection contains spatial datasets for use with GIS and CAD software. Datasets related to Lethbridge and the surrounding area are the focus of the collection but other regional, provincial and national datasets are also available. [\[More...\]](#)



University of Lethbridge Library Geospatial (GIS) Data Collection

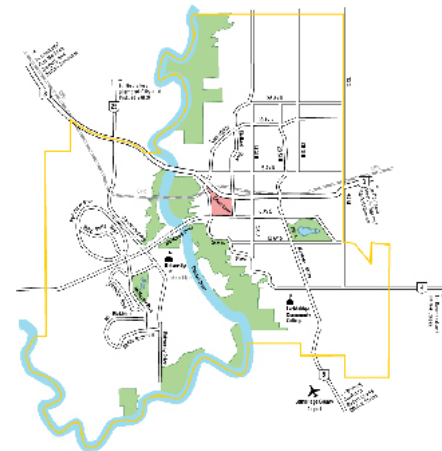
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Gallery



Map of the City of Lethbridge

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What next?

- Would it be worthwhile to collect some basic info on each data service and post on the ACCOLEDS website?
- Is there interest in collaborating to create website templates, help guides or online tutorials which could be shared and customized?

Notes

- 1. Palmer, Carole L., Lauren C. Teffeau, and Carrie M. Pirmann. *Scholarly Information Practices in the Online Environment: Themes from the Literature and Implications for Library Service Development*. Dublin, OH: OCLC Research, 2009.
www.oclc.org/programs/publications/reports/2009-02.pdf (accessed November 21, 2010).
- 2. Mooney, Hailey, and Breezy Silver. "Spread the News: Promoting Data Services." *College & Research Libraries News* 71, no.9 (October 2010): 480-483. <http://crln.acrl.org/content/71/9/480.full.pdf+html> (accessed November 21, 2010).