

Cugir : Collection Policy - Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository (CUGIR)

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General Collection Principles

The Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository (CUGIR) is an active online data and metadata repository and a participating node in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. CUGIR provides free access to geospatial data and metadata for New York State, with special emphasis on natural features related to agriculture, ecology, natural resources and human environment interactions.

Data Providers

Most CUGIR data (with the exception of data from the US Census Bureau and the National Atlas) are collected through direct relationships with individual and institutional data providers. Some data in CUGIR are available for direct download from the CUGIR website; other data are listed in CUGIR, but users are directed to the provider's web site to download data. While CUGIR is dedicated to providing access to accurate and useable data, data providers are ultimately responsible for the quality of individual data sets.

Metadata

In the case of data in CUGIR, data and metadata files are collected, distributed and archived at Mann Library. For purposes of use and resource discovery, all files collected for CUGIR should include associated metadata. One metadata record per data file is the preferred arrangement.

All data files are cataloged according to FGDC standards (CSDGM - The Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata). Every effort is made to ensure that all data are accompanied by FGDC compliant metadata. In some cases, the CUGIR working group (or the metadata librarian) will make arrangements to assist data providers with the creation of FGDC compliant metadata. In the case of data listed in CUGIR but available from the provider's web site, FGDC metadata are still required for inclusion in the CUGIR catalog.

Data

For inclusion in CUGIR, data must fall within a defined subject and scope and meet specified standards of content and format set by the CUGIR Working Group. Each file is evaluated according to its content, usability, value, and utility within the wider collection. Data not selected for CUGIR may be selected for the Mann Library general collection.

Whenever possible, individual data files (map layers) will be made available separately so that users can download only those files that interest them. Likewise, data files will be provided for the smallest possible geographic units. Very large files may be divided into segments so that users can download data for smaller geographic areas.

Data files that are frequently updated and succeeded by newer versions will be archived. No "old" versions of these files will be made publicly available without permission from the original data provider (with the exception of the Census data).

In the case of data available for download from the data provider, but falling within the scope of the CUGIR collection, metadata may be considered for inclusion in CUGIR, with users directed to the data provider's website to download data.

Special Note regarding US Census Data: The US Census bureau releases frequent updates to its TIGER/LINE files. Beginning in 2006, CUGIR only collects and posts boundary files from the decennial census, with selected demographic data from the census short-form (SF 1). Data users who need the most current TIGER/LINE files are encouraged to obtain data directly from the Census Bureau website.

Subject Definition and Scope

Data collected for CUGIR represents a wide range of ecological and environmental characteristics for New

York State.

CUGIR collects data in the following areas:

- Positional data (streets, political and place boundaries, major physical features and structures)
- Landforms and topography
- Soil types and characteristics
- Hydrography
- Agricultural activities (crops and livestock)
- Natural-resource management activities (forestry, fisheries, etc.)
- Wildlife data (distribution, characteristics, migration, etc.)
- Environmental hazards (hazardous waste sites, etc.)
- Other environmental characteristics (land use, climate, etc.)
- Geographical Scope
- New York State data
- New York County data
- Data for adjacent areas with significant impact on New York State

File Formats and Types

File formats will be chosen to facilitate sharing of data and should (in most cases) accommodate users who do not have access to proprietary software or those who do not have access to the latest versions of proprietary and non-proprietary software. In most cases, data provided by our collaborating agencies will be made accessible in the format in which they were provided.

CUGIR makes data available in a variety of formats, including (but not necessarily limited to):

- ArcInfo export
- Shapefile
- GeoTIFF image
- ASCII DEM
- Computer-Aided Design
- Database File
- Portable Document Format
- ArcInfo Grid

Other Related Collections

- [Olin Library Map & Geospatial Information Collection](#)
- [New York State GIS Clearinghouse](#)