# PASDA

**Wednesday, March 12, 2003**

## Agenda - PASDA -12 March 2003

### 3/12/03

**10:00 AM**     **Background and Outline of the Day**

Maurie Kelly

**10:15 AM**     **Sign In (Topic Commenter)**

Please sign in on your "sheet" with your office name, address, phone and email.

**10:30 AM**     **Website Usability, Navigation, Organization (Topic Commenter)**

Please comment.

**10:55 AM**     **Rank Characteristics (Survey)**

Please rank order the following list.

**11:00 AM**     **Data - Accessibility, Core Data, Other Data, Other Sources of Data (Topic Commenter)**

Please comment.

**11:55 AM**     **Rank Data Issues (Survey)**

Please rank order the list.

**12:00 PM**     **Lunch**

In the Gardens Restaurant

**12:45 PM**     **Applications, Data Wizards, Geoservices, Web Services (Topic Commenter)**

Please comment.

**1:30 PM**     **Services, User Assistance, Outreach, Education, Metadata (Topic Commenter)**

Please comment.

**2:15 PM**     **Adjourn Meeting**

Thanks for participating today.

# Sign In (Topic Commenter)

## Participant Instructions

Please sign in on your "sheet" with your office name, address, phone and email.

## 1. Tina Enderlein

GIS Officer

Penn State

tme10@psu.edu

N-263 Burrowes Building

814-865-0586

## 2. Brady Stroh

Penn State Harrisburg

bms16@psu.edu

Center for GIS and Survey Research

Institute of State and Regional Affairs

Penn State Harrisburg - Church Hall

777 West Harrisburg Pike

MIddletown, PA  17057

Phone: 717-948-6428

Fax: 717-948-6306

bms16@psu.edu

## 3. Gary Byron

PA Department of Environmental Protection

gbyron@state.pa.us

Watershed Manager

DEP-Williamsport

570-321-6532

## 4. Jay Parrish

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

jayparrish@state.pa.us

717 702 2053

3240 schoolhouse rd

middletown pa 17057

## 5. Damon Anderson

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

damonander@state.pa.us

400 Market Street

RCSOB 9th Floor

Harrisburg, PA  17105-8777

## 6. Kathryn Ross

Allegheny County

KRoss@county.allegheny.pa.us

412 3505126

621 County Office Building

Forbes Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

## 7. Ed White

USDA-NRCS, State Soil Scientist

(717)237-2207

ed.white@pa.usda.gov

One Credit Union Place, Suite 340

Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

## 8. Kenneth Juengling

Geospatial Training and Consulting, Inc.

717-397-1961

kjuengling@gtcgis.com

399 S. President Ave.

Lancaster, PA  17603

## 9. James L. Querry, Jr.

GIS Director, City Of Philadelphia, Mayor's Office of Information Services

215-686-8243

james.querry@phila.gov

## 10. Ed Burke

PA Emergency Management Agency

eburke@state.pa.us

717 651-7062

## 11. Nancy Richwine

PA Department of Agriculture

nrichwine@state.pa.us

2301 N Cameron St

Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

717-772-5223

FAX 717-705-6518

## 12. Bob Kratzer

Juniata County

bobkz@pa.net

Juniata Sewage Committee

RR# 3 Box 1552

Mifflintown, Pa. 17059

(717) 436-9092

jsc@nmax.net

## 13. Tim Craul

NRCS

craul@psu.edu

116 ASI Building

University Park, PA      16802

(814) 865-2306

## 14. Matt Hoff

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

412 288 2771

MHoff@paconserve.org

Matt Hoff

Natural Resource/GIS Specialist

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

209 4th Ave

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

mhoff@paconserve.org


## 15. Ron Hermany

PA Department of Environmental Protection

rhermany@state.pa.us

Rachel Carson State Office Bldg

400 Market St

Harrisburg,PA 17105

717-772-1668

## 16. Phil Combs

PA Office of Information Technology

717-705-6951

pcoombs@state.pa.us

Phillip Coombs

Pennsylvania Office of Administrtion

310 Finance Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120

## 17. Scott Stitzer

DEP - Northcentral Regional Office

208 W. Third Street, Suite 101

Williamsport, PA 17701

570-327-3698

sstitzer@state.pa.us

## 18. Sharon Steinbacher

Department of Environmental Protection

208 W Third St

Williamsport, PA  17702

570-327-3423

ssteinbach@state.pa.us

## 19. Bruce Stauffer

Advanced Technology Solutions, Inc.

1525 Oregon Commons, Suite 202

Lancaster, PA 17601

phone: 717-399-7007

fax: 717-399-7015

email: bstauffer@atsincorp.com

## 20. James Spayd

Wildlife & Fisheries Science

115 land and water bld

jfs126@psu.edu

## 21. Mary Pat Evans

Teacher, Chair K-12 GIS Alliance

Susquehanna Twp.School District

Londonderry School

Harrisburg, PA

717-540-0543

717-657-5117

mpevans@paonline.com

mevans@hannasd.org

# Website Usability, Navigation, Organization (Topic Commenter)

## Participant Instructions

Please comment.

## 1. Is the PASDA website easy to navigate (are the categories - Access Data, Explore PA, Education & Outreach, etc. easy to understand)?

Yes. Works for me.

Yes, The layout and ease of navigation is fine for me. I know were the things are that I want and how to get them quickly.

Yes, keyword searches seem to be the best method for data access

For me they are easy to understand and navigate. I've been using PASDA for so long, and have become so familiar with it that I'm not sure how new or occasional users view it.

Yes, I have not looked at many of the categories before today, wasn't aware of many of the features.

yes, maybe each category should have a drop down menu w/ what it contains

Yes. The categories are very easy to understand.

The Access Data navigation could be improved. It could be broken into three search strategies: Serach by keywords, search by category, or search by map location. As it now stands, there is to much text with to read. User should go straight into one of the available search methods.

Yes, this site is easy to navigate. Categories make sense; when categories are opened the immediate information is at the top - good.

yes, easy to navigate. It would be interesting to get the answer to this question from a user from a community-based environmental group or a municipality.

yes, it is easy to navigate, but sometimes certain data sets are harder to locate.

I usually have a need for a certain data set and am able to find it ok.

Yes it can get around as I need to.

Yes. There is a wealth of information and it is easy to view. I have been able to find the data I was searching for.

Yes, but if would help to have some kind of explanation of what each category contains (pop up info., etc.)

Yes, I haven't played with the site before today. It looks uncluttered and functional. The maps dislayed quickly (good resolution vs. file size choices) and you explained what file formats are used.

Does the site meet Bobbi and 508 ADA web site standards?

Yes, the site is simple to navigate for new users. Categories are broken down into logical areas of interest.

Navigation is user friendly.

the more I visit pasda the more I become familiar with navigating and finding datasets

I stopped using PASDA because it was to difficult to find data on it . After todays opening presentation I will go back to PASDA to see if the site is easier to navigate. A list server of new things happening at PASDA would help to keeping people informed of the changes at PASDA.

## 2. Are data search and access points easy to find?

I can find anything I am looking for.

Yes they are for me. Again, because I've used the system for so long, it's pretty easy.

So far so good. Although, casual browsers unfamiliar to GIS and layers me be frustrated and just want to look at the pretty maps.

Yes, except searches often return too many items

yes, being able to build your own query is a very useful tool and a great time saver

yes.

Yes, the seach by keyword is helpful and the way things are categorized us "user friendly"

Yes, the interface is quite helpful

Yes.

Yes,  the site has a logical flow and look.

Yes, I haven't had any problems with the data search and access points.

for me it is easy, I hired a technician and a non-frequent user like my technician, it was a little more rocky the first few visits. She performed a county search and so many data sets came up it was difficult to find the one she needed.

Yes.  Data searches and access are logically organized.

Keyword search is always an important feature of any site, and works well.

I'd like a way to narrow my search as I sometimes get frustrated when my search returns a huge list. It's too daunting and hard to wade through.

In the past it has not been.

## 3. If not, do you have any suggestions for making it more user friendly?

Pretty user friendly now.  More user friendly would be simplistic.

If you make it more friendlier, it will become too simplistic for the serious users. Slow them down. Alternate pathways for level of expertise might be nice.

Possibly some more "context sensitive" helps.  For instance, under "Access Data", an icon next to the hyperlink selections that would explain the function/feature.  Under "Access Data", say, the selection "Standard Data" could have an accompanying icon to get a description.

Seems like in the seach I am not specific enough so too many hits returned.

Avoid using underline to focus on new paragraphs or catagories. Can be confused with hyperlinks

N\A

Have someone else do my work for me!

I feel that it is user friendly, currently.  The only thing that I would consider adding (unless it is already there and I have not come across it yet) would be a "live" map interface of data layer extents that could be searched by geographic extent.  For example:  Geospatial Data Index Interface that users could bring up a map of the Commonwealth, drag a rectangle (or irregular polygon) and have the results come back with everthing currently on-line and available categorized.

Possibly having an explanation of terms such as "Quadrangle" available.  An example would be hovering the cursor over any term and right-click to get a quick explanation in a pop-up.

It would make it better if there was more informaiton and help for each category (showing what each category includes and how to access the data)

Possibly add an area to type a county of quad name for download rather than going to the State map to make a selection.

Too many returns sometimes, and long waits.  Maybe subcatorgies.

waits are often too long

the wesite is very user friendly right now. the more you vist it the easier it gets.

Some of the keyword searches I have used have returned data sets that are not seeming to be relevant to the area of interest.  Perhaps, it is necessary to create more complex keyword searches, or perhaps the metadata is incorrect for some data sets?

## 4. Should there be additional search capabilities?

I see no need at this time.

No

In order to expand PASDA'S user base, search capabilities may need to be further simplified

Perhaps allow the user to interact with a map and click a custom spatial search box and return all data sets that intersect the search box in spatial extent (after all, this is GIS)

Of course, some spatial selections would be nice.  User capabilities for drawing a polygon or circle, specifying a point and radius, etc., would really help users doing site location or corridor studies.

If you create a logon profile you may not need additional search capabilities.

No, not at this time

spatial accuracy or date of creation would be nice

i feel the search capabilites are pretty good right now

You may want to raise this question with  your user community.  There may be datasets that would need to be combined to create what the customer is searching for.

Allowing too many searches and opening up too much data can bog the site down and create bandwidth problems, especially with big jpg and picture files.

As already mentioned - the "geographic extent" search capability (rectangle, circle, user defined, line, point)

search by data format e.g. e.00

there seems to be a few ways to search the datasets and sometime I'm not sure of the most efficient search method

Can't think of any at this time.  Would probably clutter the site if you add too many options.

by geographic extent-interactively-this would eb ideal

Yes, I have problems many times with the search function.  Many times it doesn't come up with any data. I would help if I didn't have to be so specific when I do a search, and it would also help if there were links to other sites for data or information if the data isn't on the PASDA site.

no, I currently do not use all of the different  search components and have no trouble finding the data I need.

## 5. Would you like the ability to create your own "PASDA" environment on the web site?

not really. I'd rather it were the samer so no matter who I help with something we see the same thing

Yes, I'd like the data organized similar to our program structures at DEP.  ie: Water, Air Mining, etc.

No.  PEMA is a universal user.

yes, this would be a time saver.

Not necessary.

Yes, with DEP's many areas of responsibility, this capability would certainly be an advantage for us.

For the intense user they can just bookmark that page if they just need to go there. Let the user show some initiative and do something for themselves instead of letting someone else do the work.

This would not be important to me.

Yes this would help others to receive collected data.

This would be OK but I am not sure how much use it would get.

I don't know yet.  I am new to this.  It seems like a good idea if the servers don't get swamped with specialized traffic.

It might be a good idea to allow the user to create a custom subscriber profile that records most frequently used data sets, key words of interest, geographic area of interest.  When new data sets are added that relate to the user's profile, they could be automatically notified that PASDA  has added new data that may be of interest to the user.  Also, the user could invoke the profile to automate searches when they connect to PASDA.  In other words,  implement a "My PASDA" concept.

Yes, this would be a nice feature to have the site remeber the user "profile" and recreate that environment for search capabilities, etc.  This would make life easier when users check back for updates to previously accessed data layers.

Another way to do this could be in a thematic fashion, ie, the environment and  group information relating to the environment, (urban, wildlife, etc.)

not so important to me

Yes.  For frequent users this would be a great idea to make their use of the site more user friendly.

Maybe not.  Seems the danger for a site like PASDA is that users will get too used to the 'shortcut' and not take the time explore other areas of the site, particularly after there are changes, enhancements, etc.

There are probably items specific to your use that could be made more easily accessible without always searching, etc...with your own environment.

Yes, I think it would really help if I could customize the site to meeti my needs.

## 6. Is fast, easy access to data the most important component of the website?  Would logins, advertising / publicizing, or attribution statements be an impediment to access?

Fast easy access is very important

a logion would be terrible

attribution statements are essential and is not at odds with fast easy access. A simple logo of the data provider would do.

Logins should be used for security.  Possible to track back to questionable users.

Yes, making data easy to find and understandable is very important.

I think having a login would not help.

Advertising does not hurt as long at the ad's do not try to collect and data from my computer

Logon may be a benefit if the logon creates a stored profile.  In this manner I might gain a faster/easier access to the data I normally am interested in. I would also like to see new data that I am specifically interest in highlighted.  emails to alert to new datasets might be something worth investigating.

fast and easy access is my biggest concern.

No, I think "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) works best.

Logon and advertising would impede access. I would avoid a site where login was needed. Any additional items may well slow access but I feel attribution is very important and worth any such potential drawback.

The login is only a benefit if it helps the user get what they want as fast as they want. Advertising is only needed if you need to have the users do something different than they are doing.

Fast and easy is what you have going for you...why complicate the process. Again, expanding your user base should be a continuing goal. Advertising and publicizing may eventually be necessary in order to meet financial obligations in these tough budget times; but hopefully they can be postponed as long as possible.

You may need to incorporate PKI depending on future uses.  Logins are fine.  Advertising drives me nuts (not a far trip).  Image quality must be a level that it has user value.  If image quality is too low, it is useless.

Fast and easy is always good. Why try to fix something that isn't broken.  People want information related to their searching.  Advertisements, publicity and other related statements would clog up the pipes.  Isn't that information found in the metadata anyway?

Fast access is crucial.

Login would be nice for security and profile building.

Advertising should be avoided unless funding is an issue.  Personally, I find pop-ups and advertising very bothersome and only get in the way of user-friendliness.

Fast and easy access is important.  Advertising, Publicizing, attribution may be OK if "kept separate from main access. I.E. What's new, most used data,etc maybe the current whats new needs more explanation on what it (the data) is.

Yes fast, easy access to data is very important for users to the site.  Cluttering the site with advertising would not add to the site...It would take away from its purpose.

yes fast easy access is the most important to me.

Yes.  Nobody like advertising/publicizing burdens.  Ease, speed and accuracy is more important.

Fast is important; variety of datasets is important; within reason, ease of use is not important -- I can "learn" how to use it.  Commercial/publicizing, done tastefully and in context with PASDA's mission/products would be acceptable if those efforts result in more dollars for PASDA.  User logins would probably be more useful to PASDS administration.  I, frankly, like not having to "login."  A simple login procedure, however, if it helps PASDA, would not be objectionable.

It may be interesting and useful to explore tie-ins with other data repositories  within Penn State and around the commonwealth.  Also, in the true spirit of a clearinghouse, it would be great to be able to use the metadata to find and access very "dynamic" data residing at other locations, such as planning commissions and state agencies.  Dynamic data submtted to PASDA can very quickly become outdated and it could be expensive to keep the most current version.  Dynamic linking to dynamic data would help this.  This is a VERY interesting concept and I would like to see PASDA explore it.

attribution is needed

access to a distributed datasets would be welcome

Fast, easy access may be the most important thing.   Logins are a possiblity, IF it doesn't impede access.  Advertising, etc. would be a disaster.

Yes, fast and easy access is what my users look for.

if pasda is truely the official state clearinghouse it should not have advertising.

# Rank Characteristics (Survey)

## Participant Instructions

Please rank order the following list.

## Survey Results

**1. What characteristics are most important to you in a clearinghouse?**

### A) Ballot

| | |
|---|---|
| Method: | Rank Order |
| Options: | Allow Bypass |
| Descriptions: | Prioritize the list from highest to lowest rank. |

To accept the original order, double click "Unranked"

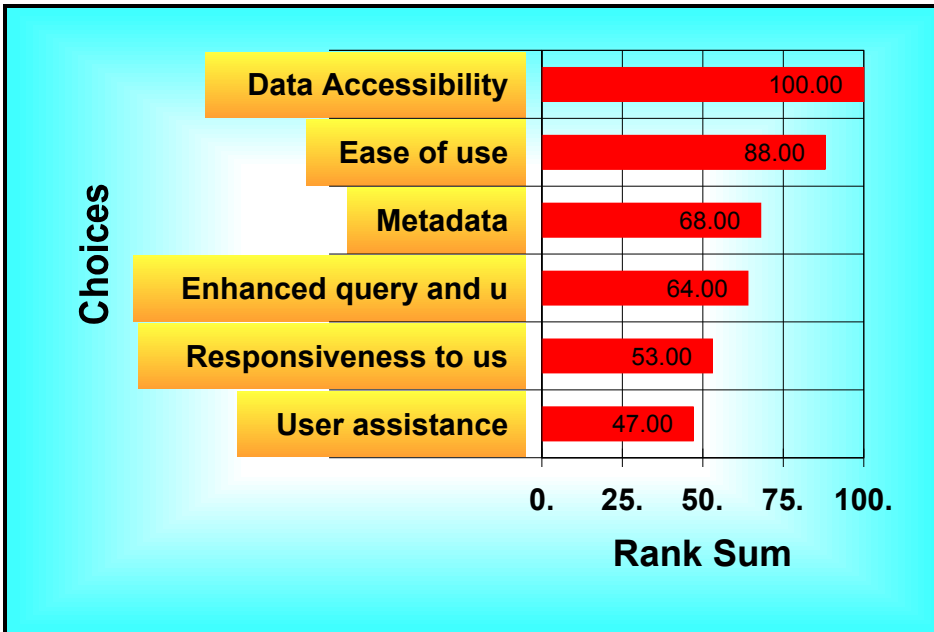| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Choices: | 6 |

### B) Results Spread

#### *Statistics*

| | |
|---|---|
| Total | 420.00 |
| Mean | 70.00 |
| High | 100.00 |
| Low | 47.00 |
| STD | 20.41 |
| N | 20 |
| Group Consensus | 0.30 |

**Table Sorted By Rank Sum**

| Choices | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Rank Sum | Mean | Mode | High | Low | STD | n |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Data Accessibility | 9 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 100 | 2.00 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1.21 | 20 |
| Ease of use | 6 | 5 | 5 | | 3 | 1 | 88 | 2.60 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1.57 | 20 |
| Metadata | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 68 | 3.60 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1.90 | 20 |
| Enhanced query and user customization of data | | 3 | 3 | 9 | 5 | | 64 | 3.80 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1.01 | 20 |
| Responsiveness to users and data partners | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 53 | 4.35 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1.60 | 20 |
| User assistance | | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 47 | 4.65 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 1.35 | 20 |

| Choices | Rank Sum |
|---|---|
| Data Accessibility | 100.00 |
| Ease of use | 88.00 |
| Metadata | 68.00 |
| Enhanced query and u | 64.00 |
| Responsiveness to us | 53.00 |
| User assistance | 47.00 |

**Results Chart (1. What characteristics are most important to you in...)**

## Questions and Choices in Original Order

## 1. What characteristics are most important to you in a clearinghouse?

1.1  Enhanced query and user customization of data

1.2  User assistance

1.3  Responsiveness to users and data partners

1.4  Ease of use

1.5  Data Accessibility

1.6  Metadata

## Data - Accessibility, Core Data, Other Data, Other Sources of Data (Topic Commenter)

### Participant Instructions

Please comment.

### 1. Do you create data?  If so, what types of data do you create?

New guy...Don't know.

No.  Not at this time.

Yes. Soils layers, soil interpretation maps etc.

No, not currently.

No.  Agency does.  But mostly a user.

Yes.

Not personally, but staff does

yes, for my home county

Yes, we create some data but we're still struggling to decide if it might have any usefulness to others.

no not personally

Yes, primarily locations of environmental facilities and sites

No, our GIS tech does that for us based on our needs.

Yes point information

Yes.  Parcels, planimetrics, topo, centerline, geopolitical boundaries, etc.

Not our primary activity.  We sometimes use data from PASDA and clients to model and derive new data sets as part of environmental studies.

Yes, mostly vector, some raster.  Boundaries, and point data on the environment mostly.  A portion of the data we create is existing data that has been modified for our purposes.   We also acquire data from GDT, imagery data from third party vendors and the Federal government.

Not data that can be made publicly available.

Yes, soils, hydrology(edit for our needs), site specific information soil sampling sites,

Other land and resource  information that could not publicly distributed but maybe summarized.

Yes,  In the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, each of our program areas are major data creators.  Some also have the role of supporting data creation activities through funding to local governments and municipalities.

yes, my organization creates biological diversity information for state and county government planning. we have people collecting field data and we also create data for environmental conservation

yes. orthoimagery, themaic data

Yes,

I am a teacher  that is involved in collecting data ( GPS, water quality databases)with my students as part community based project. As the Chair of the K-12 GIS Alliance, I am representing other   K-12 schools. I know that other schools are also involved in collecting data.

### 2. Do you regularly share data?  If so, with whom?

We have many agencies that share layers of same data.  Duplication of effort is common.

Yes, Everyone. From Federal to private users.

Yes.  Agency is the universal data user in the Commonwealth

Not regularly, but at the project level.

With - Government and Private sector clients.

Yes,but duplication of data creation is still a common waste.

No. We have shared some data with USGS.

yes, i feel free sharing of data is very important tool for the state.

not currently, but I am trying to start sharing of data

No, any data created during our projects are the ownships of our clients.  it is up to them if they want to share.

Yes.  Non-profits, academics, gov't. entities, contractors.

yes, through a data share agreement through which we request that our share partner return updates/corrections to our data.   Share partners include municipalities, nonprofits, other taxing bodies.

Yes, the regions needs are similar.  Layers created specifically for Team watershed areas, etc... are needed for multiple maps, and placed on a server so everyone uses the same data.

Yes- Conservation District, County planning

Yes, with the public and state, local and federal government agencies.

Yes, consultants, conservation districts, planners, state, local, federal agencies.

Yes, Our program areas share information with whomever.

Yes, but on a selective basis (most of the time) .  We do applied sponsored research for many different organizations.  Usually they will allow us to share their data, but in a controlled environment.

yes we share data but sometimes data sensitivity is an issue.  it also depends on the recipient and what they will use our data for.

yes. everyone. public private, you name it

You may want to look at exports into EDMS formats.  Large entities may use suites like Documentum, FileNet, Onbase and other EDMS ECM suites using work flows.  You may be able to interface into work flow triggers or requests for information.

## 3. Do you create metadata?  If so, using what tool and standard?

Yes, ESRI and Integraph.

Yes. FGIC standard in a word document and ARCGIS metada tool

Not personally, but other staff do.

Yes, with ArcGIS (ArcCatalog using the standard stylesheets - FGDC, etc)

no

No.  Agency mostly a user of data acquired elsewhere.

I plead the fifth amendment!!! What I've done has been incomplete.

I haven't created any yet but I will be creating metadata in the near future.

have not done so in the past, hope to change that in the near future

No, but it is important to know projections and conversions of data.

No

Yes.  All our data conversion specifications specify that the conversion vendors provide FGDC compliant metadata as part of the deliverables.  We use ArcCatalog metadata editor and the FGDC Style sheet to document any datasets created by us.

Yes, with ESRI software (ArcGIS) using FGDC standards.

Yes.  SMMS/FGDC.

Yes.  Mainly for the documenting of datasets that we create for clients.  Even though we do not "publish" most of the data that we create, we find that metadata is the best "self-documentor" of data.  We use the ESRI metadata generator that is part of ArcGIS.

yes, with arc catalog style sheets

This has been an issue in our agency.  Because of the workload, minimal information about the data is actually collected.  The other issue is the mindset that no one else would want to use this data, assuming that it is too project specific.

yes. FGDC, ESRI tools

Yes, I have been creating Metadata to go with the data we have been collecting with our school. We are using a Metadata Extension in ArcView 3.2 to assist us with creating Metadata to go with the data our school kids have been collecting. I also attended a PASDA sponsored training session that was very helpful in preparing us for creating the metadata documentation.

## 4. How often do you access PASDA?

Rarely- 3 times per year

Just starting to use it now.

Infrequently at this time.  Probably  more as time goes on I will be access the site more freuquently.

Everyday

About twice monthly; generally looking for specific data.

Perhaps as often as monthly

Rarely - it has been about a year since the last time I tried to use it.  Having looked at it recently, I would say that I will use it more frequently based on how it has evolved.

Sporadic.  Agency is a heavy user.  Probably daily.

just starting to use it and discovering the many uses. my use time will probably increase in the future.

currently I access the site every day, some days I am in the site many times during the day

Probably about 5-6 times a year

Twice a year? maybe.   Again, our GIS tech collects and places on an internal server, most of the data we need, modified (clipped, projected, etc..) for our offices' needs, so they are the one accessing your site regularly.

Not very often. In the past it has been difficult to find information

Several times weekly.

Weekly.  Our agency is a heavy user.  Many times we also refer the public to PASDA.

rarely, I poke around the site on occasion but I have never downloaded data

Monthly.  Sometimes weekly.  It is sporadic.  At the beginning of a project we may use it five or ten times in one week until we have what we need for a project.

rarely-the data is stale

As our needs increase and our coordination efforts grow within the agency, our usage has increased greatly.

it goes in spurts for me, depending on my current project.  I usually jump online and get what I need and get back to my project.  I won't be back until I have another data need.  at least a few time per month

Very regularly.At least 2 x a week. Sometimes when I am preparing a lesson for my students I will be using the web site more regularly. I really like the clip and reproject tool. Especially since often I am concerned about using a large scale map and I need the data that goes with "my backyard" . For kids, this is important, because sometimes having too much information on  too small a scale on their  maps can be over whelming. So having PASDA has been wonderful for schools, because we can get what we need and only what we need. The funny thing is that when ever I show pasda to teachers or student for he first time, I take them to the MrSid image explorer, and MAN they don't want to stop, they want more!

## 5. What other clearinghouses do you access regularly?

Towson's Chesapaeke Bay

None

USDA's Spatial Data Gateway.

None

None regularly

None

None

have gone to the site to poke around - have nevere downloaded data

I access other sites, but none on a regular basis

Lighthouse

None

None

ESRI (also use their CD's with data); USGS

Towson, occasionally, and various federal government sites on a regular basis.

No others on a regular basis.

The only other one that I have used has been the Bay.

ESRI TIGER data

## 6. What types of data do you use?

Don't know yet..new to field.

DOQQ's, DRG's, DEMs, Roads and Streams

DOQQs, roads, municipal boundaries

All data types are used by Agency depending on the ongoing crisis.

Typically, base map layers (including imagery) and occasionally Census data layers.

Watershed boundary maps,stream segments, farm animal densities, census data

All types of data are used, specifically environmental data

Most frequently, the PennDOT data and DOQQs

Imagery, DEM's, Geology, roads, streams, Soils, census, land owership, a lot of others.

Roads, watersheds, other environmental, streams, boundaries.

watershed data, stream layers, municipal/county boundaries, impaired stream segments (EPA)

road/stream centerlines, political boundaries, census geography, DOQQs, DRGs, DEMs

soil, flood, land ownership, DOQ, streams, roads

vector, mostly environmental  particularly water related, mining and census. All types of raster data however, topographic and DOQQ data is prevalent

Environmental, census, roads, boundries.

doq, dem, landcover, topos, watersheds, streams, roads, municipalities

soils, geology,

i use all types of data. its great to be able to find all of it at one site.

imagery, DRG, roads, watersheds, ALLARM data, Chesapeake Bay data

## 7. What types of data are most important?

Microsoft Office outputs, tiff, jpg, gif, databases and industry standard associated outputs.

DOQQ's, DEMS, AND SOILS.

More commonly used data sources to allow access to a wide audience

Statewide baseline data essential.  After that real time updates linked to best source.

standrdized data. There should be an effort to ask contributers to provide data in PAMAGIC format or you should work with them to reformat it.

All base map layers (Orthophotography, Transportation, Landbase, Vegetation, Soils, Natural Features, Elevation) and Census data layers with associated attribute data.

all data is important to someone. pasda should try to carry as much as possilbe.

Local government data - parcels, road centerlines, and other land base layers at 1" = 200' or better

DOQ's, DRG's, water, soil, roads, watersheds, boundaries

stream impairment, watershed boundaries, stakeholders within watershed boundaries (municipal...)

parcels, street centerlines, orthos

DOQQs, DRGs, roads, streams, watersheds, political boundaries

Accurate well documented data. Statewide data layers

High resolution, high accuracy, and up-to-date-as-possible datasets of the usual themes  logical, physical (centerline, streams, imagery, boundaries, etc.).

I belive that any data layer that users are requesting are important.

environmental, ie wetlands, streams points,

current land cover

imagery,imagery, imagery!!!!, can you tell we like the imagery...

## 8. Is the continued update of statewide data (ortho imagery, roads, land use) a valuable use of funds for the Commonwealth?

Yes, we must have a base map.

it is absolutely necessary to economic development and safetyt, but only if it is doen at a scale that is useful to county/municipalu users as well, and is in a standard format.

Yes, due the fact that now users can have a temporal element to their investigations.

Absolutely!!! It's a must. I'm looking forward to PAMAP, but need update to date data NOW.

Yes.  Absolutely it is very important use of funds for the Commonwealth to keep these data sets current because there are so many users that need these types of basic information on Pennsylvania.

Absolutely.  Essential to Emergency Management and 911.

Yes, it is a good use of funds and equally important would be the continued maintenance of a user friendly interface that has adequate metadata for all layers.

Depends what it is. Some may not be that critical to be current, others may be.  Would also depend on the user.

Yes! More and more we discover meaningful scientific relationships between stream impairments and their causes and land use. A good example is the relationship between impervious land surface and stream impairment due to urban runoff / stormwater. Keeping land use data sets current should remain a high priority.

yes, up to date basic info has to be there in order to expand your data

Yes, it is very important for us to have current data

Yes, but the data scale and resolution should be suitable for local government use (1" = 400' - 1" = 100') and image resolution should be 1' or 2' pixels.  Need more cooperative mapping initiatives between state and local governments (e.g. PaMAP).  Avoid spending money on 1 meter DOQQS and 1:24,000 stuff

ABSOLUTELY.  This is (would be) the most valuable feature of PASDA from our perspective.

Yes.  Data continually changes, and needs and uses of data arise constantly.

YES, the large majority of our data needs are for statewide extents. Without statewide based data our work load will increase .

absolutely

Yes, and as the data grows they must make a greater commitment.

Yes.  PAMap is coming (no funding this year) but what do we do now?

yes, I need current data for my planning.  what good is analyzing old data

Yes, for those who have no data; maybe not for those who do (particularly if the existing data are more accurate).  It's valuable if it's good.  Also, it is valuable for regional efforts.

Orhto imagery will be very useful to K-12 schiool because they can study changes in land use over time

## 9. Should PASDA continue to be the primary access point for data created or acquired with state funding - for example orthos, roads, streams, watershed assessments / river conservation plans, DRGs, etc.?

Only if it is truely the state site: i.e. it should be pasda.state.pa.us. But in a distributed world, what does it mean to be primary?

I don't know at this point.

Yes, Definitely

Yes.  There is a need for an organization to allow access for data acquired with state funding or created with state funding.

A state clearinghouse is essential.  If it ain't broke why fix it.

I think PASDA should be a primary clearinghouse for PA, but not the only respository and access point. Primary public site. State agencies and selected other groups should have access to a smaller dataset not necessarily available to the public.

Yes, it makes sense to have PASDA function as the offical data access point for data layers as they are completed (including documentation).

yes, someone needs to be the primary access point and pasda does a great job now.

I believe it should be and believe it has worked very well so far.

Absolutely! It's tough enough keeping track of the data, and particularly how we pay for it. PASDA can help with the economics of GIS if it continues to be our clearinghouse.

Yes, ABSOLUTELY.  This is the essence of PASDA from my perspective.

Not sure, I see a problem with multiple sets (vintages) of data being spread all over the the users very confused with the what is the current or best or official.  If PASDA held this as the primary access, the problem would be linking to other current "official" data access sites. The more data is spread around the more chances for variations. How many streams and roads data sets do we have in PA? What do they represent?

yes

There should be "one" primary place to create, store, maintain data.  PASDA is doing well with it, so it would make sense.  There is too much redundancy with multiple sites which causes projection incompatibilities, waste of time and money, etc...

With current technology, it is not necessary to collect and store data in one central server.  It is possible to allow data producers to serve up the data but use PASDA more as a portal to search for and access data on these remote servers.  This would enhance the chance that the data are the most current version (near real time - no delays in shipping and loading data on a central server)

Yes

yes,  one stop shops are nice.

the concept of a central clearinghouse is great, but the affiliation to Penn State clouds the issue - affiliation to a state agency rather than an academic institution would more clearly represent the mission

Yes.  Definitely.  There is a major coordination effort that is being fulfilled through this process.  I am aware of software that uses a more distributed model.  This model once proven (due to issues with network connectivity ie firewalls-internal systems, availability and support) could serve to allow access to datasets that are not being sent to the public domain.

For the majority, there absolutely needs to be a single source.  If organizations are willing (and have the knowledge, skills, and abilities) to find and evaluate data on their own, that's great, but it doesn't obviate the need for the masses.

Regarding the comment above about the clearinghouse being at PSU, I think there's no reason the clearinghouse must be housed on a "Commonwealth" server.

PASDA should be a state funded web site and the entitiy which provides the service could be anyone.  Currently PSU has the best capabilities.

Yes,absolutely!  I am very familiar with they way they do things, I know for example that I can rely on PASDA to the and K-12 Teachers in the state have come to recognize PASDA as an educational resource, and that alone it very important. As more schools start to use GIS as an educational tool, those same teachers are going to be asking, where can I get local relevant data to use with my students? Then, how can my students and our schools share the spatial data that we collected with other schools and the Pennsylvania Community at large.

## 10. What hardware / GIS software do you use?

ESRI and Integraph

ESRI, LT4X

IBM PC / ESRI primarily

DELL/ESRI

Thanks for asking. I use ESRI ArcGIS with Win2000 on a Dell P4

various hardware / ESRI software

ESRI suite

esri, envi, pc's

Hardware - Dell, Gateway, HP/Compaq

Software - ArcGIS (ArcInfo, ArcEditor, ArcView), ArcView 3.x, ArcView Spatial Analyst

PC based, Windows based LAN hardware -- ESRI software.

Windows 2000, ArcGIS 8.x, ArcView 3.x, Arc Workstation, Map Server, ArcSDE, ArcIMS

Compaq, Dell and IBM.

ESRI, ENVI, Erdas and numerous other programs to a lesser degree.

ArcGIS 8.2 (.3 soon); however its very expensive and sharing is required (floating licenses...), and training of more staff is needed, but also not affordable/approved at this time.

Arcview 3.2, pathfinder

ESRI products, using some Adobe for "pretty maps", CADD, also using standard IBM compatable systems.

ESRI Arcgis 8.2 Arcview 3.2, Arc pad 6.0

compaq/Microsoft/ESRI ArcGIS

and GPS units

Hardware - Wintel for desktop;  Wintel and UNIX for servers.

GIS - ESRI and MS (.NET)

RDBMS - Enterprise/ORACLE;  departmental/ORACLE or SQL/SVR

PC's, Trimble Geoexplorers , Arc View 3.2 and 8.3 , Trimble PAthfinder Software

## 11. What additional core data sets should be available through PASDA?

TM data. At least a link to Towson.

Not sure.

Soils interpretation data for the entire state in report format.

Any additional data made available to the public would be an asset.

Not an easy answer.  Should be addressed by a review committee in consideration of security issues.

Would parcel data be asking too much?

PAMAP data

Parcel data has been a big request from my users

A seamless landbase (including parcels) when it evolves

Additional imagery

Additional detailed elevation

County and local government planning data such as zoning parcel data.  I know that this is very dynamic data and may not be suitable for inclusion in a data repository like PASDA.  But access through a clearinghouse like PASDA would be super -- a dynamic link to county/local data "repositories" via PASDA (which would maintain the metadat) would be priceless!

For DEP, a lot of data is needed based on the "Team" watershed boundaries; however this data would probably not be needed by others.

Again, focus on local government data sets that are larger scale data.

GDT.  Until PAMAP is created and key baseline vector layers are available, the only viable alternative is (reluctantly ) GDT data.

Not sure

Any that are available and are not being shared.

PAMAP data - any data that agencies in the commonwealth are able and willing to document with Metadata and share

parcel data, zoning, county comprehensive planning data, current imagery, more is better and you may reach new users

data gathered by pamap project should be put on pasda for access

Commercial centerline (GDT, NavTech, etc.)

## 12. What data that is not currently available should be collected and distributed?

TM data

Don't know

National Soil Information System data in dBase or other user defined outputs.

Key to this is controlled distribution to appropriate users.

buffer data, more data just over the state line like DOQQ's and DRG's.

Parcels statewide, updated orthophotography statewide

Parcels, zoning as described by me on the previous question.

Parcels.

not sure

More current data.  By the time data is collected and accessible, its sometimes outdated.  Impaired stream segments is an example of that.

PennDOT data with local roads, roads names, and address ranges, refitted to DOQQs to enhance spatial accuracy.  Tax parcles statewide (hey, I'm dreaming out of the box)

Question for your greater user community.

should be driven by user community

stream(order) data,  current imagery doq and infrared

Local data.

Don't collect it-point to it.

Specific Land Use would be good to have.   I am not sure how to prioritize the "value" of needed data, this should be somehow done.

## 13. Is the storage and distribution of commercial data sets such as Spot Imagery and GDT data currently found on PASDA a valuable function of the clearinghouse?

Don't know.

NO. the SPOT data is difficult to gain access to and lacks utility becuase of the hybridization of the data. GDT undercuts your PEnnDOT partners.

Yes and No

Yes. I like having it available just like the others.

Yes, I don't see a problem with this.   But in some cases it may seem as advertising ie if  I see spot is available but not to me there might be other providers. There is a lot of commercial sites where "public" data is sold.

Yes, I would like to see more available

Yes.  If useful to the Enterprise.

I don't know - I can see both sides of this issue.  I don't know how one gets around the proprietary and pricing issues for resources like GDT data.  Again, maybe PASDA should provide a clearinghouse function for this kind of data instead of a repository function.  Keep metadata on SPOT, GDT, etc. and provide a dynamic link to their servers for downloading and/or purchasing.

yes

It would be nice to at least have a link for users to pursue data that will cost $$ versus public data, but I would prefer to keep it separate from the main clearinghouse.  The potential of the site becoming another resource that when users search for data coming up with a mixture of free and cost data would be bad.

I'm not familiar with this.  You seem to be handling the storage and distribution of your clearinghouse well.

Yes, for the DDT data however, I do not know of anyone who actively uses SPOT imagery.

No.  This would require PASDAS to get into e-commerce to collect from users who download it.  Would be a licensing hasstle as well

If it could be used for our projects and stop the multiple purchases of the datasets, this would be an excellent function of a data clearing house.

don't know that much about it and how it could help me

yes, for users who are unable to get data of that type elsewhere

Yes.

DEP should spend their money on higher quality data.

Yes, K-12 educators in the state appreciate the availability of another imagery sources to use as a base map with their students. Also, I have heard form Earth Science teachers who like the shaded relief look of the images for teaching  Pennsylvania Geology.

## 14. If possible, would you participate in or find value in a "community update" program for statewide data?

yes

could you explain this more?

no-it's giving them our data and buying it back

Yes, only if the update covers everyone.

Yes, if we're going to expand PASDA's user base, we certainly need to involve our stakeholders at the community level to identify and address their needs.

I have been a strong advocate of this concept.  Have no idea where Agency will fall out.

Yes, the data would be more up to date.  As long as we make sure the data is correct.

put it in to creating better PennDOT data instead

It sounds like something I would support.  But I would need to learn more specifically what this is.

Probably our GIS tech person would be more appropriate for this.

yes collecting and sharing data is very important

This would be the ideal situation for things to evolve into; I would hope it would be a goal for the group, as the best data is found at the local level (up to date and detailed).

Yes it would be very valuable.  Participation should be a cultural change directed from management.

Question is not relvant to me directly, but I have a problem with public money being spent on initial license, then vendor also gets free updates by the public.  What is their value added?

Yes. We would need to insure the accuracy of the data.

Sould not duplicate state effors.

Yes.

not sure if it would be relevant to me

mixed emotions - that program would be extreemly difficult to administer

## 15. Are cooperative efforts, such as providing access to state soils data in cooperation with NRCS, an important function of PASDA?

You are clearinghouse, you should be providing links to all sorts of data (not necessarily housing it)

don't know.

Yes, if the other clearinghouses do not provide the functionality needed by our customers.

link but keep separate

Yes.  Should be ythe State "cLEARINGHOUSE"

Yes it is important, maybe best to just provide access through a link on the web site since it is already housed at NRCS

yes, cooperative efforts is the name if the game.

I believe this is just the kind of activities that PASDA should pursue.

YES

Yes, I think cooperative efforts are important (especially if PASDA would be the primary access point)

YES even critical.

Yes, PASDA should function as a data coordination body - constantly in communication with all levels of government.

Yes, I believe the site would be improved by having this access

Sure, why not?

Yes, this is an assumed role of the clearinghouse.

Yes.

yes, soils are very important for my organizations conservation initiatives.

yes - as the spatial data clearinghouse for PA, PASDA should work towards coordinating efforts (and funding and spending) among and between all agencies throughout the commonwealth to eliminate as best as possible any duplication of resources

## 16. PASDA works with local and regional governments (for example SEDA-COG, the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Chester, Mifflin, Lancaster, Lycoming, Carbon, Westmoreland, and Philadelphia counties, cities, and townships, etc.) to develop metadata and provide storage for data that would otherwise be unavailable and inaccessible.  Is this a valuable function of PASDA?

yes

I don't think it would be otherwise avail;able, but it doesn't hurt for you to retain a copy. A more valuable service would be to point to the actual currnet data at these government sites.

Metadata on the otherhand is an absolute necessity. PASDA provides an invaluable service in working oin metadata

yes, i find pasda an invaluable tool. the more data you can provide the faster and better i can perform my job.

Yes, this is the function of a state wide clearinghouse.

Yes.  In my mind a clear function of the Clearinghouse.

Yes. PASDA's "outreach" contributes to the overall quality of the clearinghouse.

Yes, many agencies do not have the technical capability to do this and it provided a very useful source of information.

Question to ask- Should PASDA get into  helping turn data to information. IS there too much data, too little information/

Certainly, this data is no less important to users than any other. The more quality data available, the better we can all perform.

Again yes (for PASDA to be the primary access point, they need to work well with everyone) and standardize everything.

It is probably valuable but we rely on statewide layers.

Yes, it is important that PASDA works with as many groups as possible

Yes, this is a valuable function.  In my mind, it is the only way to get the data documented properly at the level of detail to make it useful.

Yes, but I would prefer PASDA train users to create their own metadata, rather than actually prooducing the metadata for them.

Yes, very valuable.  This also would prevent alot of duplication of effort

Yes.  This a valuable service for others to access these data sets.

This is an assumed function of the clearing house.  The goal is to provide this information to the cusomers, remain neutral and develop these types of partnerships for the benefit of all.

Yes, it is valuable to both the data user as well as the data provider.

absolutely, the more I learn what data is outr there the more I will use it.

Yes, I think it would help with communication between all of that state web users to a "middleman" that can listen  to even the smallest voiced concerns and needs. Also, in sharing data.

# Rank Data Issues (Survey)

## Participant Instructions

Please rank order the list.

## Survey Results

**1. What data issues are most important for PASDA to concentrate on related to data?**

### A) Ballot

| | |
|---|---|
| Method: | Rank Order |
| Options: | Allow Bypass |
| Descriptions: | Prioritize the list from highest to lowest rank. |

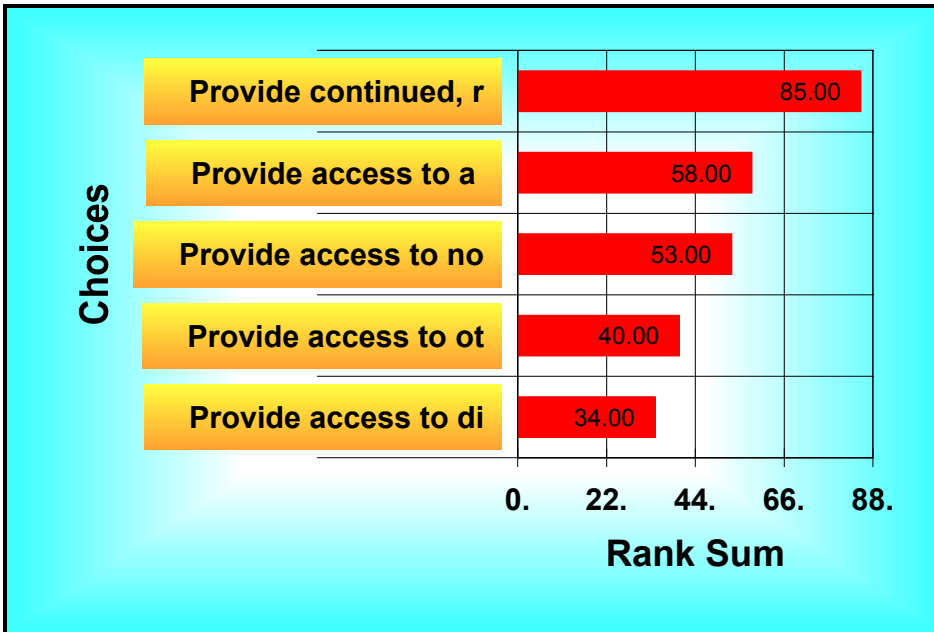To accept the original order, double click "Unranked"

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Choices: | 5 |

### B) Results Spread

#### *Statistics*

| | |
|---|---|
| Total | 270.00 |
| Mean | 54.00 |
| High | 85.00 |
| Low | 34.00 |
| STD | 19.84 |
| N | 20 |
| Group Consensus | 0.49 |

**Table Sorted By Rank Sum**

| Choices | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Rank Sum | Mean | Mode | High | Low | STD | n |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Provide continued, reliable access to core framework data. | 15 | 2 | | 1 | | 85 | 1.28 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0.75 | 18 |
| Provide access to a growing list of data sets. | | 7 | 8 | 3 | | 58 | 2.78 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0.73 | 18 |
| Provide access to non state and federal government data such as local / regional government data, data generated by nonprofit groups, and educational institutions, etc. | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 53 | 3.06 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1.26 | 18 |
| Provide access to other data through cooperative efforts such as Spot Imagery, GDT, state soils data. | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 40 | 3.78 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1.31 | 18 |
| Provide access to distributed data from other entities / states. | | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 34 | 4.11 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1.02 | 18 |

**Results Chart (1. What data issues are most important for PASDA to...)**

## Questions and Choices in Original Order

### 1.  What data issues are most important for PASDA to concentrate on related to data?

1.1  Provide continued, reliable access to core framework data.

1.2  Provide access to non state and federal government data such as local / regional government data, data generated by nonprofit groups, and educational institutions, etc.

1.3  Provide access to a growing list of data sets.

1.4  Provide access to distributed data from other entities / states.

1.5  Provide access to other data through cooperative efforts such as Spot Imagery, GDT, state soils data.

# Applications, Data Wizards, Geoservices, Web Services (Topic Commenter)

## Participant Instructions

Please comment.

## 1. Do you find having both a map based interface and a "Data Wizard" interface useful?

yes

Yes, BOTH

yes. both

Yes.  The demo provided here was very interesting.

Yes.  Both are usefule tools.

Always.

Yes. both

Yup

Yes, both utilities are helpful, but if there were resource issues and you had to scale back on one or the other, I would suggest a map-based interface with an index layer of all available data sources

yes - the demo was helpful in understanding

Yes, each have advantages/disadvantages

I believe that any tool that can help you locate data you are seeking is invaluable. Yes, most definately.

Both are useful.  In addition, a few "spatial" tools would be nice, such as the ability to select datasets by drawing circles or polys, or selecting a point and radius.

Yes, both.  The map interface should be the predominant tool.

yes , both are useful, you will hit more audiences having both

yes, depending on what data you want or which method you are comfortable using you may use either. so both are important to have.

yes

Yes.  Both are necessary. The organization and navigation to all the finders, mappers, and search tools needs to be cleaned up, because it is a little confusing as to which data sets can be searched and whether the tools support the reproject/clip functions by the various tools.

Yes, both are useful and it gives us a choice

yes, sometimes I am just "looking around for idea for teaching my class , So I want to freely explore the all maps. other times I know exactly what I need and would appreciate a wizard that can walk me threw the "possibilities"(layers, projections etc..I could see k-12 teachers needed access to both ways to access and download data.

## 2. Does the ability to customize data - clipping, reprojecting - add value to the data currently available through PASDA?

yes, it allows refining a search

It allows people to get exactly what they want for the area they want.

Yes, very much.  Most data needs customized to the specific users needs.

Yup

yes. allows for users at all levels and software versions. Good too to check something I have,  to see what projection it might be in.

Absolutely

Yes.  It is a very useful tool create a customized data set.

Yes, A lot. Helpful to users, need to add more sets to this function

Yes, it is very helpful and makes it more flexible for the end user.

makes using the services much easier

Yes. Can't add much to that statement.

yes, different users have different geographic regions of interest

Yes, I'd really like to see this done for raster data.  Obviously this data would have to be compressed and scale limited.

yes

absolutely, everyone needs different data and different combinations of data. being able to combine what you need is a very important tool.

Yes.  Whatever customized searches and preprocessing can be done before download saves download time and/or processing time for the end customer

Invaluable.  Our staff use the datasets to modify them and then they are prepared to work with existing datasets.

Yes, I think this is very valuable and often save alot of time for me

yes, very important thank you David!! Used it last Summer numerous times

## 3. What additional boundaries would you like to clip data to?

n/a

Don't Know

you have the ones I use

Options offered seem to work.  No better ideas.

Watershed "team" areas, which would be specific to DEP; however is how many of our maps are needed/created.

User defined (rectangle, circle, free-form polygon)

You should be able to select/clip in a variety of ways. Logical spatial search as well as graphical selection using circles, polys, etc.

Boundaries set is probably adequate,  Data available is what needs to be increased. Some form of base map (image, topo) may be important next step.

user-defined buffers ie. some boundary plus 200' buffer

the ones you offer seem to work

the major boundaries (roads, streams, watersheds, ect.) are the most important.

Census tracts, DEP regions, State Water Plan and major basins.

don't know

n|a

By user defined rectangle/polygons used in interactive map based searches for available data.

I believe you have the boundaries that I currently need.

flood boundries

Municipal boundaries and user-defined/created.

## 4. In which output formats would you like to see data available through PASDA?

Microsoft office suites, image, asci

Current formats are fine.

shapefiles; geodatabases?

It would be nice to have shape files available across the board. .e00's sometimes have problems when we try to download them.

Shapefiles

Personal Geodatabase (MS Access)

Raster (ArcInfo GRID, Mr. Sid, TIF)

Would like to have a "universal translator"  I could choose as I need for a specific project.

shapefiles, geodatabase

A standard/universal projection would be nice.  If everyone used the same projections, life would be much easier.  Conversion is a pain at times.

current formats are fine for me.

PASDA does a pretty good job of this as is.  Always in shapefile, grids, or e00.  Can always convert locally from these formats.

Shapefiles.  A standard coordinate system would be very helpful.

This is a question for the user community.

shape files are okay.

shapefiles and geodatabases

THis would help the user communiity to quickly access the data they nee d the mostthee

I think it looks fine the way it is now.

Size of the file that will be down loaded from PASDA, especially for teachers who may be down loading a zipped file, it would

be nice to know the size of the file before it gets down loaded.

All of them.

## 5. Would the following analytical tools be valuable additions to PASDA's functionality: web-based geoprocessing services such as projection engines?  If so, are there additional tools you would like to see available through PASDA?

n/a

don't know

Soils viewers, and soil interpretation generator for basic users.

census tract boundaries, if already not available.

None-concentarte on being a clearinghouse.

Tools are good but not critical.

Yes, web-based geoprocessing tools would be very beneficial for develpers and end users.  It would be nice to see an initial effort to put some basic tools out and evolve the "library" over time with more input from information gathering sessions like today's effort. As a starting point, it would be nice to see the following:

Address Geocoding

Lat/Lon retrieval

Overlay

Intersect

The way you verbally explained it here today (converting projections, etc....) yes!

not sure

Except for the very basic functions, I believe that you would just be trying to build an online GIS system. Concentrate on DATA not on processing the data.  I would hate to see resources taken away from increasing the variety and flexible selectibility of PASDA datasets.  Most of us doing serious GIS work would not use the tools.  I can see that it would be useful in the K!2 areana.  But even there, I think you would have to program in some fairly sophisticated functions.  I'd rather see you focus on DATA.

No, this gets to close into competeing with the private sector

No, A  desktop tool to do batch processing would be better. Focusing on data and metadata would be most beneficial.

lat. lon. interp tools and soil interp. tools

N|A

Yes, depending on (needless to say, but I'll say it anyway)...

1.  Dependability - if a user develops an application that looks to a web service for part of its work, the service better be there;

2.  Speed - the service has to be able to support the demand and scale instantly;

3.  Non-degradation of existing PASDA services (or impact on future PASDA data services).

Additional services...

1.  Layers - publish each layer (or aggregations of layers) as a web service(s).  That way, you get the data already formatted.  This may be how all data are accessed before long.

2.  Geocoding (find and validate an address)

3.  Point in polygon (e.g., given an address/location, what <fill in the district> is it in?)

4.  Nearest facility (e.g., given a valid address/location, what's the nearest <fill in the blank>?)

N|A

# 6. Are applications such as the Census Mapper valuable tools?

n/a

very much!

Not for me.

Yes.  Census Mapper is very valuable.

Yes. Well done.

Absolutely

Yes, it is a great start and would be nice to see it kept up to date and evolve to include all Census data over time.

Yes, the demo was very interesting.

Yes.  These certainly have a large potential to be useful to the public

yes now that this is available I will be put to use in my organization

more descriptive info about census data (narrative) and any additional demographic would be very helpful to a variety of applications

yes, there seem to be endless possiblities to the census mapper.

Yes it is for a quick look basic census data.  For detailed analysis I wouldn't bother developing it more.  Again, focus on DATA not functionality.  PASDA should strive to be the premier geospatial data repository and clearinghouse.  Focus on that.

The ability to download data from the mapper makes it useful.

Yes, very much so.  Just need to think about having too many isolated and unintegrated finders, mappers,and query tools.  Think of ways of integrating these into one or two integrated mapping and download tools.

This site could be helpful.

Yes, avoid having too many specialized apllications>

Census is a good one.

Yes, even though I currently have not used them

Looks interesting , might be interesting to have 1990 also available so that say schools and teachers could look at population changes vs. land use patterns, please include them.

Oh My goodness yes!  The tool is excellent.  Will remind those in my office site that you have it online.

Yes.

# 7. Would the ability to query data enhance such tools?  If so, what queries would you like to have available?

n/a

Soils

possibly, to see if it is really what I want to download. Guess I could go to the metadata for that

parcels?

Probably.  No example comes to mind.

In general, a "generic" search utility that would "open up" all available layers and their attributes would be ideal.  Simple syntax (SQL) with connectors (AND, OR, XOR) to allow users to make complex queries would be nice.

Parcels have become increasingly more important to me.

Wouldn't it be great to be able to ask

Where is the most poluted stream in Pennsylvania?

Where is the best Italian Resturant in State College?

You get the idea. Turn the data to information.

Queries are great sometimes, and other times can get overwhelming.  Again for our use, watershed based impacted streams......

Only to the extent that it helps users to define areas for which they want to find and download data.  Also, more sophisticated querying of metadata to help find data would be useful.  But to add query capability for looking at spatial data attributes is not useful to me.  Again, better more data.  Only add functions that help us to find datasets -- not to analyze those data.

Yes, to help define specific areas of interest

Basic queries yes.  However, I think we need to ensure that we are not re-inventing/exporting GIS to the web.

yes.  In the example of the quad finder, user should not have to type a name - pull down lists should be used.  Also, allow selecting multiple quads graphically or by name to obtain a set of quads, then allow downloading and projecting the selected quads.  Do the same for county and municipoal finder.

Yes, need more information

## 8. PASDA currently participates in collaborative efforts such as ESRI's Geography Network  and the CIMS project with Chesapeake Bay Program in an effort to provide access to a broader spectrum of data by, for, or about Pennsylvania.  Are there other partners with whom PASDA should be working to provide access to additional data?

n/a

I can't think of any additional ones.

unknown

Towson

Adjacent States would be a starting point.

adjacent states

adjacent states gets my vote too

pasda should work w/ and share data w/ anyone willing. other states, conservation districts, etc.

Homeland Security is promising great things in database development.

A lot of data is needed on a more local level.  Courthouse parcel data; County Conservation Districts, etc...would be nice to have access to without walking to the courthouse and using their database...

PAMAP data

I have needed data from surrounding states.  Many have sites like PASDA.  Informaiton on and access to these sites would be very helpful

Towson and adjacent states.  County relationships should be forged and maintained to the benefit of all.

National Map

Likewise on the adjacent states.

good work, PASTA on the Road!!!!

All regional areas/organizations and adjoining states.

## 9. What other web mapping applications or web services would you like to see from PASDA?

No. Concentrate on being a data clearinghouse. Find more data to point to.

XML-based technologies

The data is the most important, but maybe helping others with serving their ideas.

I like what you have. Rather you spend time with the data you have, troubleshooting, verifying, expanding

If PASDA would place highest priority on data clearinghouse functions and evolve the capabilities to be interactive (like the current examples are evolving), only then would I suggest that the group shift focus to deliver at least a "bare-bones" interface for small, local government users to help them to get into GIS with minimal investment through a web interface to core layers.

providing quality data and maybe a person to help provide input for best data layers to use for their projects.

Nothing comes to mind.

expand your breeding bird locater to include mammals, fish, reps. & amps., trees, etc.

help me find the data I need, I'm new to the field

I think the applications  "like bird finder" that provide information (not just data), but how do these get prioritized?

Is PASDA to serve the GIS community or the Public and will this change would be an important question to answer.

At this time, concentrate on providing the best quality data you can and make access as easy and as fast as you can

I need more time to think on this.

Concentrate on combining all  data sets into the data server and provide the same clipping and projection services for all data, including raster data.

add soils

Any services or new applications (like the census mapper) that would make my life easier on the job.

None comes to mind.  Focusing on the data, metadata and the quality of these products needs to be the highest priority.  Without data you can trust any application is flawed.

GPS help

Again, publish all of the data layers as web services.

# Services, User Assistance, Outreach, Education, Metadata (Topic Commenter)

## Participant Instructions

Please comment.

## 1. Should PASDA host regularly scheduled metadata training sessions?

yes, I'd like the flexibility of that

Yes-at least annual

yes, this would be very helpful

yes, standardized indexing is vital.  Call a duck a duck.

Yes, any training that PASDA could provide would be helpful

Yes. More folks should at least know how to read them.

Probably a good idea.  Frequency should be driven by assessed need.

Training sessions would be helpful to those new to GIS metadata.

yes, let's get this state standardized!

yes, in a variety of locations across the state

Yes.  I'm not sure about "metadata" specifically, but training sessions, keeping people up-to-date sessions, needs (sounds like the last time this was done was Apr 2000), etc...

As long as there is a need and people attending.

I believe that this is a valuable function, especially for those sites that you will be receiving data from. Pasda doesn't have to do it before placing it online and the entity would benefit from the knowledge of how to.

yes, for people new to metadata and gis

I would suggest some type of web based tutorial if it is not already in place.  After the initial development, this could allow for resources to be redirected to other efforts.

Yes, very important to educate why metadata is important, the importance of keeping it up to date both to technicians and management.  Also, educate on the Content Standard, available tools to implement the Content Standard, and how to use the tools.

Yes. Not just how-to training.  But on spreading the word on the importance of good metadata.  There seems to be a lot more talk about metadata than there is metadata generated.  Even those not building a dataset for pubic use or distribution should make use of metadata.  It is. of course. the best data documenter you can build.  Train AND spread the word.

yes, I went to one 2 years ago and I didn't get to create metadata until last Summer and everything I learned came back to me, Also, the training highlights the importance of thinking about Metadata before you start a project.

YES, Metadata is as important as the data.  Please consider alternatives to traditional teaching means.  A web based course, (on-line or off) video conferences, or CBT may be useful and cost effective.

Maybe there should be an easy way to ask questions like this on the site, maybe one question per week on the home page.  A general "What is it and how do I use it effectively?" overview would probably be useful.

## 2. What other regularly scheduled sessions would you like to see PASDA host?

None.

not sure.

Unsure

??

sessions focusing on learning about types of data that users need and how PASDA can provide that data

Training workshops for new users of GIS on an annual basis - to introduce new users to what PASDA has available to them.

overview of what member agencies are doing, presentations of new datasets, data services

training on how to use the PASDA site and new data coming into PASDA

How to use the PASDA site: interactive mapping, finders, and search tools

None

Sessions dedicated more to other users (Watershed grantees, Consv. Dist. Watershed specialists

You need to do more "boasting" or advertising of your services.  Below\above a certain level in agencies and companies, some don't kwow that you exist and what services you provide.  With the proper promotion, you could have access to other data sources and develop even more long term partnerships that would benefit all of your existing partners.

information sessions like this one for unexperienced users. pasda can be a useful tool for anyone not just the organizations represented in this room

Basic intro to PASDA would be the most beneficial.  Try reaching more and larger audiences thru various means.

The uses I make of PASDA facilities do not require additional training.  For me, more robust, context sensitive helps would be useful.  I would encourage PASDA to spend its limited resources on making the most intuitive, easy to use and well "helped" user interface possible.  If you are successfull at this, you need no classroom training sessions.  I don't thnk PASDA should become a GIS training center.  You shouldn't spend valuable resources teaching people about GIS.

How to use the site effectively.  Sessions should be offered regionally.

Visit school districts to demonstrate the web site and all of the wonderful things that could be educational resources for K-12 Schools.

## 3. Should PASDA continue to work with local and regional governments and nonprofit / academic institutions (as well as state agencies) to further develop the state data inventory through the creation of metadata?

Metadata yes.

yes

yes. You lead the way in getting the rest of us to "do our homework"

Your work with local and regional govt provides good continuity

Yes, especially with the local efforts. The township level is the one most in need of good planning tools.

Steering committee with representation from stakeholders would be good.  Other experts invited.

yes

Yes.  Good for the Enterprise.

Yes.  The relationship would be beneficial to all involved.

yes this is very important

get the tools to the groups that need them like the local governments

Yes, this should be one of the primary functions of the organization.

Yes.  Definately.  That seems to be where the data is most needed, and missing.

If the question is to help them with the metadata needed to document there collected data I would answer yes this would be needed.

PASDA could act as independent communicator across local governmental agencies to keep everyone appraised of what other agencies are up to

Yes, this should be your core business.

Yes.  And while you are there, see if you can find a way to get them to "give up" some of their data.  We all know that the local governments that do GIS have more accurate data.  Find a way to get them to "give it up"!

ABSOLUTELY... This should be the premier focus of PASDA. Not on-line GIS functionality and training. More data, Better data!

yes, pasda should work with any institution to expand their online data and share with any institution.

Yes.

Yes, include K-12 schools. PASDA should go out an demonstrate the web based applications to teachers. I think they have potential as educational tools and in helping PA teachers with implementing the PA State Academic Standards, such as the Science and Technology Standards.

. I think teachers would appreciate being able to have their students go to a computer lab in their schools and have the kids go to PASDA and have the  kids use the Web based applications , such as the Bird Finder or the Watershed Altas, as part of a classroom  lesson.

## 4. PASDA works with grantees of the state.  How can we increase our visibility with them?

work with organizations that fund grants

The visibilty is so low I'm not sure who you mean

Work through the state. Change yoiur URL to pasda.state.pa.us. Encourage Best Practices.

More Links

Should be encouraged by PAGIC.  Maintain State coloration by having a state.pa.us URL.

Perhaps explore a relationship with TEAM PA if you have not already done so?

Create a promotional campaign to increase visibility.

Work with PAMAGIC

Through Conservation Dist's and training sessions

Work with PAMAGIC and the organizations that support these groups.  Watershed groups seems to be high on the list.

working with schools and other organizations to gain as much support as possible. This my help in obtaining grants.

Any State grant in which PASDA data might be useful should include information about PASDA in the grant award document.

Publicly funded projects should meet a standard. If PASDA can help with the implementation that would be great.  The visibility would come from the aspect that if the data is to be on PASDA the standards to which it was done should be defined as needed.

Go to the agencies that are providing the funding and insist that they first adopt a standard or requirement for how they want to see the projects done and the data collected.  This will take  them out of the  mode of  giving away the the funds and then  hoping for the best.  There is an opportunity here for you to provide some low level project management and oversight to insure that the data that is being created can be used.  Potential "consulting" fund raising\generating solution.

Funding incentives?

## 5. Should PASDA continue to host user input sessions?

yes, it is helpul to see features etc

yes. As a service organization it's a must. Also provides forum to bring newbies on board

yes, especially as GIS continues to evolve and data needs change and grow

Yes, every service based organization needs to connect with customers to find out how to improve services in response to customer needs.  Whetehr through sessions such as these, fromal surveys/quesitonnaires, or other methods of solicitation.

Yes. In order to make sure you are serving the users to the fullest.

Yes.  Keeps the spirit alive

Yes, as long as the sessions are directed toward the primary misson of the organization and the input is actually taken into account for further development.

Depends on the cost. If OA can do this in conjunction with other projects it may be more useful and cheaper.

Yes.  It is important for this type of service to get input from its users otherwise it defeats its main purpose.

Yes.  All users have a different need, and input helps you to recognize these needs.

yes and keep the user inputs coming, continue to get a cross section of input from all user types

Yes, its critical.  Try to maintain a diverse group of users at these sessions.

yes, keep in touch w/ the pasda users in order to keep providing what they want.

Yes, I think this is helpful to both the user and PASDA.

sessions provide the opportunity for two way communications, and for GIS Community networking - a good thing

Yes with multiple audience types.

Yes,  very helpful. Feels like you are listening to us. that is important.

Yes.  Both formal events like this and through more informal means such as attendance at other meetings, conferences, email exchanges, etc.  Just don't be distracted by "fringe" user input  that might take you away from your focus on more data, better data, and more accessible data.  There are a lot of 'nice to haves' that most folks will never use.  Take all the user input you can get, but be very discriminating on which ideas you consume resources to develop.  You'll never please everyone.  Stay focussed.

Yes.  It will also be important to get back with those users to let them know that their input is valued and is making a difference.

Yes.  they are very helpful.

## 6. How can PASDA increase its role in collecting, managing, and disseminating GIS information to use the data and experience of other grantees?

not sure

continue to offer metadata training; continue outreach

Should be encouraged by OA and PAGIC

and PAMAGIC.

Continue down the web based route and implement a solid, stable, bi-directional channel that is user friendly

Need to generate a questionare to pick the brains of the grantees to draw out their needs and ideas. Work more as facilitator between users and grantees.

Focus adding in local government data, and value added tools that enhance the search and pre-processing of all data sets through one integrated interactive mapping/query/processing/download interface

Making the contacts on a more local level (working through the courthouse's, etc...) to get their data to share, so we don't have to visit their office and get it.

Keep visible with these organizations and work through the folks that PASDA is already involved with.  Be proactive.

keep is user friendly, lot's of different users

There should be a PASDA link on the web sites of all the data providers, sponsors etc. Continue to be a part of other data providers websites (USGS, Towson, etc.)

Training of local government. So they can collect better and share useful data.

I draw a blank on that one!

No clue.

It would be beneficial to "work" the partnerships that you have developed and look for opportunities as these grantees are developing their programs.  If they understand what you are about, they will buy into your program.  Also on the front end, deal with the Commonwealth either through PAGIC or the individual agencies to find out before hand which grantee will be receiving funding.  It could be written into their agreement that they have to cooperate with PASDA on these projects.  (Yet another funding idea)

Should every GIS project in PA  that is receiving public funding have to contact PASDA? Would this be a good idea?

Every project should conform to standards...

## 7. Provide access to partner metadata so it can be updated by the data partner?

Yes

yes with proper security assuring accuracy

yes, indeed

Absolutely.

Yes, it should be a two way street.  There must be a process in place to ensure the quality and consistency of the update.

Yes

Yes, with proper security and oversight

As long as it is checked for accuracy prior to allowing the changes/updates to be made.

yes yes and good quality control too

Or, simply provide links to data and metadata stored and served by data providers

Yes, but we need some type of QA check prior to publishing.

ABSOLUTELY... This is the future.  But it requires excellent metadata and good search tools.

Yes, with controls.

This would be good and it would assure that the metadata gets created.

## 8. Continue developing additional tutorials, online user assistance, and links to tools and resources?

I think you've accomplished this. Focuss on core business of cleqaringhouse.

helpful based on skill levels

Keep development of additional materials limited. This should be an extension responibility, right?

Very helpful.  All technical tools should have a useful help capability.

As a secondary fuction to the primary objective (Data Clearinghouse)

Yes, this will help many of my new and inexperienced users

Base the tutorials on level of expertise and generate the web page to help direct folks to the level of training they need.

Yes.  All these things are invaluable tools to new and old users alike.

yes the more people know , often increases the questions they have

Yes by all means.  Have educational white papers/interactive lessons on map projections, data characteristics, spatial accuracy measures, data formats, metadata,

I like the applications you have created, including the PA Conservation Challenge mapping application, now if I could just get a T1 connection to my computer....

Yes.  If the data is available, but the users do not know how to use - the data is not much good to users.  However, through online user assistance and tutorials the data will be more valuable especially to new users.

yes, interactive tutorials are more useful. an interactive tutorial allows the user to learn more.

Yes, if you know how much these are being used and get questions, these could be used to help plan the future needs.

Yes, A valid secondary function.

Yes, this is a must, as new user come online it is important they have the support and access

Some.  But don't divert a lot of resources to this at the expense of more and better data.

Yes.

This should be a main component under your education function.

## 9. Supporting state supported projects such as Smart Conservation, the Rivers Conservation Program, Growing Greener, Chesapeake Bay / CIMS initiatives by providing access to data, data storage, and the ability to remotely access PASDA data?

users out in the field or in emergency situations may need remote access

Yes, because they may be creating data while initiating the projects, such as  grass roots watershed groups. If they know they are getting support from the folks at PASDA, they may have more confidence in collecting and publishing their GIS data.

Need to encourage use of PaMAGIC Best Practices.

Again.  Do the clearinghouse thing.

Yes, as it relates to user access to the data.

As an outgrowth of PAGIC, it's support of state-supported projects part of your mandate?

By remote access, do you mean other than via internet? do you mean ftp?

You needed in this area.

As a Clearinghouse you should be pointing to the best available data.

We are all "partners" in one way or another; however data access may need to have some security as to who can and cannot access certain data; but the availability of having it all in one location is very important/convenient.

yes please show me the best data to use and what I can do with it or who I can talk to get what I need

Should be at more than one location.

Yes, as long as there is no conflict of interest and public money is being used for public projects

all these programs should work together to offer the best possible product to the user.

Yes, as PASDA is funded by the state it seems that any assistance provided to the state makes good sense.

Support of state initiatives would be very important.  Working with those who implement these would be important.

Yes.  But make sure good metadata accompanies those datasets.  This "distributed" approach is your clearinghouse  (and gateway) function.  Most of PASDA at this time is repository driven.

Yes again.

Go back to oribginal idea of clearinghouse rather than repository.

Definately.  These are all needed functions.  There are other programs that you need to be involved in.

## 10. Is there anything we didn't cover?  Do you have any final comments?

Get away from "branding" data as PASDA data. Give visible attribution.

what about a PA cultural resources layer, not necessarily exact Archaeological site locations but, perhaps CR information defined by say zip code of Geology.

I would suggest a query potential that could capture a query from a registered user and refer it to the owner of restricted data.  Owner could take action as appropriate.

Enough for today's session

Do you represent PA at any national organizations?

None that I can think of.

You should view yourselves as supporting state government,  not representing state government.

pasda.state.pa.us

I would like to see raster data available in a greater variety of coordinate systems or have a greater ability to download specific raster data in a CS that I currently use as a standard

I tried the "bird watching" system for a "Rte" address, which was "not found".  I've found that with a lot of systems, that the rural routes are unrecognized.  This needs to be fixed.

You should provide these questions prior to people coming--they could put more thought into their answers and needs, etc...

let's agree on a state projection, lot's of data collected and in lot's of custom projections

pasda's pa atlas maps should offer a measuring tool that allows the user to measure any point, line, or polygon on the map.   also, direct links to state park information would be helpful.

Promote your core functions.  Data and Metadata are most important.  Use your expertise in these areas to assist state government and the people of PA.  The applications are good but data powers these apps.

I think the session was very informative.

Cut back on functions other than metadata and clearinghouse.

I think you have enough to work on.  You've cover the really important isses.  Again, keep focussed on better data, more data and more accessible data.  Develop the clearinghouse and "gateway" function.  This is extremely difficult but it is the future of spatial data. Framework data and "static" data can be put in a repository.   Rapidly changing, specialty data is best maintained by the creator.

Very informative session

I think that PASDA is doing an excellent job.  To ask for feedback from your partners and to continue to do so will be key for your future success.