Hello, I am Briana Sullivan from the University of New Hampshire. I work for the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center in the Data Visualization Lab. As Tom Loeper mentioned at the end of his presentation,

I’d like to discuss the Coast Pilot data structure as it is today and some insights on where I think it should be and some ideas on how to make it happen.
Currently: based on the publication

let me first explain, visually, how the data structure is based on the publication…
The Coast Pilot is set up via Books. Books subdivide the working area into maintainable sections. So, to get local information you need to know the Book as the root element.
The chapters unique to each book, subdivide the area represented by the book into manageable parts. NOTE: each chapter contains one or more nautical chart within it’s limits (and due to this some information repeats where charts/chapters/books share a border/overlap)
Within each book are various chapters, some with data common to the entire book, most chapters are for specific areas delineated by a specific boundary.

Clearly there are some chapters that don’t follow the same type of formatting...these will be researched and dealt with at a later time.

Notice this disclaimer on the left that this is “…information that is difficult to display on a nautical chart.” ...I’ll talk about this a bit later.
Within each chapter are “elements”. Each element is represented as a paragraph within the chapter and is numbered. But the elements have types associated with them such as:

1. Chapter Header (Orange)
2. Chart Header (Yellow)
3. Paragraph Header (Aqua)
4. Paragraph -> CP_Tags (Blue)
5. Image (Pink)

These items are typically described in geographic order. On the East Coast of the US, for example, it is from North to South.
So far, the data structure is something like this:

This is a hierarchal data structure ....just like a tree, where the whole CP is the tree, each book is a branch, each chapter are leaves on the branch, etc.
should separate formatting from data

Notice all the attributes for the Book, image_detail, and CP_GEO_LOC tags

This is what the “tree” looks like when represented with XML. You can see the tags are exactly as you’d expect the layout of the book!
It’s probably better not to think of Google Maps as a thing like a paper map. Geographic information systems represent a jump from paper maps like the abacus to the computer. "I honestly think we’re seeing a more profound change, for map-making, than the switch from manuscript to print in the Renaissance,” University of London cartographic historian Jerry Brotton told the Sydney Morning Herald. "That was huge. But this is bigger."

“There are a couple of steps (to make a Google Map). You acquire data through partners. You do a bunch of engineering on that data to get it into the right format and conflate it with other sources of data, and then you do a bunch of operations, to hand massage the data. And out the other end pops something that is higher quality than the sum of its parts.” - former NASA engineer Michael Weiss-Malik

With the S-100 standard in the works, technology use common place, and a need for more useable and accessible data it’s “time to think differently”.

I found this quote talking about Google Maps that I feel can also be said about nautical charts/publications…(read quote at top of slide).

A former NASA engineer working at Google lays out the steps to the success of Google Maps…(read quote at bottom of slide)

Isn’t that the holy grail? Getting something out of this that is “higher quality than the sum of its parts”?

Ideally:

based on the data

We can accomplish this if we can move from a publication-centric data format to a data-centric one. What do I mean by this?
“(Coast Pilots) contain supplemental information that is difficult to portray on a nautical chart.”

rewrite:

Coast Pilots describe the features found along the coast and how to get to/access/use/avoid them.

It brings me back to that disclaimer I mentioned earlier…(read slide).

We have seen from Tom’s presentation that NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey (OCS) is starting the process of thinking differently
The Coast Pilot project needs increased data management capability to share its information with other sources and offer a customizable product.

This degree of customization requires more control than a traditional Desktop Publisher (DTP) can provide...the Extensible Markup Language (XML) and associated tools have that capability.

…I recently found this on their web page…(read slide)

But remember...just tagging something with XML doesn’t mean it will allow the kind of control mentioned here. Thought and foresight needs to come into play to make sure the mark-up is being used to maximize data use.

So to demonstrate how “Thinking Differently” could work to maximize the data…here’s an example paragraph.

The XML colored in black is directly from paragraph 5 (the green highlight). Basically, I read the paragraph and attempted to take everything I could and “tag” and organize it. But, since I’m focused on the feature, I’m stopping at the first one I see, “St. Croix River”. Then I search the rest of the chapter for “St. Croix River”. My goal is to find and group all info about the “St. Croix River” that I can. The orange text is just that…info from the rest of the chapter about the St. Croix River. Wow, how great is it to be able to find out all about this river in one location!

Doing this exercise brought up quite a few other questions in quality control (as Jens mentioned on Monday) with consistency, formatting, and organization. Like: 1) Why isn’t the first instance of “St. Croix River” (5) in bold? Instead it is bold in (104). 2) Principal entrance is listed in (5) as “Head Harbour Passage”, yet elsewhere in the chapter “Friar Roads” is also a principal entrance 3) what is the determining factor to having the geo-referenced links?
So, now a side-by-side comparison in how the mark-up could change from “publication-centric” to “data-centric”.

On the left is the exact XML from the OCS website representing the section of the Coast Pilot from the previous slide…

On the right is a demonstration on how to minimize the “attributes” of the book tag... which is a W3C (world wide web consortium) recommendation for ease of maintenance and extendibility.

Instead of all these attributes another XML file could be referenced that contains all the data about the books. It could have even more data as well, this bounding information is from the Coast Pilot online web interface and is coded in the S-100 GML standard encoding.

Side Note: I also set this up as a sample web-service to give a full listing of all the books available.
Again on the left...the current XML (publication-centric) mark-up...comparing this time against the data-centric mark-up example on the right.

Note: the St. Croix River (the red box) is inside the <paraText> tag hidden amongst a narrative string of words. Not easy to quickly find or extract.

Granted...it’s a LOT of work! But the uses for how the data is marked up on the right is many times more useful than the original.
The approaches to St. Croix River include Quoddy Narrows, Lubec Channel, Friar Roads, Head Harbour Passage, Western Passage, and Passamaquoddy Bay. The principal entrance is around the northern end of Campobello Island through Head Harbour Passage. This passage is deep and generally clear of dangers. The channel through Lubec Narrows is also used, especially at high water. The tidal currents are strong in both passages.

For those of you who don’t like to look at code, another way to view and understand this would be like filling out a form online…

The example on the left allows for a narrative - a rich textual description. Easy for input purposes, but just not easy to process, discover and use on the output.

The example on the right, sure it’s more complicated to set up, it takes longer to fill out...BUT, it forces the input to be formatted, tagged, organized, and verified on submit, which means there is no more/very little work to do on the output...

This is a great example of how to standardize the data content.
the NEW data structure would be something like this:

Yet another way to view this data structure (for those of you that like pictures!)

This is the direction of the S-100… Feature-based data…

it can work for the Coast Pilot/Sailing Directions too… in fact it should work in conjunction with S-101 (the ENC) data.

Everything related to a specific physical feature (S-126 - the physical environment) should be able to reference the S-101 ENC utilizing the overlap and simply linking the features together. Remember the goal to reduce redundant work and work towards “harmonization” with other related specifications.

(Although some, Edward Hosken, might differ in opinion) For the most part the S-126 is basically describing the S-101 feature… the textual description of the physical feature as it relates to navigation.
1. A mariner of a small private vessel wants to get rid of all text relating to pilots and large ships. (and vice-versa)
2. Correlating the weather data in the text with historical, current and predictions of the same area.
3. Filter out anchorages along a coastline to help a mariner decide which to head for. (using S101 feature catalogue rules of anchorage types relevant to her - code 8: small craft mooring area).
4. A researcher wants to test AUV in a specific area and wants a quick way to search for all rivers that have a “windy” characteristic.
5. Get drawbridge information for a route quickly...all in one place.
6. Text reader for a audio description of area

Remember, we need to keep in mind the end result, how will the data be used? It is (or should) be there to serve us...not us be slave to it.

3. (or better would be “winding” since “windy” in the dictionary is “wind swept” not “twisty”...but that’s another presentation!)
Of course, the biggest problem in this whole story is HOW do you get from the current situation to the dream?

Or even something on the way to the dream? I don’t think the presentation should end here (even though you may want it to)…
….So, how to make it happen? How do you turn a tree into lots of little seeds (for lack of better analogy)?

And the million dollar question how do you take the seeds and get the tree you are used to?
Intermediate steps

1. **Normalize/clean the database**
   a. Get unique list of all paragraph headers - *standardize*

2. Geo-reference data (use GML)
   a. algorithms using GNIS data

3. Add Chart numbers to all elements (for backward compatibility)

4. Better Tags:
   a. Replace cp_index tags to ref/extend feature tags - *standardize*
   b. Replace “formatting” tags (cp_bold, cp_italic) with feature tags

5. Recode tags with fewer attributes

6. Use modern technologies to present the data better online.

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1. **Process of reducing redundancy in the DB.**
   a. Use query string to find distinct Paragraph Header type of elements, then clean the list manually
      i. Get rid of tags, duplicates, make things generic (get rid of state and regional specific locations in text) - this could be a starter list for common headers in all of the world’s sailing directions -- This is part of the STANDARDIZATION process! (example: Pilotage for Coast of New Hampshire, just Pilotage since it’s already in the section about New Hampshire)
         1. duplicates in the database reduce headers by 318 entries (from 2258 to 1940),
      ii. This is a great exercise to see how consistent the document is written, how terms/phrases/headers are similar but not the same.(i.e. using MA vs. Mass, VA vs. Va., NY vs. N.Y., underway vs. underway, use of caps, use of spaces/punctuation, plural vs. singular, cross current vs. crosscurrent, small craft vs. small-craft vs. small-boat)
   
   b. Get rid of added tags and attach as a new field “type” or “paragraph header type” (Appendix, CFR, sect, CP_INDEX, CP_BOLD, etc.)

   c. Punctuation within tags isn’t necessary.

2. **Geo-reference data - how is Tom’s group doing it (regexp automation to start)**

According to publication “Fulltext Geocoding Versus Spatial Metadata for
1. Large Text Archives: Towards a Geographically Enriched Wikipedia
   a. Checking for potential matches: find all possible matches (either use the xml version of each document or make new version from DB) - “feature catalogue”
   b. match with GNIS table

2. Isolate the chart numbers using regexp, set up parent/child relationships via query and create new table of chart numbers to elements. This set will give everything an associated area even if it doesn't have a geo-reference.

3. Compare against the ENC feature catalogue so the tagging can be synced up/reused

4. recode without attributes
Using JQuery Mobile and HTML5 data-base or web-service-based data can be displayed in a fluid layout, hiding what you don’t need and...
Updating the format based on the screen size of the device in use...all with the same piece of code.
By doing just a few of the intermediate steps to my copy of the Coast Pilot DB, I was able to create a prototype to illustrate the benefits to some small changes.

Example: Simple

Organizing the data in a better way allows for new ways to view the data, for a simple example

...easier navigation between books and chapters

And with topic categories based on the paragraph headers these paragraphs could be set up to group data accordingly, hiding and showing only the topics desired. (Sorry, I don’t have a slide for this because I failed to take a screenshot while it was working and I haven’t fixed what I broke yet!)
Also, by associating a chart to every paragraph in the Coast Pilot, I can now show text that is only related to the charts that are within the viewport of the map (a Google map).

As I zoom in on the chart, the list of charts on the left is shortened and subsequently the text displaying on the right is reduced.

To explain the rest of the interface:

- Both the chart and text tabs retract when not needed.
- The blue dot in the middle is the location of the user (using web geo-location) which is the default location when the web page is opened.
- The green outline is the extent of the chapter and the grey box displays the chapter title (the extent of the box)
- There are options (not visible in this screen shot) to toggle the outlines of chapter bounds as well as chart bounds and to track the user's position.

As I move forward with the intermediate steps outlined earlier, the way the text is presented here will change dramatically and have more options for customization.
Wrapping up

The term Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) -

“embraces the structure of working practices and relationships among data producers and users that facilitates data sharing and use. It covers the set of actions and new ways of accessing, sharing and using geographic data that enable far more comprehensive analysis at all levels of government, the commercial and not-for-profit sectors and academia”

What are the challenges an HO may face when participating in an SDI?

“Challenging the way things are currently done to ensure they are undertaken more efficiently in the future.”

Again, this isn’t a purely simple or easy task, but it’s also not impossible!

We like to say at CCOM/JHC “Map Once, Use Many Times”....we can change that to say “Enter Data (correctly) Once, Use Many Times, Many Ways”


SDI - http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/CB/C-17_e1.1.0_2011_EN.pdf

other challenges in SDI:

- A lack of funding to progress their involvement in SDI.
- Persuading decision makers and budget managers to support SDI activities.
- Gaining the trust of other stakeholders.
- Ensuring the HO has the knowledge, training and skills for involvement in SDI.
thank you...

GAME  NOT  OVER