Types of Geospatial Information Licenses

International Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information

Objective

• Understand the Various Types of Geospatial Information Licenses
Geospatial Information Can Be Licensed In Various Types of Agreements

• Geospatial Information Licenses
• Data Sharing Agreements
• Website Terms of Service
• Software as a Service (SaaS) Agreements
• Cloud Storage Agreements

Geospatial Information License Agreements

• Proprietary and Restrictive
  o Often commercial providers
  o But not necessarily
    • Governments and NGO's can assert ownership rights as well
• Open Data
  o Creating Open Data is a policy issue
  o Using Open Data is a legal issue
  o Most Open Data is published under some sort of licensing arrangement
    • Very little data released into Public Domain
Open Data

• Open Data licenses are not necessarily compatible
• OpenStreetMap
  • Began using a CC-type license
  • Switched to a database license (ODbL)
    o “Users can copy, distribute and use the database … to produce works from the database and … to modify, transform and build upon the database”
    o “share-alike”
    o “proper attribution”
• Many organizations have trouble using OSM data because of “share-alike” and attribution requirements.

Open Data Licenses

• Creative Commons licenses - https://creativecommons.org/licenses/
• Database Contents License - http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/dbcl/1.0/
• Open Data Use License – India - https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/Government_Open_Data_Use_Licence_India.pdf
• Open Database License v1.0 - http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/1.0/
Other Forms of Geospatial Information Licenses

• Data Sharing Agreements
  o Often between government agencies
• Website Terms of Service
  o When accessing data on-line
• Software as a Service (SaaS) Agreements
  o When data is included in a SaaS offering
  o Often granting rights in information to SaaS provider
• Cloud Storage Agreements
  o When storing data in the cloud, granting certain rights to storage provider

Discussion Items

• What types of licenses does your organization use?
• What are the challenges associated with those licenses?