



LOGIN

Email

Password



RAMONA – A Rolodex of GIS Data Sets and a directory of contacts

RAMONA is a simple tool that provides a means to list your data sets with sufficient detail to be of service to others. Everyone looking for data can browse to the website, find data custodians and use the status maps. Its purpose is primarily to track the status of GIS in US state and local government to aid the planning and building of Spatial Data Infrastructures.

This tool promises to be South Carolina’s best resource for statewide data discovery. We should all encourage our peers to catalog and continue to update the status of our data sets. All users of Ramona can locate data custodians by using the ‘i’ icon on the status map and making a geographic query at a location of interest.

How often have you wondered who to contact in another city or county to request data? What if you were new to an area or a local government building a GIS office and wished to know who to contact and what resources were available nearby to help you get started?

Since September 11th, leading GIS professionals involved in emergency management have emphasized that among the best things GIS professionals can do to be prepared to assist during a major disaster are 1) have an inventory of all organizations’ data, and 2) have a directory of GIS people –the Ramona GIS Inventory does both!

Ok, this sounds interesting, how do I get to this Ramona website?

<http://sc.gisinventory.net>

Each State has a URL that uses the following naming convention where the two letter state code for each state is inserted in the URL. By changing the web address URL above you can zoom to the extent of another state. For example, if you wanted to see what data sets our neighbors in North Carolina had inventory of, change SC.gisinventory.net to NC.gisinventory.net

My jurisdiction has data and I want to contribute to Ramona, what do I do?

Ramona allows its users to create their own profile, including information on their organization, systems, and data distribution and management policies. Creation of this profile takes between 15 and 30 minutes and can be done in multiple sessions. The

system also provides a quick way to inventory individual data layers that only takes between 30 seconds and 2 minutes per layer.

Is RAMONA an acronym?

Random Access Metadata Tool for Online National Assessments

Why RAMONA, Why Now?

- One national geospatial inventory tool
- Dynamic – continuous updates
- User Friendly
- It can act as a local government statewide inventory
- Generates a rolodex of data creators
- Structures first “building block” of metadata
- Used in planning for statewide projects and plans, including cost-share opportunities

Who funded and manages the RAMONA?

The RAMONA national data inventory tool was developed to inventory the GIS data holdings of tribal, state, and local governments, and their partners. It provides one consistent platform for the nation that is designed to work in concert with the federal [Geospatial One Stop \(GOS\) portal](#). RAMONA was created by the [National States Geographic Information Council \(NSGIC\)](#) under a grant from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#).

Do I need metadata to participate in RAMONA?

When cataloging your data sets the tool painlessly creates your first building block toward a metadata record.

What software does RAMONA use behind the scenes to render maps?

The RAMONA website utilizes an Open Source development environment named MapServer that is used for building spatially-enabled internet applications.

Are there any future RAMONA enhancements?

- States can add custom questions to inventory
- Bounding coordinates on sub-state geography for regional projects
- Read-only capability for authorized agencies
- Your ideas are welcome

New reports and other features will be added to support statewide business planning activities. This will ensure that your information is available to potential partners as they develop budgets and plan for future data production. The existing management reports can give us a much better understanding of our national status, trends, and needs.

Ramona is a functional tool and not just a collection of information.

Advantages of the RAMONA on-line inventory tool for South Carolina:

- Easy to use, uncluttered, and logical organization.
- When you catalog your data, a user profile captures name and full contact information.
- Multiple users within a single organization can each complete the inventory for the specific data sets they create and manage.
- My Geography section allows respondents to select multiple states, or multiple counties/cities if they produce and manage data for regional areas.
- Directory of South Carolina data providers can be queried by organization name or type, individual's name, or application area. The Directory can not be mined for spam emails or harvested by spiders.
- Respondents can indicate multiple systems and GIS software In the Systems Profile.
- Users pick from drop-down lists to specify scale, status, source, year, and update frequency for each data layer, and enter a 255-character abstract.
- Statewide status maps can be generated for the seven Framework Data layers: Orthophotography, Boundaries, Elevation, Land Ownership, Geodetic Controls, Transportation, and Surface Waters.
- An initial building-block for metadata records is created automatically and available for you to expand upon later. All inventory respondents will indicate if they are already producing FGDC-compliant metadata.

Will this tool cut down on data inventory requests?

Using Ramona will help state, local and tribal government agencies reduce the number of data inventory requests made by federal agencies. For example the U.S. Census Bureau routinely contacts agencies to obtain information for the TIGER Enhancement Database and the Federal Emergency Management Agency inventories all available data when it begins to update Flood Maps in each jurisdiction. By entering the information for your organization, at your own pace, you can reduce the number and frequency of these contacts and manage your time more effectively. Ramona will also be useful when government agencies are responding to emergencies. Your information will be readily available to other agencies and will reduce the need for them to contact you. This will help to speed-up services to your citizens.

Did you Know?

Using Ramona may increase your chances of obtaining partnership funding or being selected for mapping projects such as the Flood Map Modernization program. The Department of Homeland Security references Ramona in Appendix H of the FY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit.

With your active participation, RAMONA will soon become the resource for geographic data discovery in our statewide network.

Sources:

Nconemap.com
 sc.gisinventory.net
 nsgic.org

