Louisiana Geographic Information Center
(LAGIC) Report

Louisiana Assessors'
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Capability Survey

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Introduction

In November of 2001, two members of the Louisiana Assessors' Association asked if the Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC) would conduct a survey of GIS capability among Louisiana Assessors. LAGIC worked with the two assessors, Sheryl Martin and Rich Bailey, to develop a two-page survey that could be distributed to all seventy Louisiana Assessors by mail. That survey was mailed on February 1, 2002. By March 12, 2002 LAGIC had received responses from 44 of the 70 Louisiana Assessors. Results of the survey were presented at the annual Louisiana Assessors' Association Conference in Shreveport on March 15, 2002. The responses from the survey, thus far, are summarized in the following report. This survey will be updated as additional information becomes available. We ask that any assessors that have not yet completed the survey please do so at this time (a blank survey is attached). The results of this survey will be incorporated into the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Team (I-Team), which will affect the methods and content of spatial data collection in the future. Your participation in this survey and the I-Team Initiative will ensure that your views are represented on the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Team.

Survey Limitations

Members of the Louisiana Assessors' Association, the Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council Cadastral Data Committee and LAGIC staff designed the survey. There was unanimous agreement that a survey of more than two pages would take too long to complete. LAGIC received 35 responses in the first three weeks after the mailing. The remaining 9 responses were received in response to follow up e-mail and faxed reminders. One limitation of the survey, were the large number of assessors that do not currently have e-mail access.   Surveys were faxed, instead of e-mailed, to those without an internet connection.

The survey was divided into two parts. The first part of the survey asked for current contact information, including phone, fax, and e-mail. The remainder of the first section asked questions related to the status of GIS development in their office and whether they had a GIS Coordinator. The final question, in the first section, asked them to rank (on a scale of 1 -5) any limitations to developing GIS technology in their office. The second section of the survey was dedicated to specific questions about cadastral data sets. Among the limitations to a faxed or e-mail survey, is the inability of the researcher to answer questions that the survey respondent might have. An assessor completing a survey question on a faxed, or e-mailed sheet is unlikely to call or e-mail the researcher for clarification. Different respondents can easily interpret the wording of questions in different ways. We apologize for any confusion in the wording of survey questions.

Survey Results: Section 1 - GIS Capability Questions

1) Check the statement that best describes the status of your Geographic Information System (GIS)?

Response	Actual number	Percentage of respondents
Not considering a GIS at this time	13	30%
Our GIS is in the planning and research phase	13	30%
Our GIS is under construction	11	25%
Our GIS is operating and functional	7	15%

2) Do you have a GIS manager/Coordinator who has primary responsibility for data collection, creation, GIS contract management, etc?

Response	Actual number	Percentage of respondents
Yes	18	41%
No	20	45%
Contractor	1	02%
No answer	5	11%

3. Rank the major limitations of developing and utilizing GIS technology in your office (with five being the most difficult obstacle and 1 being the least difficult)

> 5. Insufficient funding
> 4. Lack of trained staff
> 3. No information on the costs vs. benefits
> 2. No information on contracting GIS services
> 1. Lack of administrative support

Survey Results: Section 2 – Cadastral Data Questions

Question	Yes (Number & %)	No (Number & %)	No Response (Number & %)
Do you use a unique parcel identification number (PIN)?	26 (59%)	16 (36%)	2 (5%)
Does you PIN incorporate geographic location: township/section/range, northing/easting, latitude/longitude?	19 (23%)	23 (52%)	2 (5%)
Are you using aerial photography as your base map?	23 (52%)	15 (34%)	7 (16%)
Is your parcel base map complete?	20 (45%)	20 (45%)	4 (10%)
Are you coordinating data collection or data maintenance with your parish?	15 (34%)	27 (61%)	2 (5%)
Do you track the parcel address (situ address), or addresses as a unique data field?	23 (52%)	19 (43%)	2 (5%)
Are you collecting any data sets not specifically required by the Louisiana Tax Commission?	9 (20%)	31 (70%	4 (10%)
Are you using any specific state or national cadastral data standard?	7 (16%)	32 (73%)	5 (11%)
Do you use a relational database, such as Oracle, DB2, Informix etc. to manage your cadastral data sets?	11 (25%)	28 (64%)	5 (11%)