

Title: Introduction to the U.S. Geological Survey Standards Database Explorer

Abstract for poster presentation

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The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Standards Database Explorer is a prototype set of database and web-based tools being developed to capture, maintain and deliver standards and specifications information for The National Map (TNM) datasets. The current process for publication of standards at the USGS is both costly and lengthy, and can result in outdated documentation by the time of publication. In addition, the current process is duplicative for certain cases where multiple datasets have the equivalent requirements. A consolidated specification repository with online discovery features allows for continuous updates to specifications, eliminates duplication across datasets, provides faster and easier maintenance, enables tools for navigating through and querying the information in the database, and allows for report generation. The Standards Database Explorer prototype is being developed with Spring Roo for the web interface and a PostgreSQL database management system for the specification content. Within the Explorer, specifications are made accessible via a top-down navigation panel and by generating reports. Reports are both viewable and downloadable using preset content reports or by using a Query functionality to produce customized reports. The project team is also evaluating capabilities for integration with TNM Viewer, map data visualization and download tool, to enable map-based queries as well as development of Application Program Interfaces (APIs) for easy integration with other USGS tools. Long term implementation plans include a process for detailed peer reviews of specification content and the development of a staging environment to finalize the Explorer functionality prior to public release. The Standards Database Explorer prototype is currently being implemented within the USGS National Geospatial Program with an anticipated public release in 2016.