

Summary of the Alaska Community Data Workshop

Date: November 2nd, 2016

Place: Cold Climate Housing Research Center, 1000 Fairbanks St, Fairbanks, AK 99709

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Sponsor: U.S. Arctic Research

Purpose: To bring together users and collectors of data in Alaska and discuss:

- What data is currently being collected
- Limitation of data currently collected
- Gaps in data
- Other current efforts to establish an Alaska data portal or current data servers

Take-home messages:

This is a huge, but very important topic.

- Identify commonalities in data collection among agencies and organizations.
- Better understand data needs from communities.
- Data that people thought was missing or not collected actually is available, which stresses the need to have a portal that brings together scattered data.
- The Alaska Geospatial Council has tackled some of the issues about developing a data portal, metadata, and is in the data discovery process.
- Data rescue from individuals who are no longer active is an issue that needs to be addressed. NPRB has a section about data rescue.

- Maybe a research coordination network (RCN at NSF) is the way to get the key players working together
- Community administrators would be a good point of contact for determining what data might be useful for communities.

Issues:

- Data rescue
- Ways to use metadata for data discovery
- How to host data that occurs in multiple formats
- Privacy, confidentiality, and proprietary issues
- Need to develop a catalog or repository of published reports
- How to keep datasets updated with new data
- Determining the highest priority for data that does not exist among
 - Researchers
 - Communities
- Funding
 - Research Coordination Networks could be a start to examine these issues

Potential next steps:

- Write up a potential scope and see if this is something of interest at NSF
- List of Alaska data portals with types of data and the agency, but this may be a large effort. Are there agencies collecting similar data? Where are the gaps?
- It seems a significant issue right now is making current or historical data accessible.
- Follow up with state/feds about getting federal workers into the ALARI data
- Hold workshop where we bring in people or organizations that have struggled with similar issues
- Determine who the key players are