

Oregon Spatial Data Library User Needs Assessment Survey

Summary of Results

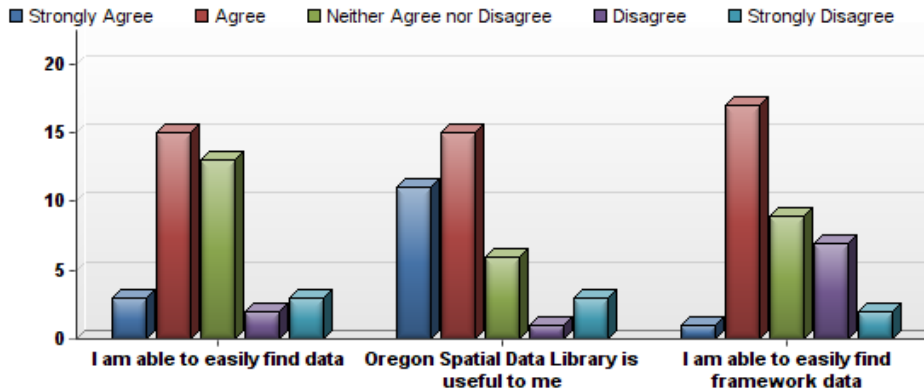
March 15, 2016

The Oregon Explorer program conducted an online user needs assessment survey from December 2015 through February 2016 to help guide a redesign of the Oregon Spatial Data Library (OSDL). Forty people responded representing state agencies (59%), local (27%), interested citizens (8%), federal agencies, researchers, university, private consultants (5% each), conservation group, NGO, local community group, elected official, other (3% each). The primary results from that survey are illustrated below.

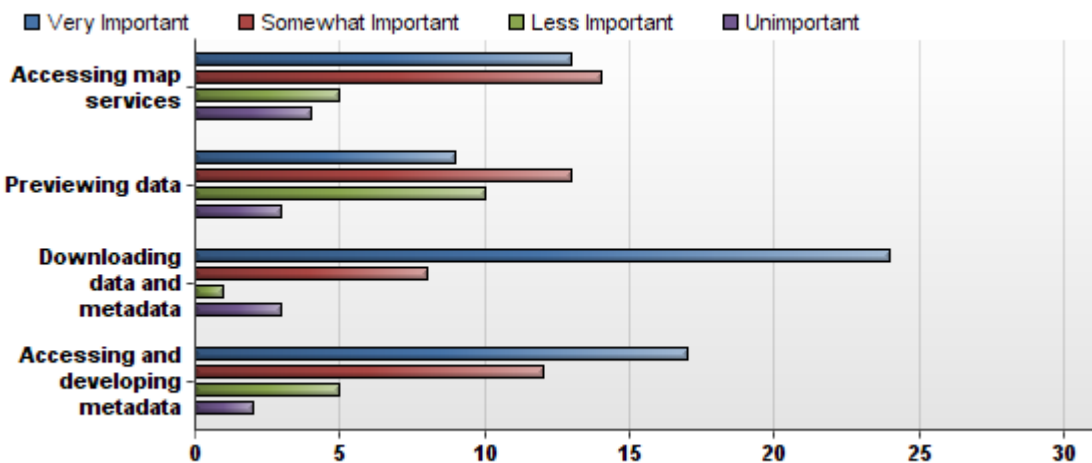
1. Most people use the OSDL on a monthly basis (43%). More than a quarter use it on a weekly basis (27%) and fourteen percent of the people who participated in the survey had never used it.
2. Most users are both data consumers and data providers (65%). There were more consumers (22%) than providers of data (14%).
3. Less than half (46%) of the respondents were members of an Oregon Framework Implementation Team (FIT) or the Oregon Geographic Information Council.
4. Uses of the data accessed from the OSDL:

#	Answer	Response	% ▲
5	Analyze data	26	79%
6	Create maps	25	76%
8	Inform projects or programs	19	58%
12	Support a planning process	19	58%
9	Inform natural resources decision-making	17	52%
4	Apply to research	10	30%
7	Develop grant or funding proposals	7	21%
11	Other (Please describe)	6	18%
10	Self-enrichment or general interest	5	15%
1	Write scientific or technical reports	3	9%
3	Develop or deliver courses	2	6%
2	Complete class assignments	0	0%

5. Most survey participants can find data, framework data, and find the OSDL to be useful, but the levels of agreement could be higher, especially with finding framework data.



6. Downloading and accessing data and metadata are the most important OSDL services, followed by accessing map services and previewing data.



7. The following OSDL services would make it easier to find and/or use data (ranking very important or somewhat important):

- 1) Browse data and refine search results by categories (e.g., sources, framework themes, ISO topics, dates, etc.) (34/36)
- 2) Highlight new data that has been added (26/36)
- 3) View data attributes in a table format (23/36)
- 4) Use map interface to search by spatial extent (21/36)
- 5) Incorporate a rating mechanism (users would rate datasets based on their usefulness) (9/36)

8. Ideas for making it easier to find data using the OSDL:

- To continue to be able to find data within the coastal and marine framework
- A sortable table with columns including dataset name, year, source, link to metadata XML, FIT theme, and link to zipped dataset.
- Options for more compact results, more results per page
- Download portion of the website doesn't work well. Lately it doesn't work at all.
- Continue to offer the Alphalist option - searching through the categories is tedious and unnecessarily time consuming (note: 4 people commented on this)
- Creation of sub-catalogs or collections of data would be useful.
- The current search returns a list of data with a few lines of information below the data title. I would like to have the option to see only titles and see more search returns so that I can more quickly review the list of data returned from a search. I find the descriptions can be distracting at times. Perhaps if descriptions were available through an expansion button under the title. Or there were more than one way to view the returns.
- When datasets are updated, it would be good to have a consistent naming/date metadata so it is clear what the most recent data is. Alternatively, removing outdated data or putting it into some kind of an archive so it doesn't confuse searches would be helpful.
- If there are similar datasets, distinguish the difference in the title (Hydro: 1:100k USGS, Hydro: NHD approved).
- Ability to look for authoritative data

9. Most important places users go to find spatial data:

- OSDL
- DAS alpha-list
- The National Map
- Federal Data Collections (NOAA, USGS, EPA, USDA, USFWS, USFS, BLM, NOAA, FHWA)
- EarthExplorer
- USDA Geospatial Data Gateway
- ESRI
- Coastal Atlas
- Internal archives

10. Spatial datasets missing from the OSDL include:

- LiDAR data (2014, 2015) **requested by 3 participants*
- Tax lots
- Elevation contours for city areas 2-10' intervals
- Complete rivers/streams dataset (1:250,000 and 1:100,000) that has all the names and their associated order. This would enable symbolization by order in cartographic products.
- ODOT's transportation (not DAS interpretation of the dataset)
- Include NEDA datasets in the coastal and marine framework category

11. Data/map service formats most commonly used:

#	Answer	Response	%
8	Other	1	3%
4	.kml/.kmz	6	18%
3	OGC compliant services (WMS, WFS,WCS)	14	41%
6	REST services	16	47%
7	.shp	28	82%
1	Geodatabase	29	85%

Other
PostGIS

12. Most (37 responded to this question) of the survey participants use ArcGIS (95%).

13. Final comments from 10 of the survey participants:

Response
Hope to continue to maintain connections to OSDL. This involves some mechanism to connect via Catalog Service for the Web or Web Accessible folder of metadata.
Keep it simple!
Where can one locate the Oregon Spatial Data Library?
Important work. Thank you for undertaking the project.
The interface does not have to be too glitzy. We need good metadata, and updated layers e.g. land ownership, LULC.
Keep up the good work!
I'm very supportive of this effort - good luck!
Nice idea, but has never helped. Not even once.
This survey was very focused on finding data as opposed to using data. Asking about use of data would probalby get additional information.
I am just an elected official. My organization shares with and I'm sure gets data from the Oregon Spatial Data Library, however, I don't have answers to most of these questions.