

# **Improved Policy for Coordinating the Development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure**

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**Key words:** geographic data coordination, spatial data infrastructure, policy.

## **ABSTRACT**

Geographic data coordination is a difficult problem. A key policy document for the coordination of spatial data activities in the United States is the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16. In June of 2001, the Steering Committee of Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) endorsed a new version of Circular A-16. The new version reflects needed changes from the current 1990 version of Circular A-16 by incorporating Executive Order 12906 that establishes the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, as well as recommendations by the FGDC design study team. It also reflects renewed interest and a more active role for OMB in spatial data coordination. This paper reviews the lengthy historical of evolution U.S. geographic data coordination, describes the pending development of the new circular including several major changes, and provides current status of the proposed new policy circular. The proposed new circular facilitates new improvements in spatial data coordination that have the potential for great benefits, especially as electronic government advances.

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TS3.5 Spatial Data Infrastructure: National and Regional Examples  
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Improved Policy for Coordinating the Development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

FIG XXII International Congress  
Washington, D.C. USA, April 19-26 2002