

Antarctic Digital Database moves towards implementation of SCAR Feature Catalogue

From November 29th to December 3rd 2004 an informal workshop on implementing the SCAR Feature Catalogue was hosted at BAS, Cambridge in collaboration with the Cybercartographic Atlas of Antarctica Project. Participants of the workshop were Paul Cooper (BAS, UK), Cheryl Hallam (USGS, USA), Peter Pulsifer (Carleton University, Canada) and Steffen Vogt (Freiburg University, Germany).

A feature catalogue provides a detailed description of the nature and the structure of spatial data. Feature catalogues promote the dissemination, sharing, and use of geographic data through providing a better understanding of the content and meaning of the data. The SCAR Feature Catalogue is being developed as part of the SCAR Spatial Data Standards project of the Geographic Information Expert Group. This project is lead by Australia (<http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=14645>).

The SCAR Feature Catalogue follows ISO 19110, Geographic Information - Methodology for feature cataloguing, a new standard that has been published only very recently. The SCAR Feature Catalogue can be used in its entirety, or in part. It is a dynamic document, that is evolving with use over time. Considerable effort has gone into ensuring that the SCAR Feature Catalogue is a unified and efficient tool that can be used at any scale of geographic information and with any GIS software. Spatial databases that already implement the SCAR Feature Catalogue include those of the Australian Antarctic Data Centre and the SCAR King George Island GIS Project.

The aim of the workshop was to transform the Antarctic Digital Database (ADD) to a SCAR Feature Catalogue compliant structure and to assess requirements on the further development of the Feature Catalogue. The mapping of the current ADD structure to the SCAR Feature Catalogue was successfully done. Only minor changes to the SCAR Feature Catalogue were required. The group also discussed general questions related to the further development of the Feature Catalogue including topics such as feature relationships, topology, and a Geography Markup Language (GML) application schema.

(Steffen Vogt)