The AMPATH Workshop

Identifying Areas of Scientific Collaboration Between the US and the AMPATH Service Area

Florida International University

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CONFERENCE REPORT

Use Of Metadata In Cross Language Information Retrieval For Multinational Counterdrug Agencies

This is a multinational forum to enhance policy development and operational coordination in the counter-narcotics domain. The program is hosted by the United States Southern Command and the Organization of American States' InterAmerican Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD). Multinational agencies participate in operations such as air and maritime interdiction. Policy formation is carried out by national anti-drug councils and foreign ministries. US agencies involved in the project include JIATF-E, Coast Guard, Customs, DEA, and the Department of State. Participating nations are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, United States, Venezuela. Observer countries are: Belize, Chile, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

The purpose of the UCD is to allow multinational agencies, regardless of their language, to exchange information by searching multilingual databases. A major challenge is the slow Internet access in most Latin American countries. Access to large databases using a phone is slow, making a system ineffective. The research goal is to develop methods for multinational agencies in a domain specific area to effectively exchange information in a timely manner regardless of language.

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Participating Nations:

Argentina	Trinidad & Tobago
Bolivia	United States
Brazil	Venezuela
Colombia	Belize (observer)
Ecuador	Chile (observer)
Guatemala	Dominican Republic (observer)
Mexico	Uruguay (observer)
Panama	
Paraguay	
Peru	

TerraFly: NASA Regional Applications Center

The NASA Regional Applications Center (RAC) at FIU was designed to facilitate the distribution of remote sensed data to public/private organizations; provide & develop algorithms for image analysis; develop software to assist in large imagery handling; and match the public's needs for remote sensed data and applications.

The flagship application of the RAC is Terrafly. This program coordinates maps and navigational data inputs with laser altimetry data, GNIS data and vector data to produce up-to-the-minute mapping of user-directed "flights" over the Earth.

HPDRC and FIU NASA RAC have entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the United States Geological Survey, to provide users with on-line access to USGS data. The CRADA project will use new technologies and standards to make both archived and newly acquired data far more accessible to the public. Under CRADA, FIU will add aerial photography, Landsat 7 images, and other types of USGS data to the TerraFly Web site. These additions could make TerraFly one of the largest collections of publicly available data on the Web.

Terrafly will provide users with multiple options while viewing aerial maps of US Cities:

- Smooth Flight Over Spatial Data – the data is mosaicked during pre-processing, to provide an even image,
- Multiple Data Type Support – including IKONOS, Landsat, US Census, aerial photography, etc.
- Multiple Windows – the user will be able to view the image in a variety of formats.
- Geolocation ID – Updates the geographical coordinates of the image as you "fly" over; provides a "Go-To Coordinate" feature, as well as the ability to choose among 5 "point-of-interest" locations for the displayed coordinates.
- Compass Control Tool – allows the user to control flight speed, direction and refresh rate with the click of the mouse.
- Spectral Band Control – Provides the user with the capability to create false-color images on-the-fly by combining spectral bands, either in commonly used or custom combinations.
- Go-To Place – allows the user to go to a specific place of interest by name.
- Place Identifier – Finds the closest place of interest and populated place; Finds the exact coordinates of any point in the image, even during flight.
- Street Address Lookup – finds the coordinates and goes to a specific street address.
- Zoom In/Zoom Out
- Data Delivery Capabilities – allows the user to receive data in their choice of format on any area they select using the GUI.
- Information Overlay – features can be highlighted, with data or icons overlaid from different sources, such as airports and hotels.

Image Processing Filters – can be used to enhance any image.