

epscor launches data portals

There's a new door into Alaska EPSCoR.

The Alaska EPSCoR Data Portal is a website designed to provide easy access to data obtained by EPSCoR researchers, as well as to relevant data sets collected by other researchers and agencies. The website centers on a simple interface that enables users to search for data from across Alaska EPSCoR's three test cases via multiple methods, including through keyword searches and via a map interface.

"The EPSCoR.alaska.edu site is the central portal that brings together all of the three test cases' data catalogs, so it provides a central location for the EPSCoR project to search through data entries and project statuses," said Dayne Broderson of the Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA), a UAF-based organization that spearheaded the project.

The portal, which went online in fall 2013, marks the culmination of months of work by programmers at GINA and the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center (ARSC), who worked together to create the site and to populate it with its first wave of data. They also created individual portals for each of the three test cases which link directly to the main portal. Two of these portals are directly linked to existing online data collections: The Southeast Test Case site is partnered with the Southeast Alaska GIS Library, and the Northern Test Case portal shares functionality with the North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI).

The portal is only part of a concerted effort by EPSCoR to collect, organize and store data from its test cases. One particular focus is mapping: Alaska EPSCoR's focus on landscape and hydrologic change over time requires the



Dayne Broderson of GINA at work on the Alaska EPSCoR data portal system.

collection of high-resolution maps dating back decades. GINA has assisted in this by creating the Alaska High Resolution Satellite Imagery Archive to hold EPSCoR and other imagery, and by compiling key sets of aerial imagery across the three test case sites. These include high-altitude photos circa 1980, U.S. Geological Survey mapping photos circa 1950, maps from the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative

from 2010-2013, very high-resolution digital imagery of the test case areas from 2001-present from the University of Minnesota's Polar Geospatial Center, and two new sets of

maps commissioned by Alaska EPSCoR: LIDAR imagery for the Colville River Delta on the North Slope, and new aerial photos of the Kenai River watershed.

GINA has also worked to bolster EPSCoR's data storage capabilities, including purchasing and installing new storage nodes in each test case site and integrating them into the local UA network so researchers have desktop access.

alaska epscor data portals
main data portal: epscor.alaska.edu
southeast: southeast.alaska.epscor.edu
southcentral: southcentral.epscor.alaska.edu
northern: northern.epscor.alaska.edu



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