

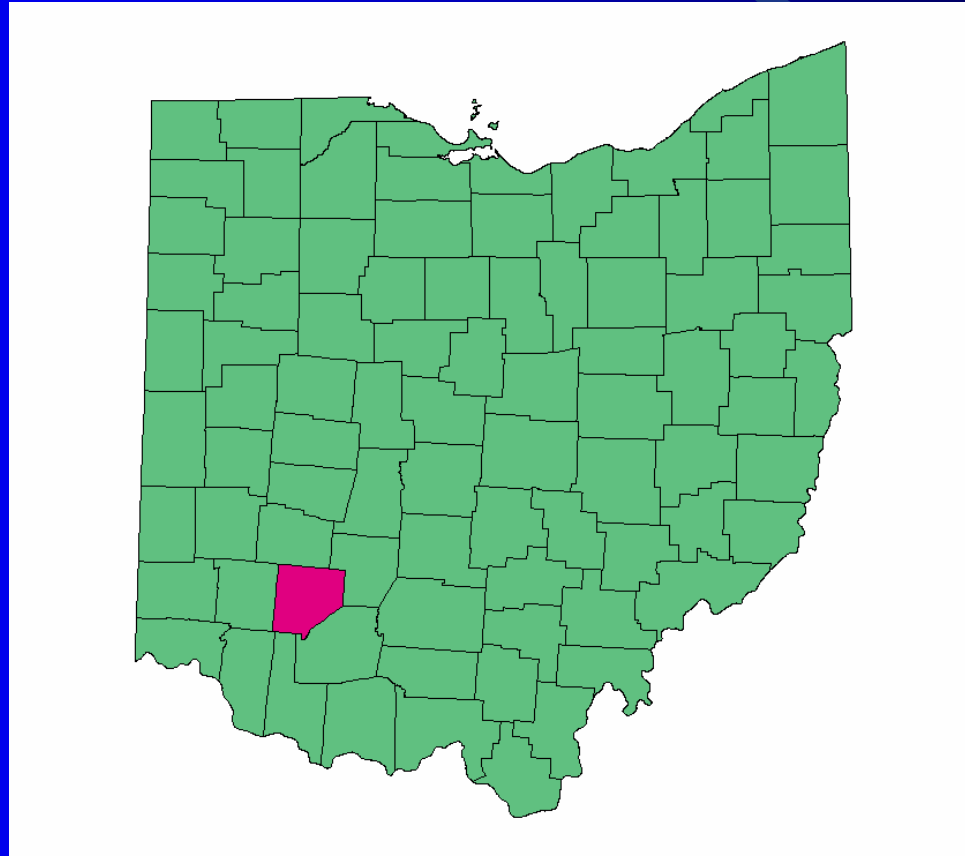
Beginning a GIS *Program*: How Do We Get One?

Joseph Merritt
GIS Manager



Clinton County, Ohio

Where are we?



Introduction to the CATALIS Project

- The CATALIS Project
 - Clinton County
 - Automated
 - Topographic
 - Aspatial
 - Land
 - Information
 - System



The CATALIS Project

- A Consortium of members which include:
 - County Engineers Office
 - County Engineers Tax Map Office
 - County Auditors Office
 - Regional Planning Commission
 - Building and Zoning Department
 - City Engineers Office
 - Emergency Management Agency
 - Realtors Association
 - Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Health Department
 - County Bar Association

Steps to Building a Successful GIS Program

- Create an Identity – and **KEEP IT!**
 - Form a GIS Committee
 - Decide on a Logo for the newly formed GIS Department
 - Come up with an ACRONYM to describe your program.
 - Understand the difference between a *Project* and a *Program*

Project vs. Program

- Project

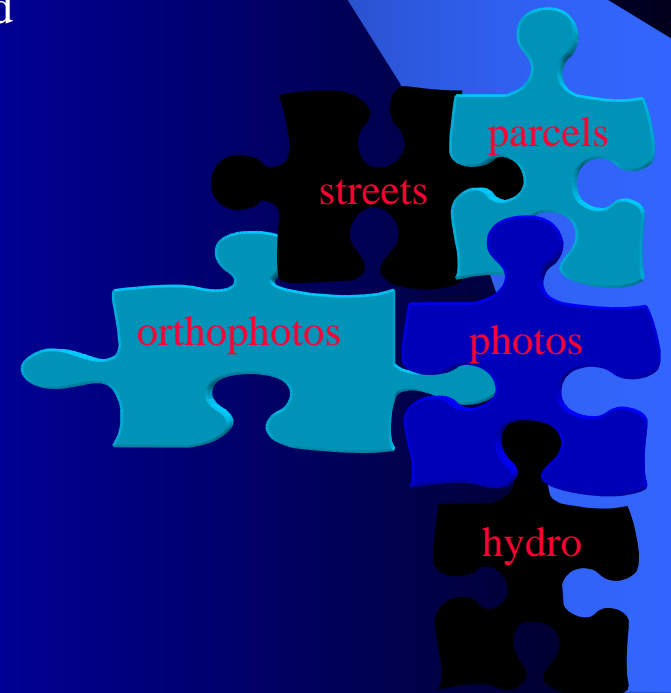
- Implies a beginning and an ending.
- It is difficult to get people to equate the word “Project” with something other than a ONE DEPARTMENT activity or task.
- PROJECT = TASK.

- Program

- Beginning with no solid ending.
- Easier for people to understand that the word program involves the COOPERATION of many.
- PROGRAM = TASK(S).

Choosing a Consultant

- What do you need to have done, vs. what can you do in-house?
 - Some things are a no-brainer:
 - Aerial Photography
 - Creation of a Permanent Monument Grid
 - Digital Orthophotos
 - Other:
 - Some application development
 - Some data creation / digitization
- WHAT'S THE ANSWER?



There is NO EASY SOLUTION!

A key ingredient is your GIS staff

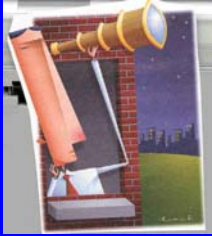
- Hire the most experienced GIS Manager you can afford.
- Give that person the freedom they need to be creative in the planning and the *execution* of your GIS plan.
- The knowledge and experience of you GIS Manager ***DIRECTLY*** corresponds to the amount of money you will need to spend on consultant-based activities, and the quality of those deliverables.



Keep an Audit Trail of Work in Choosing a Consultant

- You may *(probably will)* be called upon to back up your decision making process.
- Give everyone on your committee an opportunity to be on the *selection team*.
- Prep your selection team to make sure they know what your looking for.

Documentation



Final Consultant Report



Letter Confirming Presentation Selection



RFP Respondents & Info



Do your Homework



RFP Proposal Evaluation Guidelines



Write your RFP

Outline for Presentations



Not Selected Next Phase Letter



Winner Letter

Summary

You Don't have to be a wizard to build a GIS Program...



But it DOES Help!

Where to Get Help



- OGRIP
- User Groups
- Network of Users and Managers
- Reading Material
- Clinton County GIS Department
937-382-0035
<http://in-touch.net/catalisgis>

