Doctoral Dissertation Research: An Agent-Based Model of Population Changes in a Vulnerable Coastal Environment

A Data management plan created using the DMPTool

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Roles and responsibilities

For the proposed research, Nina Lam will take the lead and responsibility for coordinating and ensuring data storage and access. However, Kenan Li will also be involved in managing, storing, and disseminating the results of the project. Both of them will be responsible for checking that the plan is being followed. Should the co-PI leave the Louisiana State University, Nina Lam will take the responsibility for the storage and access of data directly acquired by the leaving co-PI, and transferring responsibility for the data to other lab personnel.

Expected data

This project will obtain three types of data: (1) coastal hazard data, including the beginning date, ending date, hazard type, and the caused property damages by hazard event; (2) GIS shape files and data (e.g. digital boundary, elevation) and remote sensing imagery; (3) social-economic and demographic data by geographic units of county or zip code. All these data will be re-distributed into the 1km by 1km grid through areal interpolation. A total storage demand of 5 TB is anticipated at the Louisiana State University.

Period of data retention

Data will be maintained on our groups' public web server for a minimum of three years after the conclusion of the award or public release, whichever comes later. From experience, we expect this period to extend to eight years.

Data format and dissemination

1. We will use the ArcGIS FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) metadata standard as a means to organize the original datasets acquired from different sources. The metadata standard is a description of the dataset; it includes information such as the date when the data were generated, the location of the samples in terms of latitude and longitude, and the person to contact for access. Some brief descriptions of the data, keywords, and publications relate to the data will also be included. The spatial locational information included will enable (spatially enable) the mapping of the dataset as a point locator on the study area map to be made available on the project website. By doing so, we make the data discoverable, which is the first step towards making the data accessible and usable.

2. Although all the data were obtained from the publicly available sources, the data will further be processed for the research, such as areal interpolation, re-aggregation, redistribution, re-organized, and some statistics calculation. Thus, all the refined datasets will be archived using the same ArcGIS FGDC
metadata standard, and stored in our web server and backed up in two other computers. For the modified or re-organized data, the original source, data quality, and the date of acquisition will be documented. These datasets will be made publicly available through our project website.

3. In the process of the simulation, new dataset will be generated from time to time, such as population changes prediction, assessment of the local resilience, and so on. All these simulation results will be documented and input into ArcGIS, under the same metadata standard (FGDC).

4. A web app is already being developed and tested for the dissemination, which will allow the end user directly querying and downloading the data from our ArcGIS Server.

Data storage and preservation of access

As previously mentioned, data and codes developed during this research will be stored on both the PIs’ groups' local server and at least one back-up machine. At the end of the project, the links for all the key datasets generated from the project will be posted on our website hosted by our own server. Research publications and other findings will be included and linked, thus the result of this data management plan would be a straightforward web-based GIS that can be accessible by researchers, students, stakeholders and the public.

Additional possible data management requirements