HGL Metadata

All data layers contained in the Harvard Geospatial Library catalog have been documented with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata. For more information on the FGDC or the metadata standard, please visit the FGDC web site.

HGL metadata is created using a commercial metadata editor, ArcCatalog. This software product can connect to a spatial database and automatically harvest many required metadata elements. The remainder of the fields are documented by the HCL Geospatial Resources Cataloger.

The International Standards Organization is in the process of creating a standard for geospatial metadata. It is likely that this standard, once released, will be adopted by HGL. That decision will be made by the HGL Steering Committee in consultation with library metadata specialists.

Metadata is required of all researcher created datasets, however it need not be a full FGDC compliant record. Please contact the HGL team for information on the required metadata fields and on how to submit your data and/or metadata for inclusion in the HGL catalog.