

Dear All,

Many of you will have noticed announcements on the web and in the form of a poster – “Do you believe in MADGIC”.

This is actually a survey which will affect the way Data and Government Information will be available to the Western Community. In short – it will be one of the factors that determines what services Vince Gray and Liz Hill will be allowed to provide going forward.

Please take this seriously. You will notice that they have lumped Maps, Data and Government Information together – these services have been combined by Western Libraries in an attempt to streamline similar services. Another “simple is better” style solution which is, of course, concerning because of what could be lost. That said, to date geospatial and data file customization and delivery have been occurring at two service points (Map Library and DRL) – going to a single point of service/contact should improve researchers ability and awareness of the opportunity to spatially represent their data.

When completing the survey please be particularly aware of the following phrases:

In the question about current services:

“Obtaining and preparing data for analysis” - this phrase is really about all the customization of data that Vince does

“Obtaining geospatial data and layers” - current Vince function

“Obtaining and manipulating statistical information” – another current Vince function

In the question about Future services:

The following are notable –

“Availability of print resources (e.g., manuals, user guides, etc.) for GIS, maps, data and government information” – this refers to all print resources – manuals, but also any of the reference and how-to books (e.g. “Statistics with Stata”) which our Economics 4400 and Graduate students find so useful.

“Integration of maps, data, and/or government information into classroom instruction” – current important service they would like to expand.

“Creation and delivery of instructional data sets or custom GIS for teaching use...” – current important service they would like to expand.

“Data manipulation (e.g., transforming data from SAS to Excel)” – this is pretty close to Vince’s current customization of data that he does on an ad hoc basis for researchers.

On a positive note, this does provide us with an opportunity to ask for services in an integrated fashion which presently are only offered on an ad hoc basis.

At least one Weldon Librarian has stated that less than 100 people will bother with either this survey and/or the upcoming focus groups – we need to prove him wrong or risk a serious reduction in resources in this area. Please contact any of your contacts campus wide and encourage them to complete the survey.

Finally, as important as this survey is, volunteering for the focus groups is even more important – please do that and go out and be vocal.

A link to the survey and for focus group registration: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/madgic>

Best,
Jane

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Please note date and times of upcoming focus groups – if possible, please sign up for next week.

Tuesday February 23rd: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday February 24th: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Monday March 1st: 11:00 am – 12:30 am
Thursday March 4th: 3:45 pm – 5:15 pm
Wednesday March 10th: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Thursday March 11th: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm