Preserving a Legacy

Managing Legacy Data for the Future

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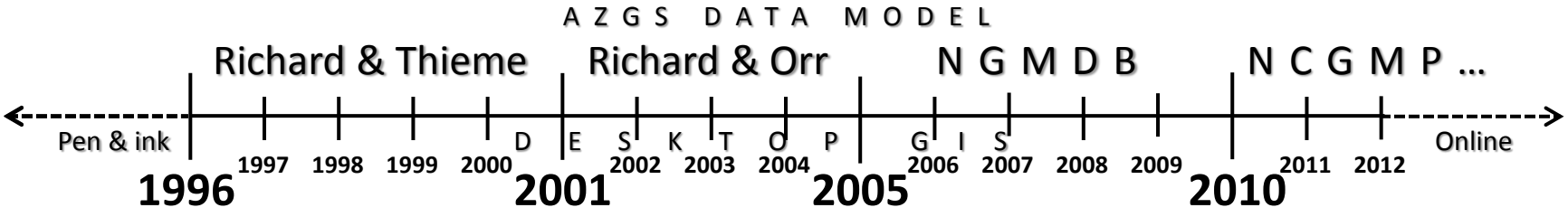
AZGS Data Statistics

Number	Of…
4	data models used by AZGS
5.5*	projections (*undefined)
18	years GIS in use at AZGS
150+	datasets AZGS maintains
1050+	feature classes
3000+	related tables
millions	features



Definitions from Google

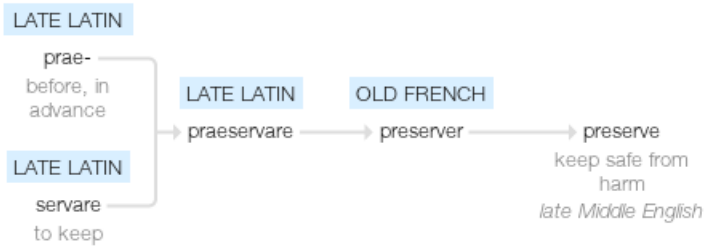
pre·serve

/priˈzərv/

verb
gerund or present participle: **preserving**

1. maintain (something) in its original or existing state.
   "all records of the past were zealously preserved"
   synonyms: conserve, protect, maintain, care for, look after More
- retain (a condition or state of affairs).
  "a fight to preserve local democracy"
  synonyms: continue (with), conserve, keep going, maintain, uphold, sustain, perpetuate More
- maintain or keep alive (a memory or quality).
  "the film has preserved all the qualities of the novel"
- keep safe from harm or injury.
  "a place for preserving endangered species"
  synonyms: guard, protect, keep, defend, safeguard, shelter, shield More
- treat or refrigerate (food) to prevent its decomposition or fermentation.
  synonyms: conserve, bottle, can, freeze, dry, freeze-dry; More
- prepare (fruit) for long-term storage by boiling it with sugar.
  "those sweet preserved fruits associated with Cremona"
- keep (game or an area where game is found) undisturbed to allow private hunting or shooting.

Origin



leg·a·cy

/ˈlegəsē/

noun
noun: **legacy**; plural noun: **legacies**

1. an amount of money or property left to someone in a will.
   synonyms: bequest, inheritance, heritage, endowment, gift, patrimony, settlement, birthright; More
- a thing handed down by a predecessor.
  "the **legacy of** centuries of neglect"
  synonyms: consequence, effect, upshot, spin-off, repercussion, aftermath, by-product, result More

adjective COMPUTING
adjective: **legacy**

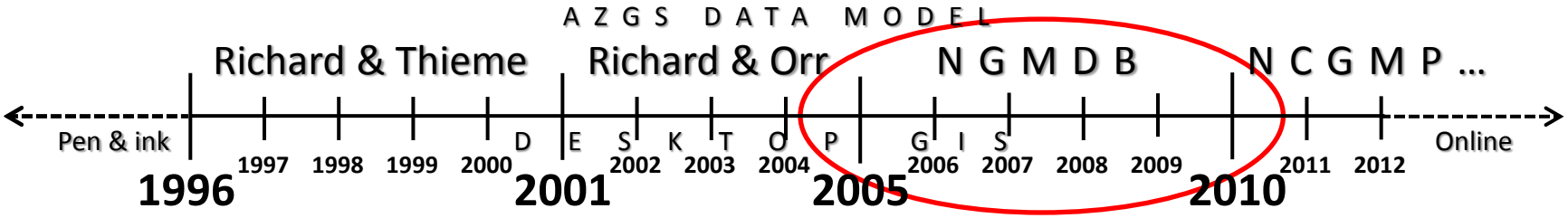
1. denoting software or hardware that has been superseded but is difficult to replace because of its wide use.

Origin

Translated to data preservation…

Case Study:
DM-RM-1 Geologic Map of the San Pedro River, Babocomari River and Aravaipa Creek

- Task:
  - Move data from NGMDB schema to NCGMP schema
  - Standardize classification of things
  - Preserve as much of the original data as possible, including feature-level metadata



San Pedro River Map Stats

Number	Of…
4	fields with classification
17	quads
17	merged datasets
60	days to complete transform
1	happy geologist

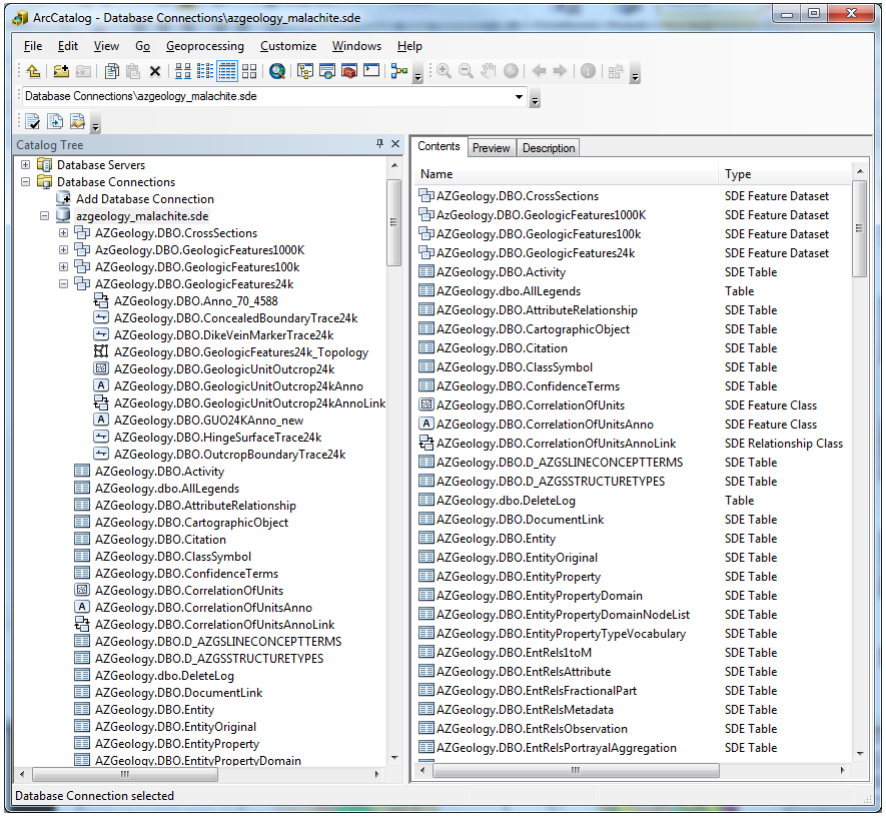
“Managing” the legacy

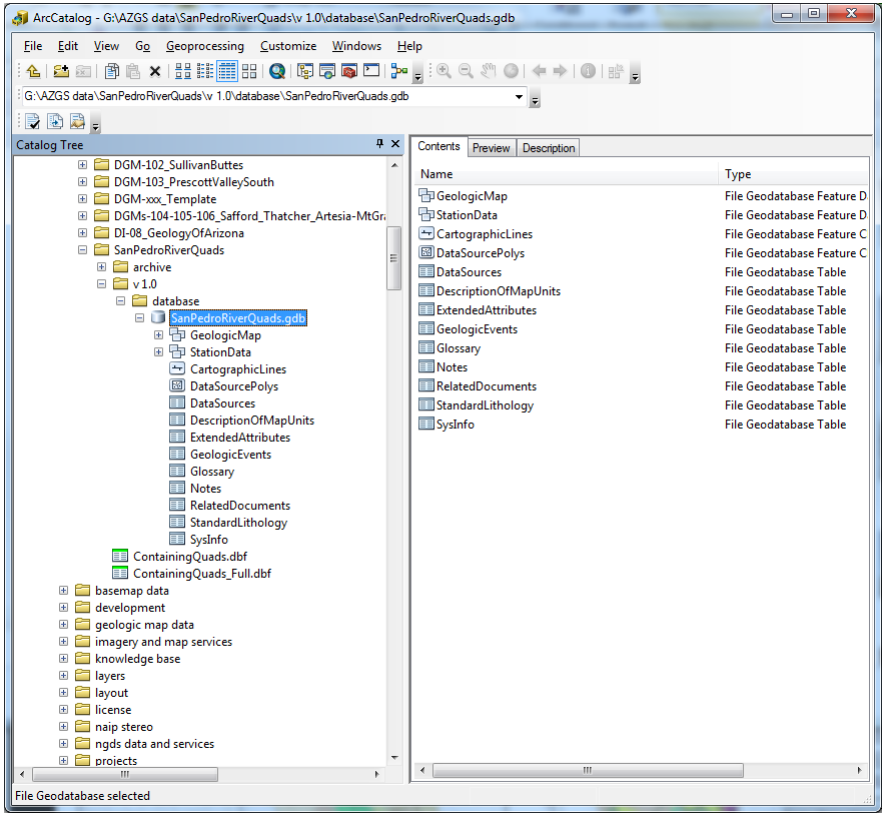
- Digging, as in data archeology…
  - Completing project required a fair amount of time locating all data needed to complete the dataset
  - Asking around the office to complete a full information profile of the NGMDB database schema
- Preserving the legacy (data and metadata)
  - Concatenated 4 fields into a notes field

Into the future

- Mapping old and inconsistent terminology to a specific, documented list of terms
- Ensuring missing information from original dataset is/was acknowledged in transformed dataset

Before & After





Questions?
Comments?

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