

# **Louisiana Coastal Grey Literature Project**

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# Louisiana's Wetland

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- In the continental U.S., Louisiana accounts for 26% of total marshes and 40% of coastal tidal marshes.
- Louisiana is experiences 90% of the total coastal marsh loss in the U.S.



# Rate of Land Loss

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- Each year, Louisiana loses about 25 square miles of land due to coastal erosion. This translates to a loss of one football field of wetland every 38 minutes (DNR).
- Katrina and Rita - 2 days - loss of over 200 miles of wetland.

# Louisiana Coastal Grey Literature Database Project

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**The Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities**

and

**Louisiana State University Libraries**

Began a project in October 2004 to collect and preserve Louisiana coastal grey literature.





# Project Goals

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- Collect, preserve, and allow the public access to Louisiana coastal grey literature
  - Identify grey literature at state and federal agencies, state universities, and private entities
  - Create an online searchable citation database
  - Allow for full-text searching and downloadable full-text documents capabilities

# Project Grey Literature

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- Working papers
- Conference proceedings
- Newsletters
- Bulletins
- State government publications



# Agencies Involved

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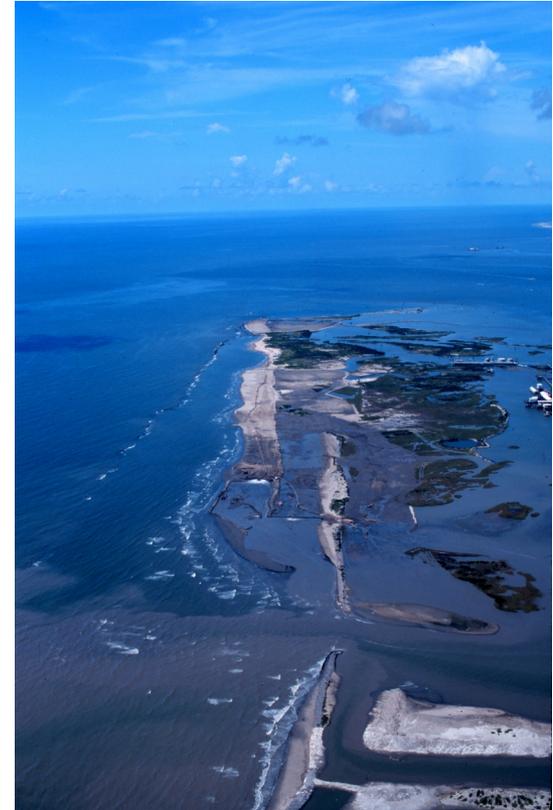
- Established contacts through GOCA and visited the following Agencies



# Resources in Libraries

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- Continually identifying relevant documents at libraries throughout the state



# Online Questionnaire

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- Created an online questionnaire to understand the research preferences of the database target audience



<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/coastal/questionnaire.htm>

# Online Questionnaire

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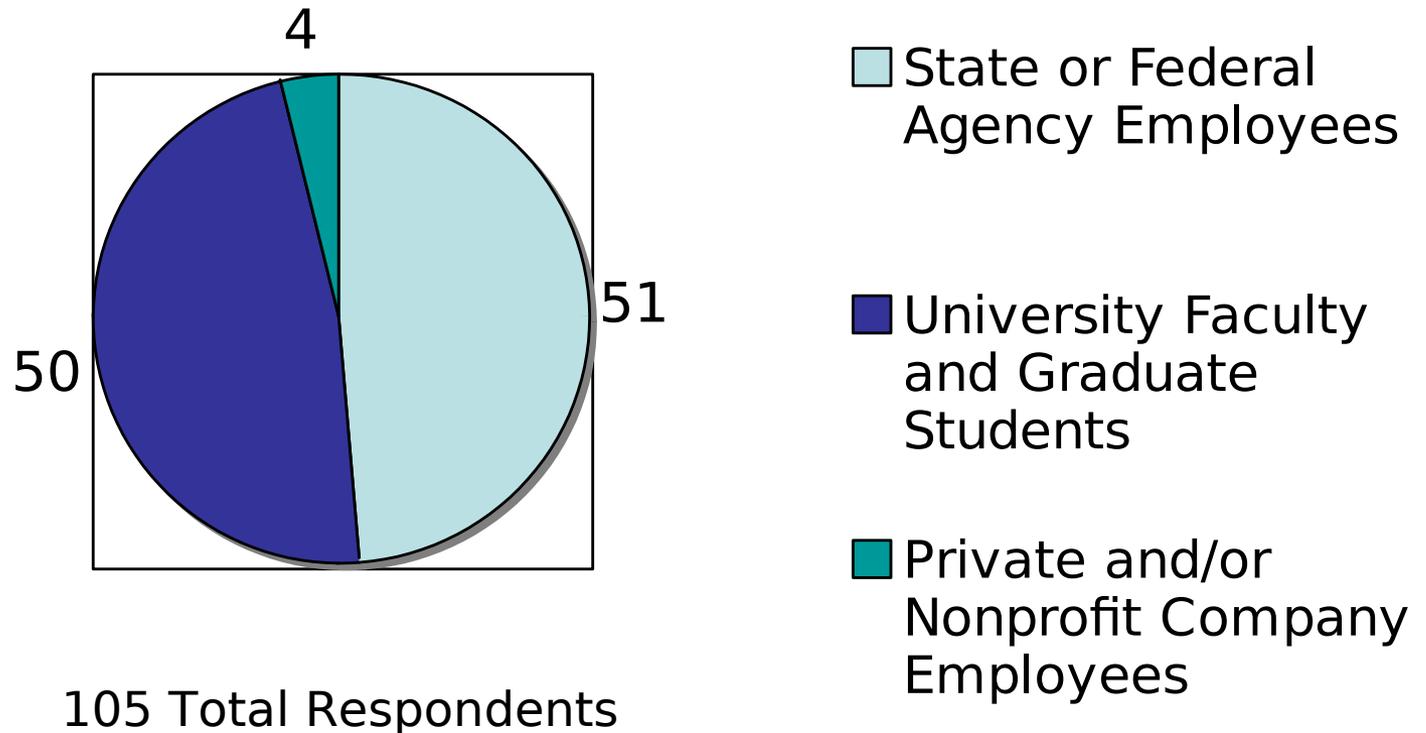
- Questions
  - How he/she conducts research
  - What resources he/she uses
  - What types of grey Literature he/she has used on the job or in research
- Response
  - Of the 360 individuals who received the e-mail, 105 (34%) responded to the questionnaire



# Online Questionnaire

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## Respondents to Questionnaire



# Online Questionnaire

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- Q: *What are your primary sources for information in your research/on the job?*
  - Journal articles - 52 individuals - 75% are in a university setting.
  - Technical/Government reports - 31 individuals. 74% are state or federal government employees
  - Less than 15 people chose the Internet or books as their first research tool.



# Questionnaire Responses

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- 75% of respondents said that there is no limit on the age of materials they use for research
- 92 out of 105 respondents indicated that they would use older research materials if they were more readily available



# Questionnaire Comments

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- I don't have time to search databases that contain extraneous information not focused on the coast or wetlands. Having a focused database will certainly be helpful.
  - DNR employee



# Database

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- Designing a relational metadata database using GridSphere portal software
- Database will be searchable by title, author, agency, and keyword
- Keywords will be cross-referenced and like terms will be linked to each other



# Metadata/Organization Issues

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- Records
  - All records will be bibliographic - citations only
  - Additional metadata about scanning or file type can be added to record later
  - Use metadata from existing records created by libraries state-wide

# Metadata/Organization Issues

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- MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema)
  - Library of Congress metadata schema
  - Uses XML (Extensible Markup Language)
  - Derivative of MARC 21, the library cataloging standard.

# Access Issues

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- The records will list libraries and state agencies that house copies of the documents



# Katrina

and

# Rita

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Project  
Halted





# Lessons Learned

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- More thorough pre-planning
- Explore out of box DB options
- Overcoming 'Programmer language' barrier
- Timelines and deadlines
- Inter-agency cooperation and communication

# Remaining Work

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- Customize the database interface
- Add additional records to the database
- Re-visit the state agencies
- Explore other grey literature resources
- Train users on the database system





# Database

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- Database link if available by the time of the GL8 Conference

Questions?