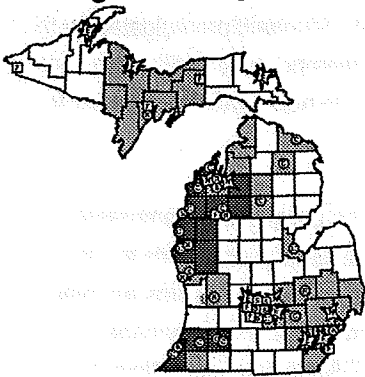


IMAGIN

The GIS Data Sharing Network for Michigan

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Data Sharing in Michigan



IMAGIN is a growing network of organizations and individuals interested in the use and application of geographic information system (GIS) technology in Michigan. Our members are committed to continually improving the quality and availability of digital data necessary to make good use of GIS. We believe that cooperation and open communication are necessary to achieve these objectives.

In little more than two years time, IMAGIN has grown to include over 50 organizations representing all parts of the state. Clearly, a growing number of people recognize the benefits of being part of the state's only GIS data sharing, technical assistance, and standards-setting organization. By joining IMAGIN, members gain access to a community of GIS users and information technology managers. IMAGIN members help each other and share the knowledge gained from experience in this fast changing field. There are also a number of more tangible benefits to IMAGIN membership.

Membership Categories

The IMAGIN Bylaws, as amended in October 1994, provide two categories of membership. The first category, General Member, is intended primarily for individuals, businesses, and corporations. The second category, Data-Sharing Member, is intended for public organizations.

General Member — Individuals and corporations that do not wish to share data, but wish to receive the other benefits of membership and participate in the technical and standard-setting functions of IMAGIN.

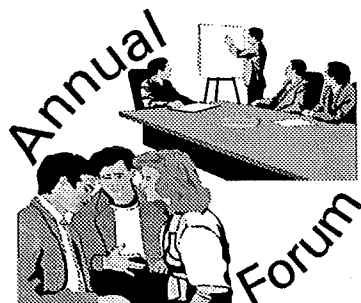
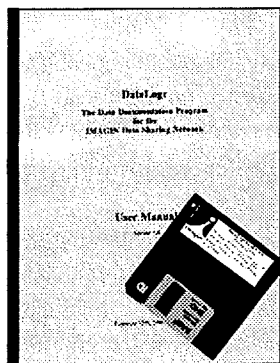
Data-Sharing Member — Public organizations, including approved non-profit groups, that wish to share data with other members according to the terms of the IMAGIN Agreement, receive all of the benefits of membership, and participate in all other functions of IMAGIN.

Benefits to All Members

Access to Portions of the IMAGIN Archive — In 1995, the Library of Michigan will be building the IMAGIN Archive as an on-line, interactive server for electronic access through the Internet. Each member will be able to browse the information concerning the data sets owned and managed by every other member (i.e., the metadata), receive electronic copies of the *IMAGIN Newsletter*, participate in GIS discussions, and exchange digital data files using standard file transfer protocols (FTP).

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Benefits to All Members (cont).



Display Space in Michigan's Electronic Map Access Centers — As part of the IMAGIN Project, the Library of Michigan has constructed public viewing systems for access to the products of GIS. All members are invited to contribute their most interesting map products for display to the public on these Map Access Centers. These public access systems showcase and publicize the work completed by the various members of IMAGIN. Currently, there are four Map Access Centers available to library patrons in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Flint, and Detroit.

Metadata Management Software — Based on funds provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, IMAGIN has developed a unique computer program for developing and maintaining information on each map file. *DataLogr*® provides an easy, menu-driven program for establishing *data documentation*, including the documentation required under the federal *Metadata Standard* promulgated by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). All member organizations receive a copy of this software for free. *DataLogr*® is for sale to non-IMAGIN members for \$85, plus shipping and handling.

Participation In GIS Standards Committees — As a statewide membership organization, IMAGIN has begun developing recommended standards for use in developing and maintaining spatial data in Michigan. These standards are being adopted by member organizations, as needed, to help guide GIS managers throughout the state. IMAGIN has already adopted *Recommended Minimum Standards for Parcel Mapping*. The IMAGIN Board of Directors establishes committees and task groups, as needed, inviting all IMAGIN members to participate.

IMAGIN Newsletter — Each member of IMAGIN receives the *IMAGIN News*, a bi-monthly publication. Regular features include an introduction of new members and the data they bring to the network, news from recent Board and committee meetings, the latest news from the Archive, notes and trends reported in the GIS literature, tips and tricks for working with GIS and related software packages, a listing of upcoming events, and feature stories from and about IMAGIN members and activities.

Annual IMAGIN Forum — Over the last several years, the Annual IMAGIN Forum has become the premier statewide GIS conference. The Fourth Annual IMAGIN Forum took place in April at the Lansing Center. This conference provided plenary sessions with presentations by nationally recognized experts from the GIS industry, representatives from the FGDC, and other state GIS programs. The Forum also featured a series of six break-out sessions (sponsored by three state universities), a regional planning agency, and two federal agencies. These break-out sessions presented important case-study and technical assistance information on topics of interest to all GIS users. In addition, several vendors displayed and demonstrated their products. All Forum participants from IMAGIN member organizations received a \$20 discount on the registration fee, and IMAGIN members registered as vendors received a \$200 discount on the vendor fee. Similar discounts will be offered at the Fifth Annual Forum, scheduled for April 22 and 23, 1996.

Additional Benefits for Data-Sharing Members



Access to Authoritative Digital Data — Each Data-Sharing Member identifies the digital data sets owned and maintained by their organization. This information is provided to all other members directly or through the IMAGIN Archive member information service (i.e., *DataLogr*® files or Metadata). As agreed, IMAGIN members are invited to exchange digital data with every other data-sharing member, using that data as necessary to perform the duties and functions of their organization. Some members find access to the many layers of data within DNR's Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS) to be particularly valuable. As a special benefit, all IMAGIN Data-Sharing Members will receive a free copy of the MIRIS data sets on CD-ROM. Other shared data sets include TIGER and census files, state and federal political district lines, school district lines, oil and gas well locations, and many local parcel, zoning, and natural features maps. The IMAGIN Agreement assures that members will help each other identify errors, update each other's GIS data files, and assist in the proper interpretation of the data.

Membership Fees

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has supported the organization and development of IMAGIN through the IMAGIN Project grant. These grant funds have paid equipment and staff costs for producing the metadata software *DataLogr*, IMAGIN documents (e.g., IMAGIN Newsletters, membership mailings), training and technical assistance, and supporting standards committees. This year, Kellogg Foundation funds will pay the equipment and software development costs to establish an *on-line* IMAGIN Archive available to members through the *Internet*. However, these grant funds will run out in 1995. Although member organizations will continue to provide some staff support, the members of IMAGIN must provide the majority of their own funding. Therefore, the IMAGIN Board of Directors, as authorized in the IMAGIN Bylaws, has established membership fees to defray future costs.

The following is the schedule of annual membership fees adopted by the IMAGIN Board of Directors in December 1994.

General Members (Non-Data Sharing Members)

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Individual Member | \$175 per Year |
| Eligibility: | Any individual | |
| Benefits: | IMAGIN Newsletter; Participation in member events and technical advisory committees; Access to member information and metadata catalog; Access to on-line IMAGIN Archive e-mail and other non-data services; Reduced IMAGIN Forum registration fee for one person. | |
| | Corporate Member | \$450 per Year |
| Eligibility: | Any legal entity | |
| Benefits: | IMAGIN Newsletter; Participation in member events and technical advisory committees; Eligibility to serve on the IMAGIN Board of Directors; Access to member information and metadata catalog; Access to on-line IMAGIN Archive e-mail and other non-data services; Reduced IMAGIN Forum registrations fees for all employees; Reduced IMAGIN Forum fee for vendor display area (approximately \$200 savings); and a free copy of <i>DataLogr</i> ® with a member/agency-wide license. | |

IMAGIN Data-Sharing Network

Board of Directors

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MSHDA*

Vice President

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University*

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Northwest Michigan Council of
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*Michael Dunlap, Eastern
Michigan University*

*Linda Anderson, Wexford
County*

*William Enslin, Michigan State
University*

*Mike Beaulac, Department of
Natural Resources*

*Kathleen Menanteaux, Library
of Michigan*

Data-Sharing Members:

Small Organizations

\$225 per Year

Eligibility: K-12 Schools and Intermediate School Districts; County and Sub-County Government Agencies representing areas of less than 60,000 people; Regional or multi-county agencies with fewer than 20 employees; and Approved Non-Profit Organizations with fewer than 20 employees.

Benefits: Same as Corporate Members noted above, **plus** full access to the on-line IMAGIN Archive and all data shared by the membership.

Large Organizations

\$450 per Year

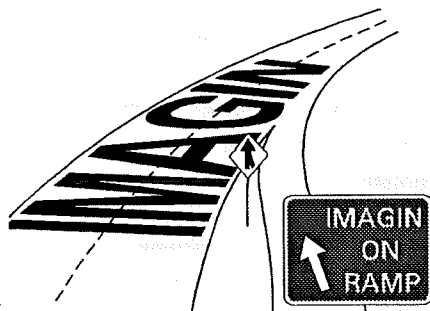
Eligibility: Federal and State Agencies; Colleges and Universities; County and Sub-County Government Agencies representing areas of more than 60,000 people; Regional or multi-county agencies with 20 or more employees; and Approved Non-Profit Organizations with 20 or more employees.

Benefits: Same as Corporate Members noted above, **plus** full access to the on-line IMAGIN Archive and all data shared by the membership.

Beginning July 1, 1995, all organizations will be assessed the appropriate fee when joining IMAGIN. All current IMAGIN members will have until October 30, 1995 to submit the first year's fees. In the future, dues will be collected for a fiscal year that begins October 1st and ends the following September 30th.

Throughout the year, IMAGIN members will be given opportunities to participate in new training sessions and special workshops on different aspects of GIS data capture, management, and sharing. Several task groups will be working on new GIS standards. In addition, the DNR will lead IMAGIN in efforts to begin acquiring digital orthophotography coverage for the whole state. These and the other activities of IMAGIN are important and valuable contributions to the development

To Become a Member:



To become an IMAGIN member, you and your organization (if applicable) will need to fill out the IMAGIN Membership Information form completely. This form will provide other IMAGIN members more information about who you are and your interest in GIS. Public organizations that wish to be Data-Sharing Members, must also sign the IMAGIN Data Sharing Agreement. Applications are submitted to the membership committee with the appropriate membership fee. The membership committee will review your materials and respond within six weeks. If for any reason membership is not approved, your fee will be refunded. To receive an application for membership to IMAGIN, contact the Science and Technology Division, Legislative Service Bureau at:

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-3028

