



GRID3

Training course:

GIS Data Preparation and Management

GIS Data Preparation and Management

Presentation outline:

- Data quality – the critical element in GIS
- Data acquisition and inspection
- Good data management practice:
 - Data storage, documentation, preparation and cleaning, dissemination, archival
- Choosing spatial data format



The Power of Data – the critical element in GIS

The combination of GIS software with modern computing capabilities holds **enormous** potential for analysing and understanding the world around us...

BUT it all depends on the data!

Remember... 'G.I.G.O.' – “Garbage in, garbage out!”

- 'Dirty Data' – significant volumes of data are discarded on initial inspection, because they are in some way incomplete or inconsistent
 - Globally, on average, companies estimate **26%** of their data to be 'dirty'
 - Human error is considered as the dominant cause in over **60%** of cases
 - Key factors include poor internal communications and protocols, lack of training, inexperience with data collection



[Source: Experian Data Quality research](#)



The Power of Data – the critical element in GIS

Datasets may exist... **BUT** are they suitable for use?

Information may be:

- Out of date
- Incomplete
- Spatially incorrect
- Factually incorrect
- Generated at a scale that is not appropriate to your study

It is important to recognise that a GIS is not a “miracle machine.”
You should **critically assess any data** that is being considered for use.



Acquiring GIS data: inspect, transform, integrate



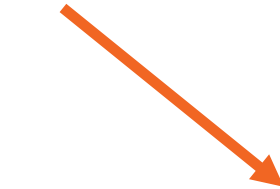
Primary data
(e.g. survey)



Tabular data
(Database tables,
CSVs etc.)



Non-digital data
(paper maps)



Inspection
Transformation
Integration



Consistent,
standardised GIS
data for analysis
and visualisation



Data quality: prepare and 'clean' input data

Before undertaking any spatial analysis, it is **critical** to make sure that your data is “**clean**”

Clean means:

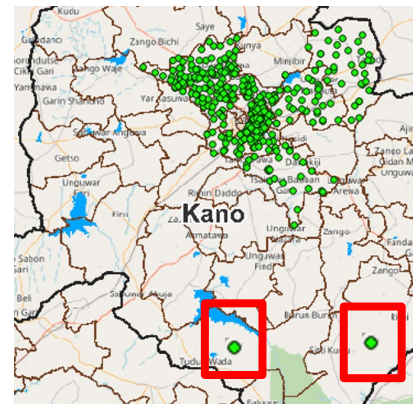
- Data is **fully** attributed
- Attributes are **consistent**
- No obvious **spatial** referencing errors
- **Metadata** exists, recording all known relevant information on the data

wardname	wardcode	lganame
Tsamiya Babba	KN1708	NULL
NULL	KN1708	NULL
Naibawa	KN2510	NULL
Zogarawa	NULL	Dawakin Kudu
Yarqaya	KN0914	Dawakin Kudu

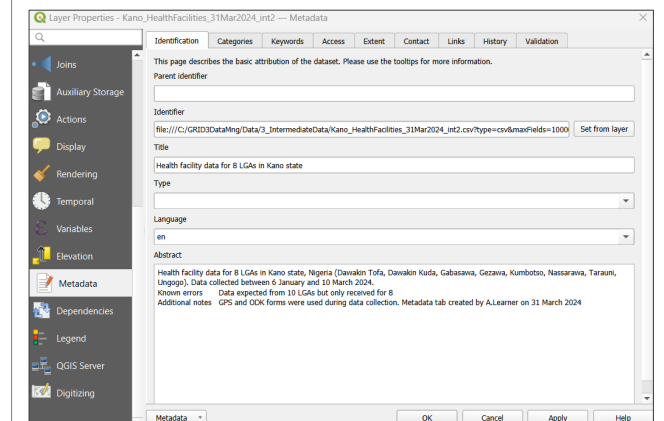
Missing values or misspelt words

30/04/171 100.123
30/4/1971 100,123
30thApril71 100.123%
30:4:71
?th April 17
Apr-71-30

Inconsistent values make data queries impossible



Point locations noticeably outside study area



Poor metadata causes misunderstanding



Good practice in GIS data management

Why establish **standard procedures** within your teams to regulate data acquisition, QA, documentation, storage and archival?

- Increase awareness and use of relevant datasets
- A method of catching and eliminating data errors, as early as possible
- Establish an audit trail of how and when data are used in a project
- It is the **key to working effectively** in GIS, across teams and wider partners

“Data is a precious thing and will last longer than the systems themselves”

Tim Berners-Lee

“Data that sit unused are no different from data that were never collected in the first place”

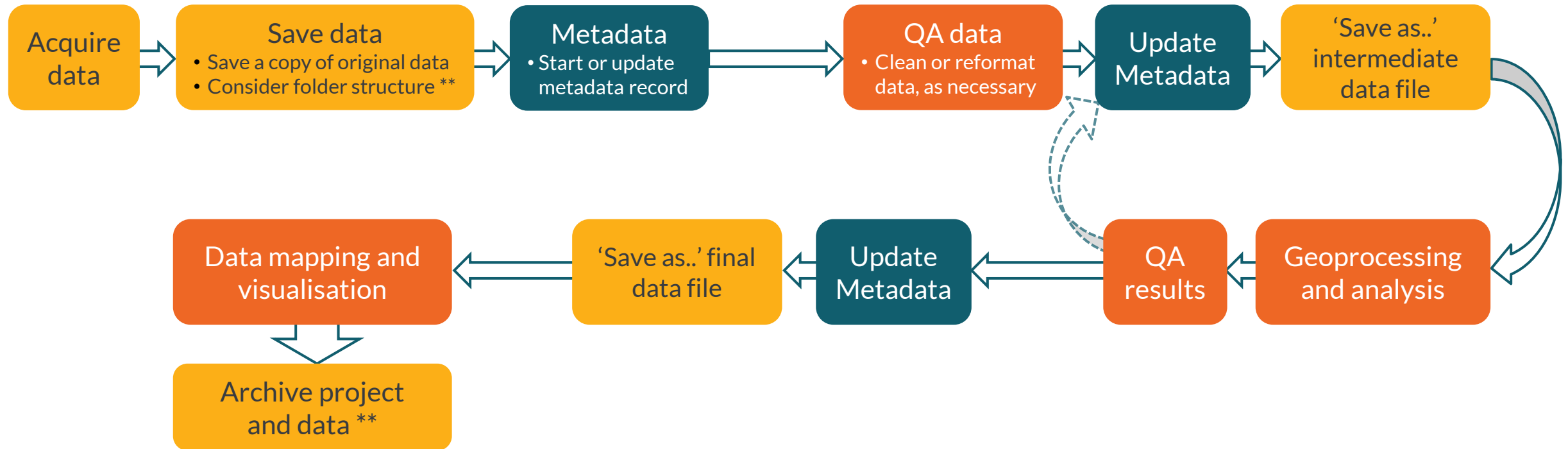
Doug Fisher



The GRID3 GIS data cycle

Standardise your data management procedures

- File and folder management
- Data documentation
- Working on the data



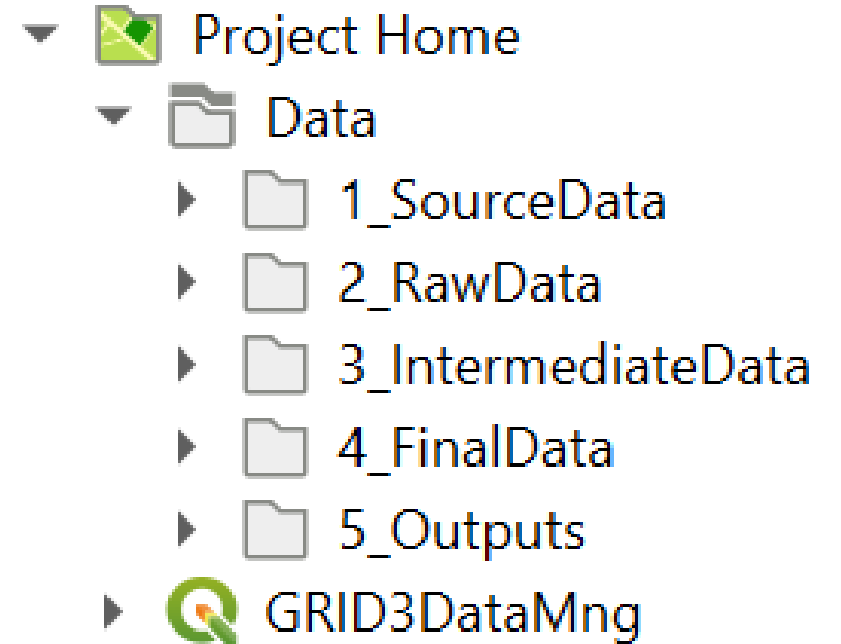
- Individuals and teams should follow **consistent procedures at each stage** of the cycle
- Management should provide guidance, documentation and training to all data users
- ** Think about the long-term when creating folder structures and archiving projects – to ensure these resources are visible and accessible to colleagues and future users



Good practice: Saving and storing your data

GIS project folder structure:

- Not one-size-fits-all! Customise the structure according to **your** team/Project requirements
- Once the structure and approach is agreed, it should be adopted and maintained by **all team members**
- Always consider the **long-term** when planning folder structures and data protocols – ensure visibility, access and reuse of the data over time



Example of a typical folder structure
(used in GRID3 projects)



Good practice: Saving and storing your data

GIS file naming considerations:

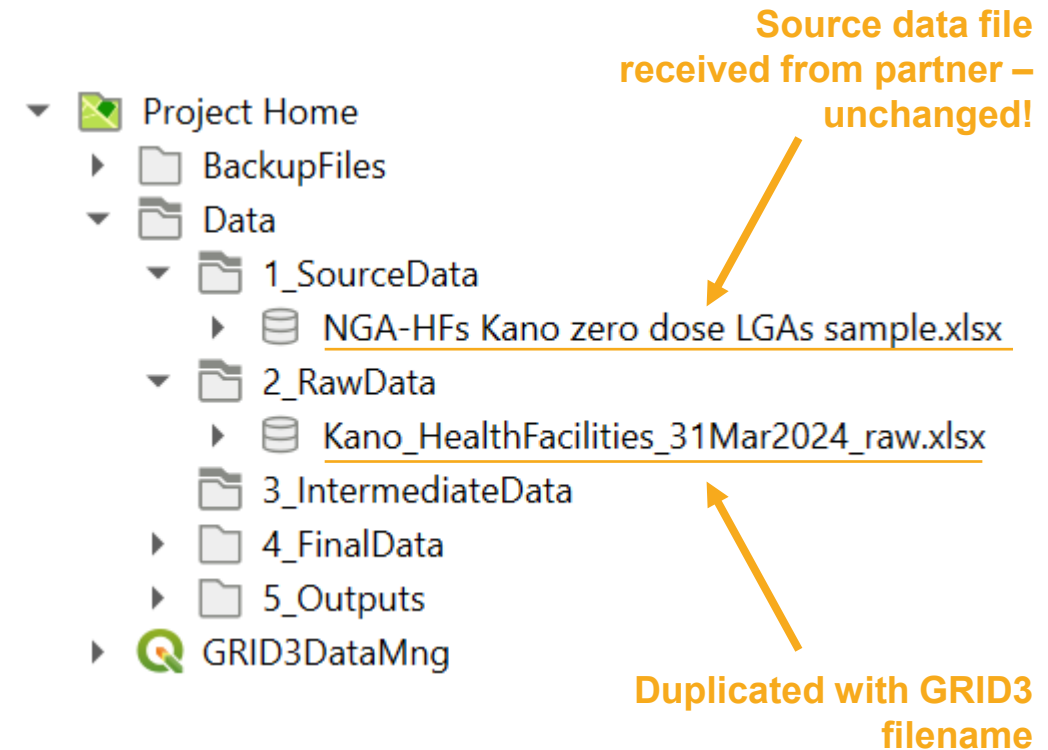
- Avoid spaces, periods, hyphens, parentheses, brackets and other special characters, e.g. \$, %, @, etc.
- Use acronyms sparingly
- Avoid using reserved database keywords*
- Filenames should be **concise** and **informative**
- If separating words, use underscore (one_two), or 'camelCase'

GRID3 file naming conventions

Database reserved keywords

* If using the following spatial databases, you should avoid particular words in your filenames which relate to specific functions in the database: [GeoPackage \(SQLite Database\)](#) | [ESRI Geodatabase](#)

Note: the restriction also applies to the naming of column headers!



Good practice: Documenting your data (Metadata)

What is the value of metadata?

- Vital information about data and how they were collected
- Method for reporting known limitations of data, i.e.
 - Data currency (when data was generated)
 - Accuracy
 - Completeness
 - Error
- Data provenance
 - Provides an audit trail of collection, reformatting & analysis processes applied to the data

Date created	7 February 2024
Created by	Ms A. Learner, Junior data scientist, GRID3
Details	Health facility data for 8 LGAs in Kano state, Nigeria. Data collected between 6 January and 10 March 2024.
Date updated	7 March 2024
Edits made	Health facility categories updated
Version	2.1
Data source	Collected by LGA survey teams during 2024 measles campaign
CRS	WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30
Terms of use	For open external use
Known errors	Data expected from 10 LGAs; received only 8
Additional notes	GPS and ODK forms were used during data collection. Metadata tab created by A.Learner on 31 March 2024

Metadata provides a basis for sound decision making!

An example metadata record



Good practice: Data cleaning for GIS

Non-spatial data can be 'cleaned' using a range of software applications

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	uniq_id	13028	34627	34646	34656	34657	35090	35092	35103
2	timestamp	15/11/2019	15/11/2019	06/12/2019	15/11/2019	18/12/2018	15/11/2019	15/11/2019	15/11/2019
3	latitude	11.83572	11.67038329	11.7745	11.83932857	11.89984681	11.85481215	11.84732263	11.86952098
4	longitude	8.59633	8.677507377	8.76256	8.595583049	8.663469086	8.529118942	8.530283841	8.536781725
5	wardname	Dawaki	Dabar Kwari	Dosan	Dawaki	Yargaya	Tanburawa	Tanburawa	Tanburawa
6	wardcode	KN0903	KN0901	KN0905	KN0903	KN0914	KN0909	KN0909	KN0909
7	lganame	Dawakin Kudu	Dawakin Kudu	Dawakin Kudu	Dawakin Kudu	Dawakin Kudu	Dawakin Kudu	Dawakin Kudu	Dawakin Kudu
8	lgacode	20022	20022	20022	20022	20022	20022	20022	20022
9	statename	Kano	Kano	kano	Kano	Kano	Kano	Kano	Kano
10	statecode	KN	KN	KN	KN	KN	KN	KN	KN
11	updated_on	2019/03/01	2019/03/01	2019/03/01	2019/03/01	2019/03/01	01/03/2019	01/03/2019	01/03/2019
12	func_stats	Functional	Functional	Functional	Functional				
13	category	Primary Health Center	Dispensary	Dispensary	Primary Health Center				
14	ownership	Private	National Primary Healthcare Development Agency	Others	National Primary Healthcare Development Agency				
15	type	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary				
16	source	Measles Campaign	eHA Polio	eHA Polio	Measles Campaign				
17	prmry_name	Dawaki Health Center	Fanido Health Post	Kamagata Dispensary	Jido Primary Health Center				
18									
		Dawakin Tofa	Dawakin Kudu	Gabasawa	Gezawa	K			

- An example of a common problem – source data organised by column (often exported from a content management system)
- GIS import requires items to be organised by row
- Data must be **transposed** (in Excel or equivalent)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	uniq_id	timestamp	latitude	longitude	wardname	wardcode	lganame	lgacode	statename	statecode	updated_on	func_stats	category
2	13028	15/11/2019	11.83572	8.59633	Dawaki	KN0903	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Center
3	34627	15/11/2019	11.67038329	8.677507377	Dabar Kwari	KN0901	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
4	34646	06/12/2019	11.7745	8.76256	Dosan	KN0905	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
5	34656	15/11/2019	11.83932857	8.595583049	Dawaki	KN0903	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Center
6	34657	18/12/2018	11.89984681	8.663469086	Yargaya	KN0914	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Center
7	35090	15/11/2019	11.85481215	8.529118942	Tanburawa	KN0909	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
8	35092	15/11/2019	11.84732263	8.530283841	Tanburawa	KN0909	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
9	35103	15/11/2019	11.86952098	8.536781725	Tanburawa	KN0909	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
10	35126	15/11/2019	11.88159582	8.552826668	Gurjiya	KN0907	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
11	35171	15/11/2019	11.842823	8.598307	Dawaki	KN0903	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Center
12	35181	15/11/2019	11.90924779	8.616618305	Yankatsari	KN0913	Dawakin Kudu	20022	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary



Good practice: Data cleaning for GIS

Considerations for cleaning non-spatial data:

- The following are not supported in GIS: merged cells, titles, captions
- field headers should contain no more than 10 characters and no unusual characters (e.g. &, %, £, etc.)
- Investigate duplicated or missing rows
- Remove blank or redundant rows/columns
- Cell values:
 - What is the intended data type of each column?
Text? Numeric? Integer? Date?
 - Are the cell characters consistent with the data type?
 - 1000 or 1000?
 - 13th Feb 24 or 13/02/2024?
 - Remove trailing- and double-spaces
 - Consistent capitalisation?

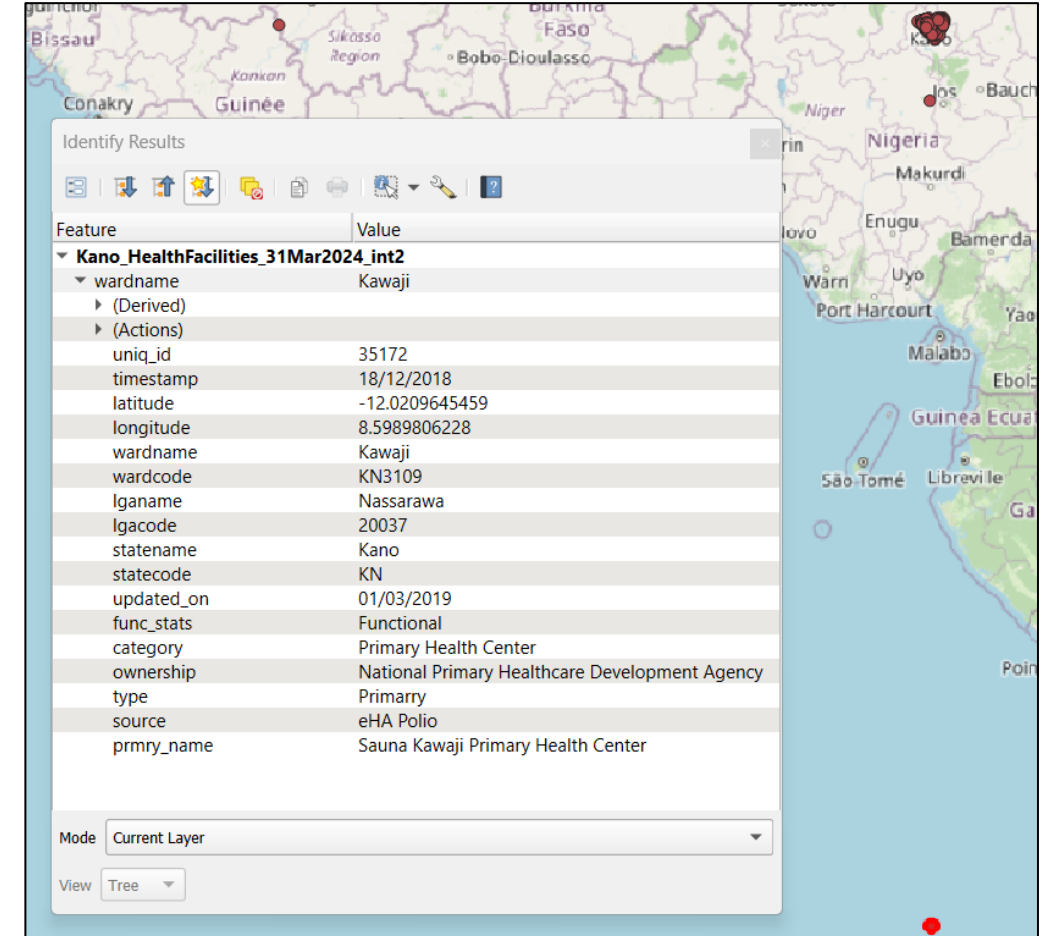
Gazewa LGA primary, secondary, and tertiary health care facility points and names.												
uniq_id	timestamp	editor	latitude (*DD) and longitude (*DD)	wardname	wardcode	lganame	lgacode	statename	statecode	updated_on	Functional status	category
8347	#####	mokobia.chidinm	12.05	8.74 Ketawa	KN1705	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
13160	#####	tosin.williams	11.98907471	8.76550293 Tumbau	KN1709	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
13184	#####	tosin.williams	12.012756	8.749386 Gawo	KN1702	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
13219	#####	tosin.williams	11.992912	8.81153 Tumbau	KN1709	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
31486	#####	tosin.williams	12.020503	8.712401 Jigana	KN1704	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
34664	#####	tosin.williams	12.04364537	8.789695127 Wangara	KN1710	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
34665	#####	tosin.williams	11.983936	8.623301392 Tsamiya Babb	KN1708	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
34700	#####	tosin.williams	12.07749952	8.67773316 Zango	KN1711	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35185	#####	tosin.williams	12.016541	8.628572 Babawa	KN1701	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35195	#####	tosin.williams	12.13275242	8.649587725 Mesar Tudu	KN1706	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35200	#####	tosin.williams	12.08974696	8.654898725 Zango	KN1711	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35201	#####	tosin.williams	12.0330917	8.661591478 Tsamiya Babb	KN1708	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35205	#####	tosin.williams	12.026	8.673354 Jigana	KN1704	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35212	#####	tosin.williams	12.093491	8.685254 Zango	KN1711	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35219	#####	tosin.williams	12.026284	8.698632 Jigana	KN1704	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35220	#####	tosin.williams	12.05278311	8.701261377 Zango	KN1711	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35222	#####	tosin.williams	12.080634	8.714985 Zango	KN1711	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35233	#####	tosin.williams	11.985135	8.73479 Gawo	KN1702	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35236	#####	tosin.williams	12.145325	8.741825 Mesar Tudu	KN1706	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35239	#####	tosin.williams	12.068394	8.750792 Ketawa	KN1705	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35240	#####	tosin.williams	12.100511	8.751073 Gezawa	KN1703	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35244	#####	tosin.williams	12.096271	8.754657 Gezawa	KN1703	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Maternity Home
35247	#####	tosin.williams	11.991586	8.764332 Tumbau	KN1709	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35469	#####	tosin.williams	12.037219	8.763453 Wangara	KN1710	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
35571	#####	tosin.williams	12.05799851	8.66027597 Babawa	KN1701	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
35572	#####	tosin.williams	11.993569	8.662101 Tsamiya Babb	KN1708	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
35598	#####	tosin.williams	12.116114	8.730628 Mesar Tudu	KN1706	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
35624	#####	tosin.williams	12.019875	8.747844 Gawo	KN1702	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Primary Health Cent
35625	#####	tosin.williams	12.088102	8.751995 Ketawa	KN1705	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	General Hospital
35730	#####	tosin.williams	11.98348863	8.621238087 Tsamiya Babb	KN1708	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary
35734	#####	tosin.williams	12.123433	8.721703 Mesar Tudu	KN1706	Gezawa	20010	Kano	KN	01/03/2019	Functional	Dispensary



Good practice: Data cleaning for GIS

Considerations for cleaning spatial data:

- Coordinate system/map projection – is your GIS project set to the same coordinate system as used by the data capture device?
- Do your point locations fall within expected administrative boundaries, or settlement extents?
- Missing attributes? Can you use the location of a feature to fill in missing information?
- Search for duplicate locations using geoprocessing tools

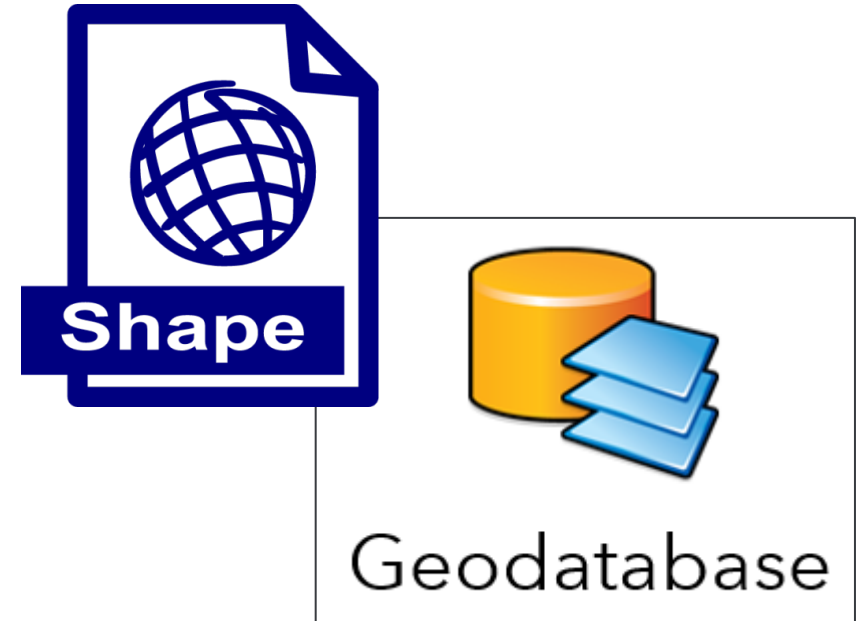


Choosing spatial data format

What are most commonly used formats?



geopackage.org



esri.com



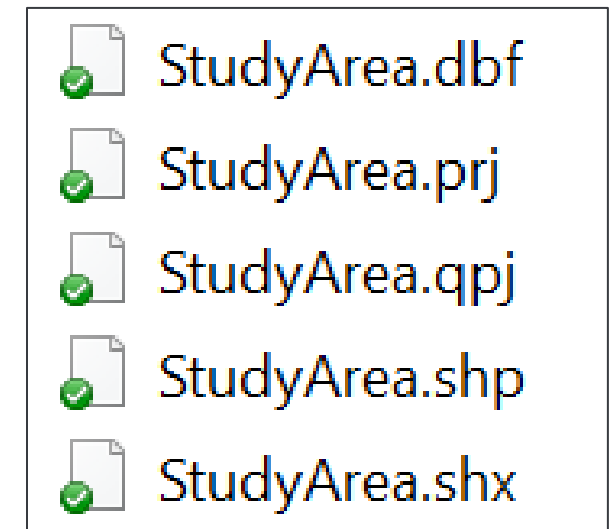
Choosing spatial data format: Shapefile (SHP)

Advantages:

- Universally recognised
- Simple structure, easily shared, good for newcomers

Disadvantages:

- Doesn't handle large data volumes very well – 2GB limit!
- Cumbersome file management:
 - It's not a single file, but a collection of components files
 - Metadata must be stored in a separate file (.txt, .xls, etc.)
- One shapefile holds just **one geometry type** – point, line or polygon
- Limited for international/multilingual data (i.e. non-ASCII character sets)



*The structure of a shapefile;
multiple components files*



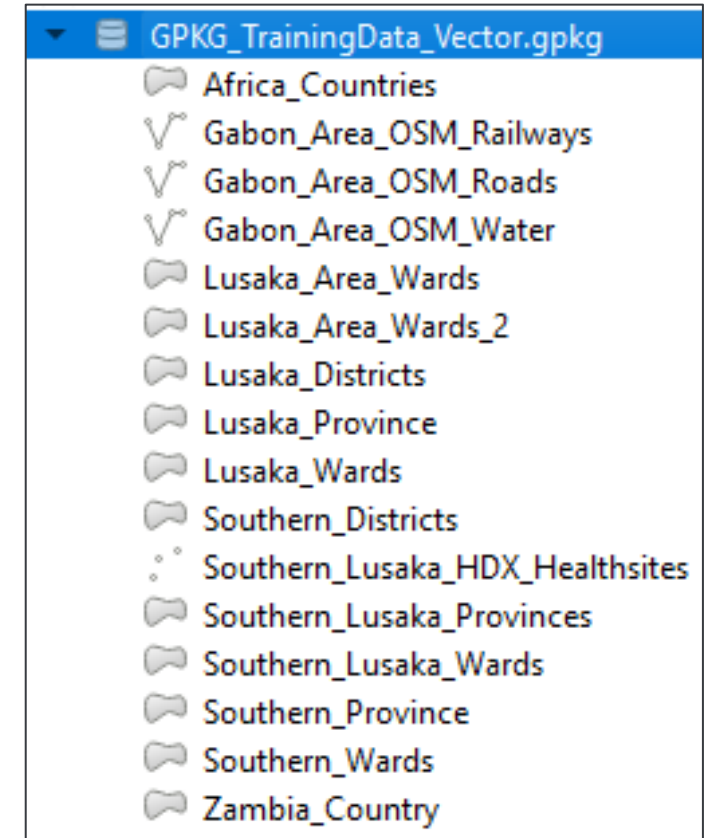
Choosing spatial data format: GeoPackage (GPKG)

Advantages:

- Everything is contained in a **single file**, containing multiple spatial datasets
- Suitable for large-scale projects and can hold **massive data volumes**
 - Efficient and quick loading, rendering, planning and zooming
- GeoPackage **supports raster and vector** data seamlessly, plus tile data
- GeoPackage provides **full metadata integration**
- Broad compatibility (ArcGIS, GDAL, QGIS, R, Python)
- **Handles international and multilingual data** (Unicode character encoding)

Disadvantages:

- More involved, a steeper learning curve for new users
- Potential compatibility issues with old software



*The structure of a GeoPackage;
Single file containing multiple
spatial datasets*



Choosing spatial data format: File Geodatabase (FGDB)

Note: ESRI File Geodatabase was developed for use in ArcGIS software applications

Considerations for the QGIS user:

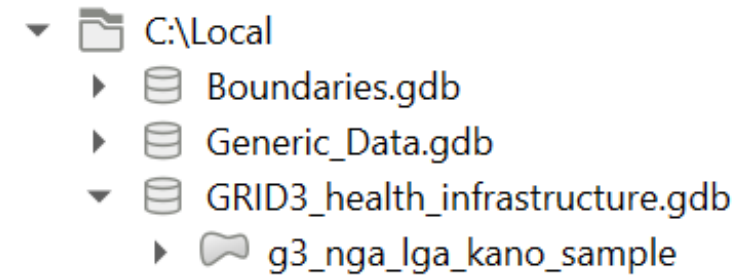
- If you are working solely in QGIS, you should adopt GeoPackage
- However, some teams contain both QGIS users and ArcGIS users!
- Recent QGIS installations come with the *openfilegdb* driver, enabling a level of access and use of FGDB; **note the following:**

YOU CAN:

- Read and write to an **existing FGDB**
- Export data from QGIS and create a **new FGDB** to hold the data

YOU CANNOT:

- Export your data as a new layer into an existing GDB!



QGIS users can explore Geodatabases directly from the Browser panel



GIS Data Preparation and Management

Wrap up and summary:

- Data is central to working effectively in GIS
- **Investigate** data thoroughly and **critically assess** its suitability and limitations for a given project
- Implement or follow **agreed protocols** within your teams, at all stages of the data cycle
- Consider alternative spatial data formats
- Think about the **long-term** in your data management strategy!





GRID3

GIS Data Preparation and Management

*Now post your questions and comments in the
course discussion forum!*