GIS Seminar Session 9

1. Today’s session is about how and where to obtain GIS data and what kind of data is available. So far, we have used shapefiles, grids, and images. There are a number of other file formats that you may encounter, but they are all variations of these three.
2. The first site we will explore is MassGIS [http://www.mass.gov/](http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/) . Scroll down and click on Get MassGIS data, then click on Browse all MassGIS Data. Scroll down the page to explore the variety of images and shapefiles. Once you have seen what types of data are available, use the back arrow on the browser and this time click on View and download data in OLIVER. You can use the toolbar at the top and the file folders on the right to make a map or download data.
3. A web search for GIS and a state name should enable you to find a statewide GIS data repository for nearly every state in the union. New Hampshire has a site similar to MassGIS named GRANIT, hosted by The University of New Hampshire at: <http://www.granit.unh.edu> .
4. An organization named geo community hosts some limited shapefile data for almost every country in the world, and quite a bit of data for most countries. Their website is <http://data.geocomm.com/> , and you have to sign up for a free account to be able to download any data. Much of the downloadable data is free, but some of it can only be downloaded if you have a premium account and purchase blocks of download capacity (i.e. 50 GB).
5. The USGS: <https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/gis-data> has a lot of useful data that is available for download or purchase. The USGS also has a complete set of Topo Sheets for the entire US that can be downloaded for free from the Products/Maps section of the USGS Store: [https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/40.01/-100.06](https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/%234/40.01/-100.06)
6. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA has satellite imagery that you can browse and download from their ASTER (Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Radar Radiometer) website: <http://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/> . They also have GDEM (Global Digital Elevation Map) data available for free download at: <https://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/gdem.asp>
7. Additional web searches will lead you to numerous other websites offering almost any type of GIS data that you may need - some of it free, and some for a fee.