

48 District Web Sites Examined

January 26, 2005

ITAC

Georgia

February 2005

Microsoft Excel - DistrictWebsiteScan.xls

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

Arial 10 B I U

N44 Mailto to group

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	District	Natweb Virtual Host	NatWeb Reverse Proxy	Science Center	Water Resources of ..	NWMSWeb Brand	Annual Data Report	Flood/Drought Watch	Water Use	Water Sci. for Schools	FAQ's	Projects/Program	Publications	Contact webmaster	VisID Compliant
1															
2		1			1	1	1	1	1			1	1	Mailto to group	yes
3			1	1		1	1					1	1	Mailto to group	part
4		1			1	1	1			1	1	1	1	Ask USGS	yes
5					1		1		1	1		1	1	cgi to group	yes
6		1			1	1	1			1		1	1	Mailto to group	yes
7			1		1		1	1				1	1	Mailto to group	yes
8		1			1	1	1				1	1	1	Mailto to individual	part
9		1		1			1	1	1			1	1	Mailto to group	yes
10		1			1		1	1	1			1	1	Mailto to group	yes
11		1			1					1		1	1	Contact USGS	yes
12		1			1	1	1	1	1			1	1	Mailto to individual	yes

Sheet1 Sheet2 Sheet3

Ready

The Good

- All sites clearly belonged to USGS and served the same purpose
 - Fair to say USGS has a water page for each State.
- Each site tailored its focus towards data or projects to meet local interest

The Bad

- **Many sites did not seem to know how to tie into national programs and activities.**
 - **Water use and annual data report shown inconsistently or not at all**
 - **Only 28 sites referred to “NWISWeb”**
 - **Only 4 use “Contact USGS” for feedback**

The Ugly

- A few showed a lack of understanding of web design principles.
- Broken links or links to obsolete functions on some sites indicated a lack of maintenance.

Home Page Identification

- Evolution into science centers is eroding identify as “Water Resources of ...”
 - 8 “Science Center”
 - 39 “Water Resources of ...”
 - 1 “District”

Common Elements

- 28 used “NWISWeb”
- 26 used “Flood/Drought/Water Watch”
- 45 had descriptions of projects or programs
- 46 offered publications for their State(s)
- 38 offered the Annual Data Report
- 10 had FAQ’s
- 15 had links to Water Use for their State(s)
- 18 had links to Water Science for Schools

Visual Identity

- All used the VisID and most followed the rules ... more or less
- 14 had technical violations of VisID
 - Non-standard version of USGS mark
 - Text within the banner

Feedback

- 27 *mailto* group
- 11 *cgi* script or *comment_h2o*
- 4 *mailto* individual
- 4 Contact USGS (Preferred!)
- 1 no email contact information(!)
- 1 obsolete Ask USGS address

NatWeb

- 34 virtual hosts
- 11 reverse proxy
- 3 did not use NatWeb

Issues for Discussion

- Water template or Enterprise Web?
- How are websites funded?
- Why poor design? How to upgrade?
- Checklist?
- VisID training?
- Make aware of Contact USGS?
- When should not use NatWeb?