Minnesota Metadata Editor (MME) Issues Shortlist

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### ISSUE STATUS KEY

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Met Council agrees to repair/correct |
|  | MnGeo action required |
|  | MnGeo believes repair/correction important; Met Council not a source for remedy |
|  | Waiting for action |
|  | No further action required |

### STATUS DESCRIPTION

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| --- | --- |
| F | Users often get a “Navigation to the webpage was canceled” error when they click on Help -> Contents, since the help file display (CHM format) is problematic for Windows. Agreed solution is to remove the help from MME and put it online.  **ACTION:** MnGeo has put the PDF help file online. Jim can now remove CHM help file from MME, and point the Help button to the online PDF. |
| U | Since we are only distributing and supporting the **portable** version of MME, remove references to the **installed** version of the editor and to the ArcGIS stylesheets from the installation instructions and the Help file.  **ACTION:** Met Council agrees. |
| T | Change installation folder name to “MME” from “MnGeo”.  **ACTION:** Met Council agrees. |
| I | Change Spatial Extent of Data field to a text box, not a single line text entry box.  **ACTION:** Yes, good idea. This should be fixed. (Jim) |
| L | Add https:// to the list of URLS that are hot-linked.  **ACTION:** Met Council agrees. |
| N | Display the initial part of the URL in the hotlink (e.g., the “http://” and “ftp://” parts). This would save a step of retyping them back in when cutting-and-pasting a URL from an existing record to a new record.  **ACTION:** Met Council agrees. |
| J | Add fields for Vertical Datum. Jim's Comments: Yes, good idea. These should be added. But I'm not sure where and under what tag structure. More research needed and a specification needs to be created for the two fields: FGDC Identifier 4.2.1.1 Altitude Datum and 4.2.1.3 Altitude Units. **ACTION**: MnGeo will provide tags, structure and menu choices after checking menu choices with Pete Jenkins. |
| D | Using “Tools -> Refresh From Database” sometimes deletes the contents from the “Online Linkage” field. Have not yet figured out a pattern of when this happens.  **ACTION:** We should fix this. (Jim G.) |
| P | Data.gov requires that the field “Address Type” always be filled.  **ACTION:** Mark K says they will look for a fix, perhaps simply hard coding “Mailing and Physical” in each record. |
| B | The workflow and terminology is unclear in the “Add detailed entity and attribute information” section, e.g., in the Detailed tab, information entered into “Label” area of the Table(s) and Field(s) sections disappears (Matt Koukol, Ramsey Co.). Hal has provided a clear workflow explanation that solved the problem.  **ACTION:** Steve and Nancy will add Hal’s explanation to the help and training materials. |
| S | Rewrite the boilerplate text now provided in “Online Linkage” in the html. Current text says that data can be downloaded, which is confusing when describing anything that is not downloadable, especially services. Replace with text referring people to Ordering Instructions for those specific details. Mark indicates the change will be made to the XSLT file; it can also be customized for individual metadata records.  **ACTION:** MnGeo will follow up with Met C by providing suggested language referring people to the Ordering Instructions. Could also add directions for customizing the XSLT for anyone who wishes to adapt the wording for their organization. |
| H | Format of XML output: MME strings a whole bunch of tags together into one long line. The tool we used previously (wmeta32.exe, written by Pete Olson) created an xml with a single tag per line, then a linebreak. When everything is on one line, it is harder to read. Also, when you index a record using the Z39.50, the tags are not recognized, titles do not appear correctly on the search results page, and the search does not work because the tags were not recognized.  Pete’s fix in linux (where we index our records) is the ‘tidy’ command:  o tidy –xml –m filename.xml (to replace the old xml file with the cleaned up one) OR  o tidy –xml > newfilename.xml (to create a new xml file with a new name, preserving the old one)  **ACTION:** Chris and Nancy will contact Susanne and Pete O. for more information in order to decide whether this is an important issue. |
| Q | Because keywords are clustered between one set of tags, complications and incomplete translation from existing records being converted persist. What issues would arise if we introduced the concept of repetitive fields for keywords? Jim G would rather not deal with this issue as it complicates MME’s programming. Would help at import time, nice-to-have. |
| K | A series of three Entity and Attribute questions posed by Karl Hillstrom seeking clarifications.  **ACTION:** Nancy will check with Karl and Hal to see if these are really issues. |
| R | A concern issued by Karl regarding contact person and organization (contact person child to organization?)  **ACTION:** Nancy will check with Karl and Susanne to see if this is a problem. |
| A | Coordinate/Projection Information Refinement:   1. County Coordinate Systems: Repair errors and incomplete information: 2. Proper county name should appear in the menu label when counties share the same projection number[[1]](#footnote-1) 3. Menu choice for units should include “feet” (is “meters” ever a valid choice? If not, then remove) 4. The “D” default option may or may not behave as expected 5. UTM Zones: 14, 15 or 16 should remain menu choices. But options to include combinations of these three should be possible, as well (e.g., “14 and 15”) 6. Question for the MGMG content standard: “UTM Zone 15E” can be confusing since it is unclear what “E” stands for (“Extended” not “East”) and since it’s technically not a UTM projection. For the short-term, the MME label could be changed to “15Extended”. For future, should it be moved to a separate projection option (Minnesota TM, for example, such as the WTM83 (WI) or NYTM (New York State))? **ACTION:** Chris will ask Pete Jenkins and Mark to review this question. |
| G | Poor control over date field inputs: More help and error checking on formatting of date inputs. Unless you click on the “today” button and edit to follow the format, chances are what you type in will either become wrong or not be in the standard searchable format. Pete’s previous converter controls may be the solution.  **ACTION:** Chris will check with Pete O. about previous converter controls on date format. |
| M | Add some intelligence to detect URL separators so that they are not included in the hotlink or establish a policy of including no foreign characters to URLs. This is a nice-to-have programming improvement that would make the program more user-friendly.  **ACTION:** Policy should be added to the help/tutorial/FAQ until such time as it is feasible to add programmatically. |
| O | Add editable contact information directly in three places in MME tabbed interface rather than the Access database. Jim G replies this will be complicated. MnGeo believes it will go a long way to improve usefulness of MME.  NOTE: Even better would be to not use Access database at all – EME programmers are currently working on this for the next version (EME 4.x) due out in late summer (beta testing beginning early June). This change presents a larger issue than we originally felt comfortable biting off in this MME enhancement effort. |
| C | If you start with records created with other tools that used the FGDC or Esri editors, MME doesn’t always save edits to the Lineage field (which, in MGMG, has only one tag rather than tags for multiple process steps and source materials). This presents import problems when FGDC metadata records are ingested into MME. MK requests an example of offending metadata record.  **ACTION:** MnGeo sent to Mark and Jim; they have not responded yet. |
| E | If you start with records created with other tools that used the FGDC or Esri editors, MME doesn’t save edits to the Metadata Standard – Standard Link field. Jim's Comments: I'd have to check this. It is likely that the incoming information is stored in a different set of tags than those that MGMG uses. MK requests an example of offending metadata record.  **ACTION:** MnGeo sent to Mark and Jim; they have not responded yet. |
| F2 | Stearns County reports that computer crashes after double-clicking the MetadataEditor.exe to open the program. Problem solved: Crashes were due to running MME from a network drive. Running a local copy has solved this problem so far. |

1. Currently, the county name that’s first in alphabetic order appears. For example, although “Zone 39 Stearns” can be selected from the menu, subsequently, it appears as “Zone 39 Pope”. This does not affect the metadata **content** of either the XML or HTML (since it’s correctly saved as “Zone 39”), but is disconcerting to MME users who are editing the record. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)