

How To Save An Archived Soil Survey Publication To Your Local Machine

The simplest method to save an archived soil survey publication to your local machine is to copy the publication from a CD. If the publication is available on the Web, the soil survey office responsible for the publication can typically provide you with a free CD containing the publication. Lists of available surveys and soil survey offices can be found starting at http://soils.usda.gov/survey/printed_surveys/.

The other method is to download the individual files.

Electronically archived soil survey publications typically consist of several PDF files that are linked together. Typically, the main text of the publication is stored as one PDF file and the other parts of the survey are stored as separate files. The text, general soil map, index sheet, legend, and individual detailed map sheets are each separate PDF files. If you download a publication off the Web, the links will function properly only if each file is stored in a folder that has the same name and arrangement as the corresponding folder on the Web. Downloading all of the files and ensuring that the folders are properly named and arranged can be complicated and time consuming. We recommend requesting a CD.

This document contains instructions for downloading a publication so that the links are maintained between the main text and the other files. A quick overview and step-by-step instructions are provided. Note that naming conventions for folders have not been enforced nationally. The instructions that follow describe the most common arrangement of folders. The general principals for naming and arranging folders are correct regardless, but the actual names and arrangements may vary.

Quick Overview

Open the main text of the publication in your Web browser. Note the name of the folder that contains the text. The name of the folder will be on the address bar of your Web browser directly to the left of the name of the PDF file. For example, if the main text is at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/AL005/0/Barbour.pdf>, then the folder containing the text is named "0".

Create a folder on your local machine using the same name as the folder on the Web. In the example above, you would make a folder on your machine named "0". For example "C:\My Documents\0".

Save the text (in this case Barbour.pdf) into the folder ("0").

Click on the link that takes you to the index to map sheets for detailed map sheets. Note the name of the folder that contains the index. The name of this folder will also be on the address bar of your Web browser directly to

the left of the name of the PDF file. For example, if the index is at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/AL005/0/maps/index.pdf>, then the folder containing the index is named "maps". The "maps" folder is inside the "0" folder.

Create a folder on your local machine using the same name as the folder containing the index on the Web. Create this folder in the same relation to the folder holding the text as was used on the Web. In the example above, you would make a folder on your machine named "maps" inside the folder named "0". For example "C:\My Documents\0\maps".

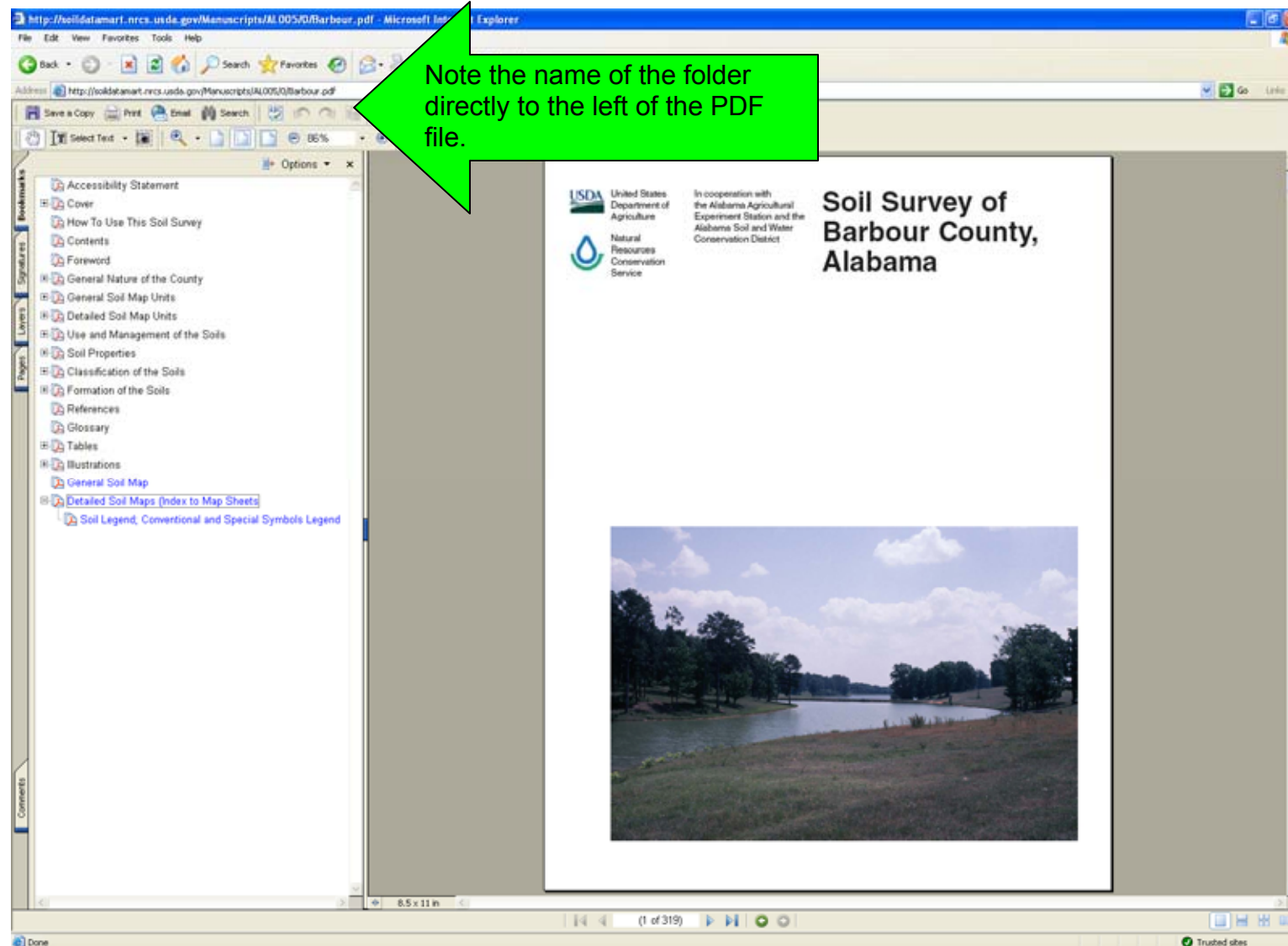
Save the index (in this case index.pdf) into the folder ("maps").

Save the remaining files for the publication into the appropriate folder on your machine. Most publications have a general soil map, index sheet, legend, and individual detailed map sheets. Typically, all of the files except for the main text are in a "maps" folder.

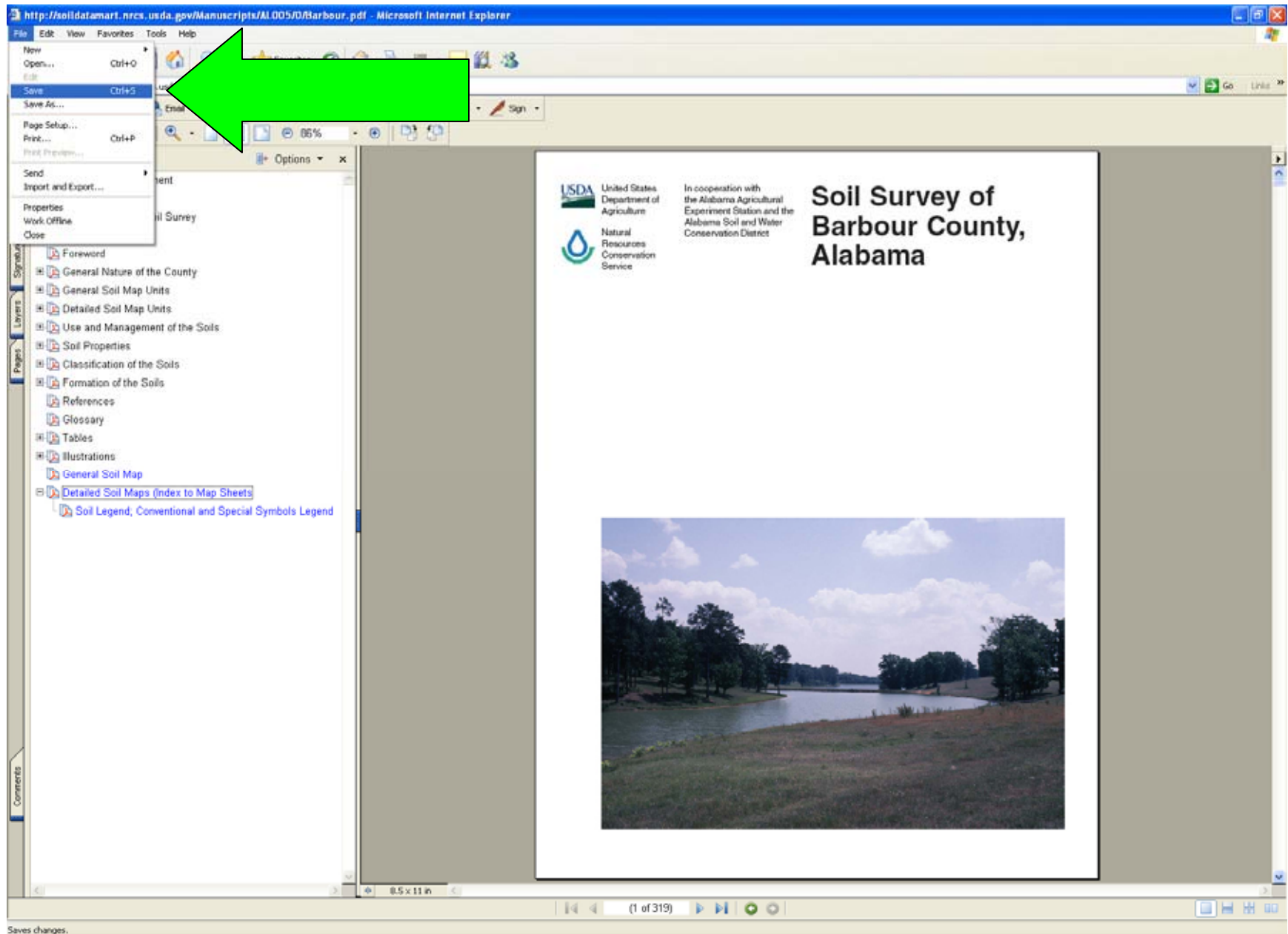
Step-by-Step Instructions

1.—Open the main text of the publication in your Web browser. Wait until the file is completely loaded. Large files may take a long time. (If you are using Internet Explorer, the file is completely loaded after the flag in the upper right corner of the browser stops waving. It is not uncommon for the flag to stop and restart several times before the download is complete.)

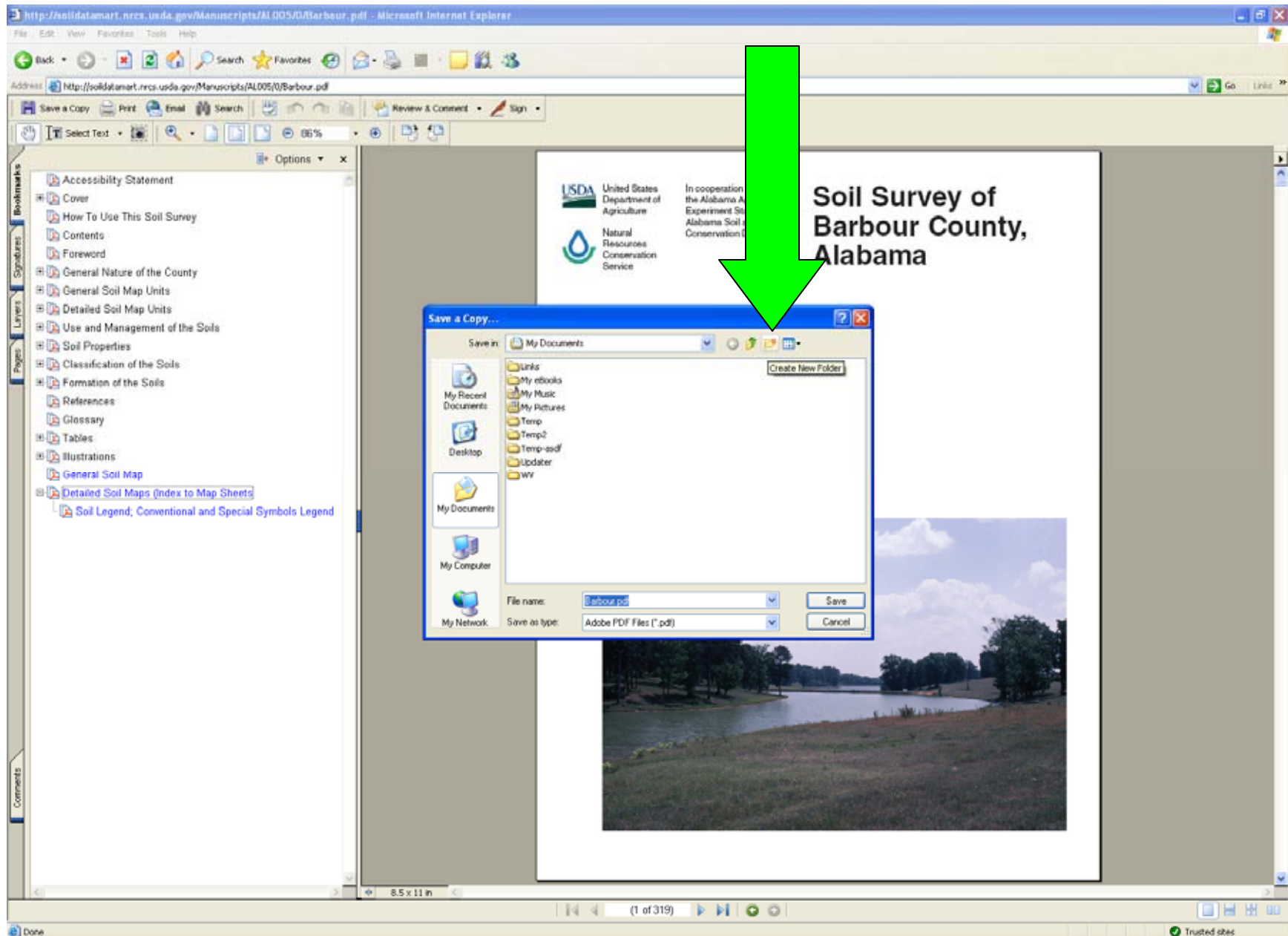
Note the name of the folder that contains the text. The name of the folder will be on the address bar of your Web browser directly to the left of the name of the PDF file. For example, if the main text is at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/AL005/0/Barbour.pdf>, then the folder containing the text is named "0".



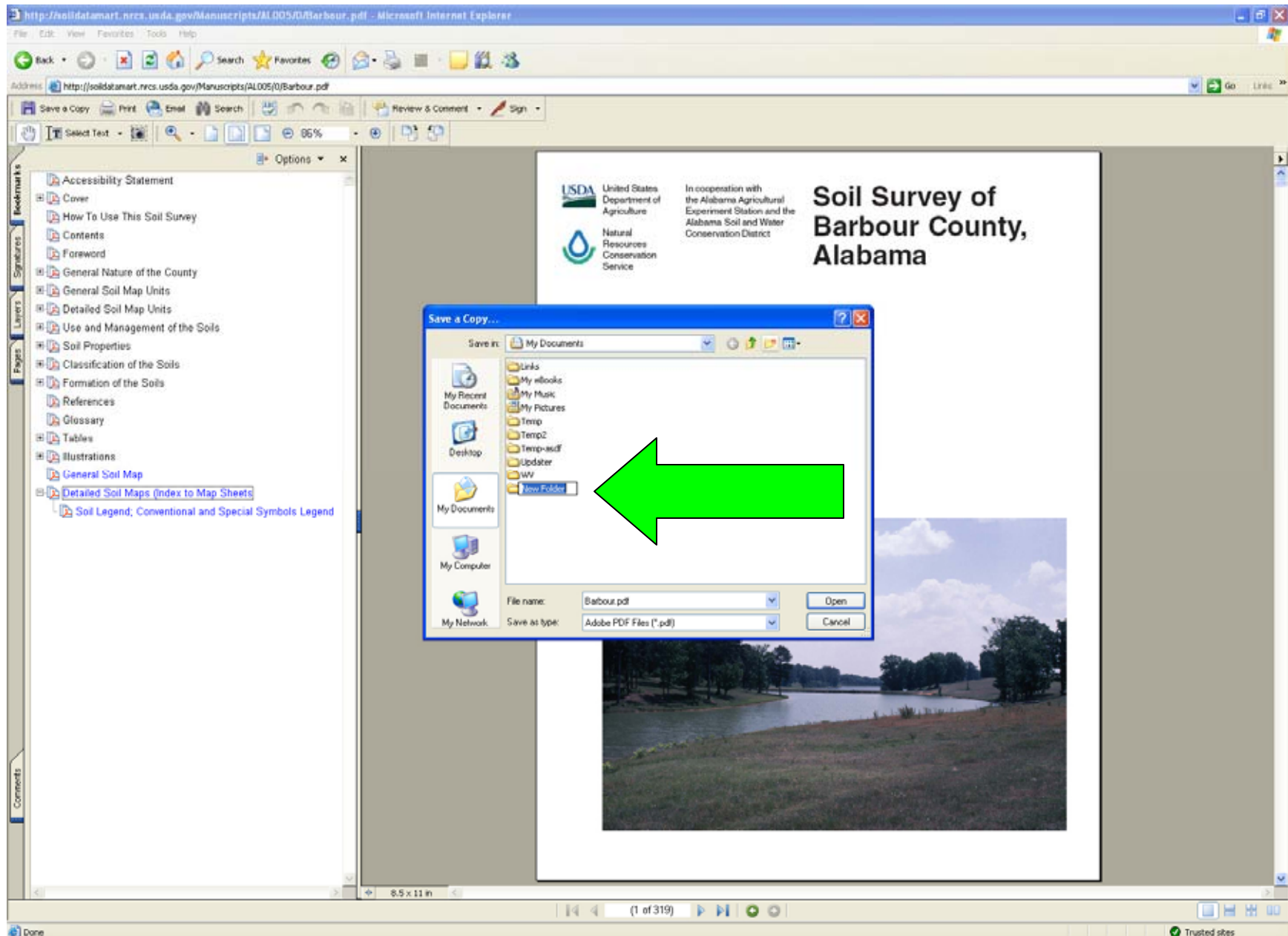
2.—Select File > Save.



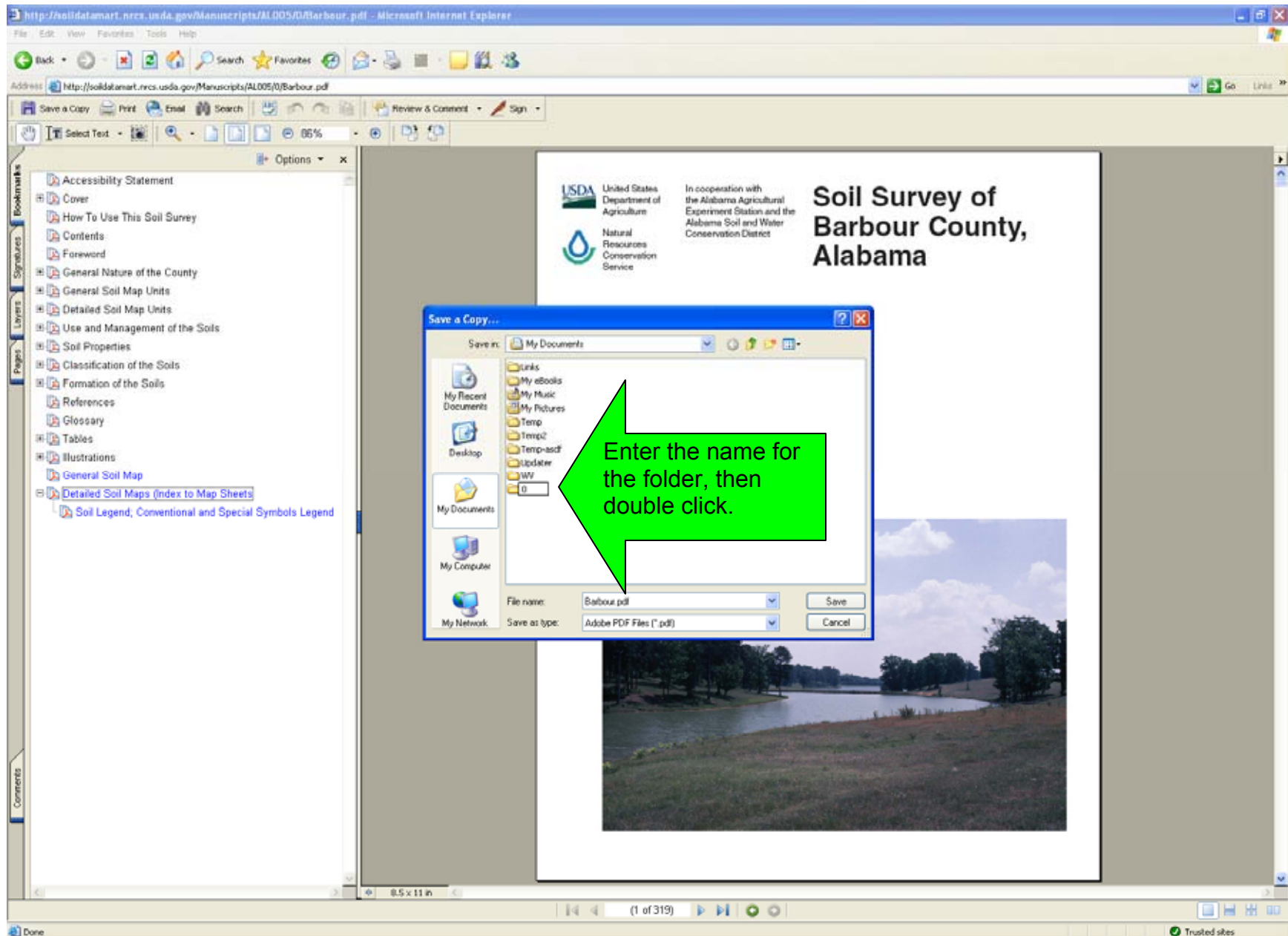
3.—Click on the “Create New Folder” button. The button looks like a folder with a reddish spot on it.



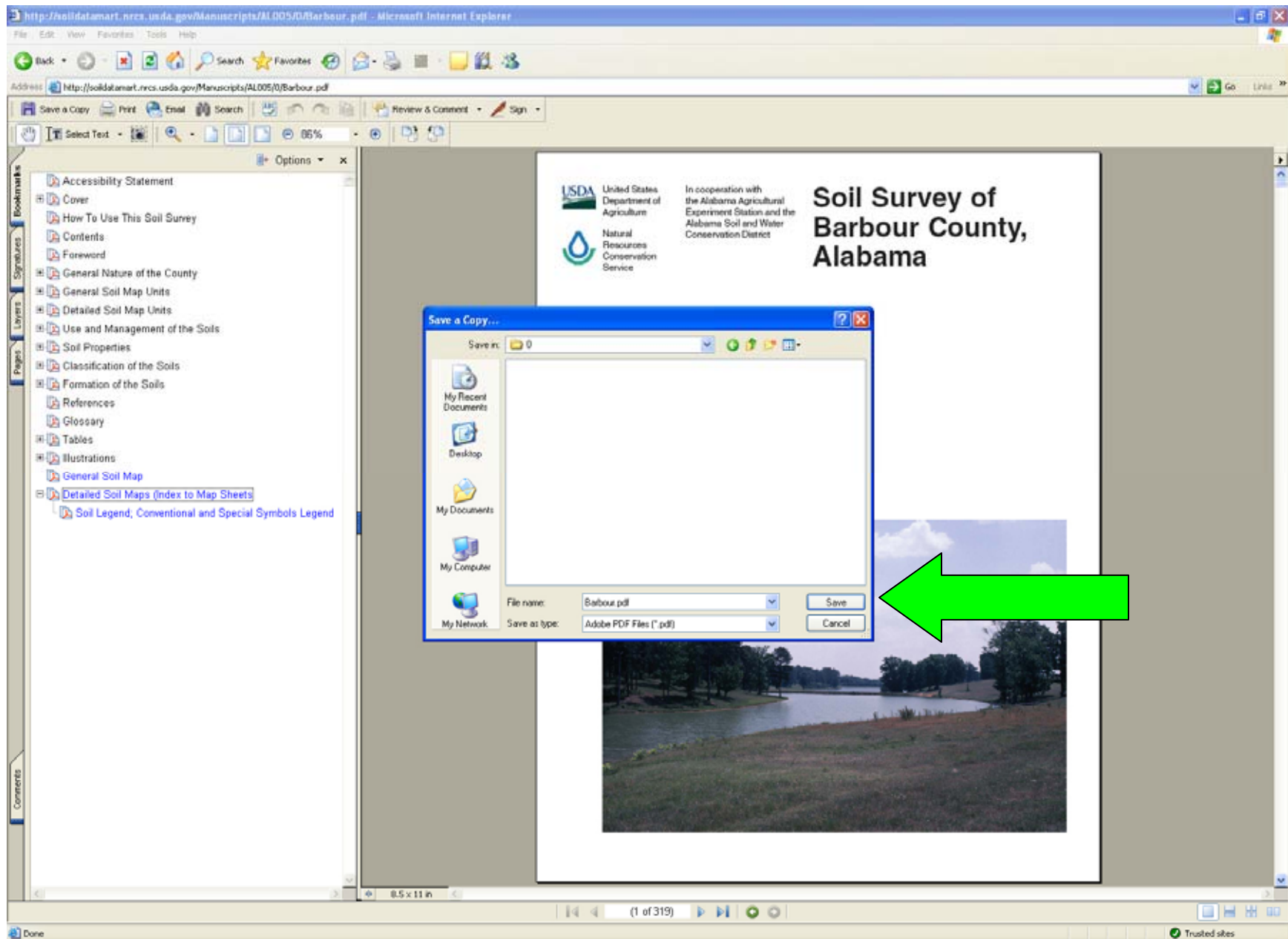
4.—After you click on the “Create New Folder” button, a folder appears with the temporary name of “New Folder”.



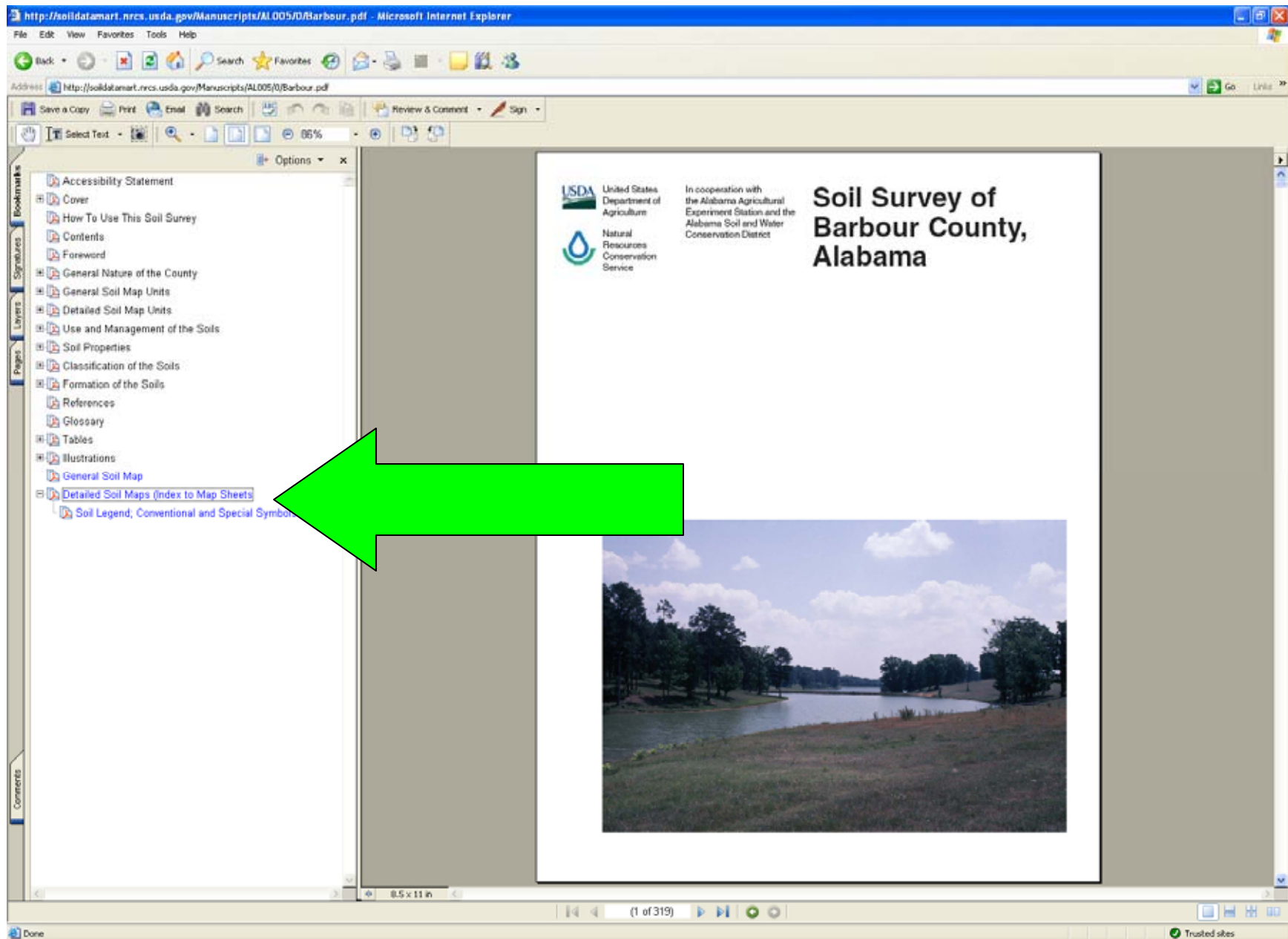
5.—Rename “New Folder” to match the Web. In this example, the folder is named “0”.



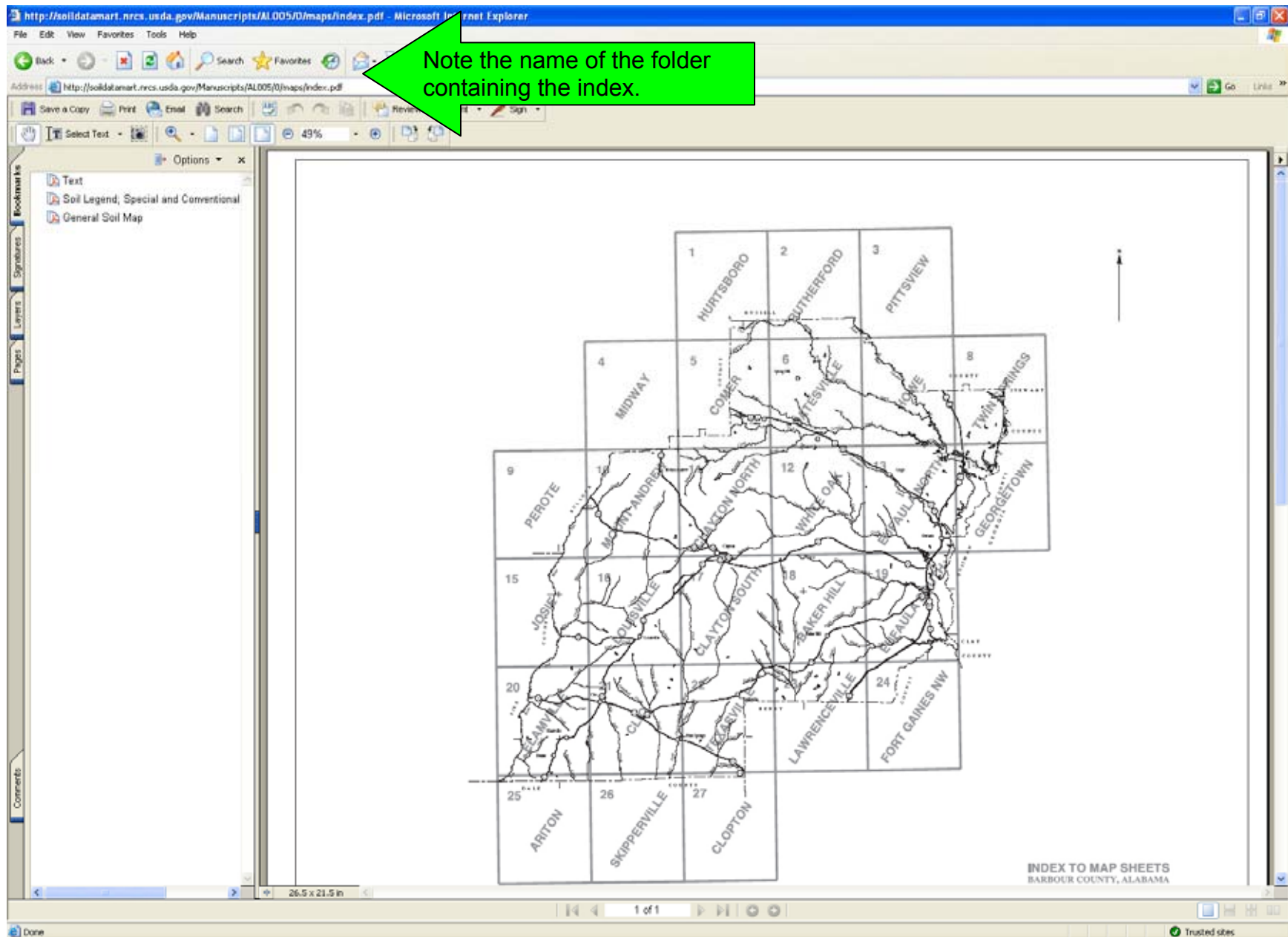
6.—Double clicking on the folder name ("0") as shown in the previous illustration takes you to the folder. Click on the "Save" button to save the file into the folder.



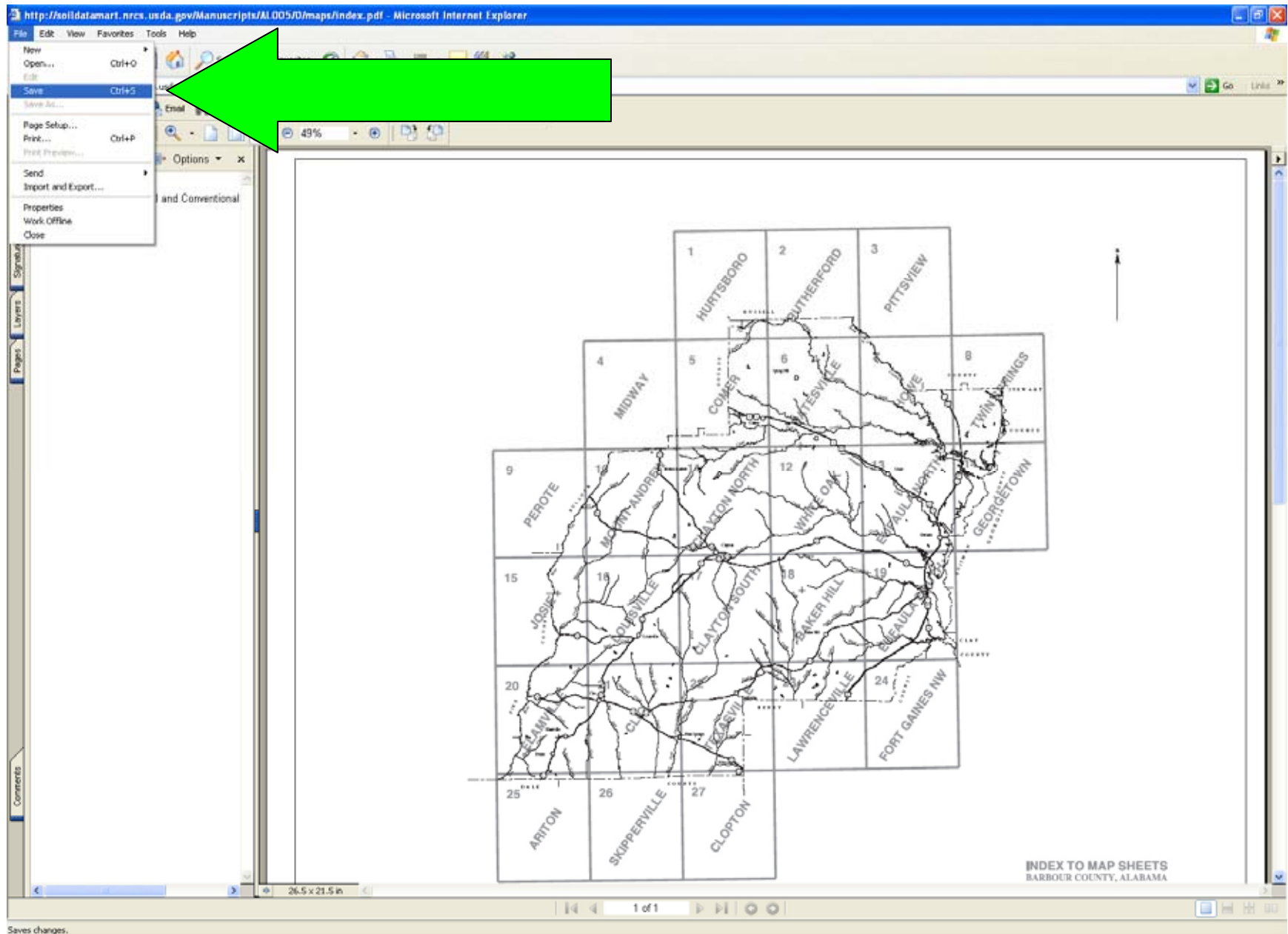
7.—Clicking on the Save button in the previous step returns you to the original window. Click on the link to the next file you want to save. In this example, the index to map sheets for detailed soil maps is selected.



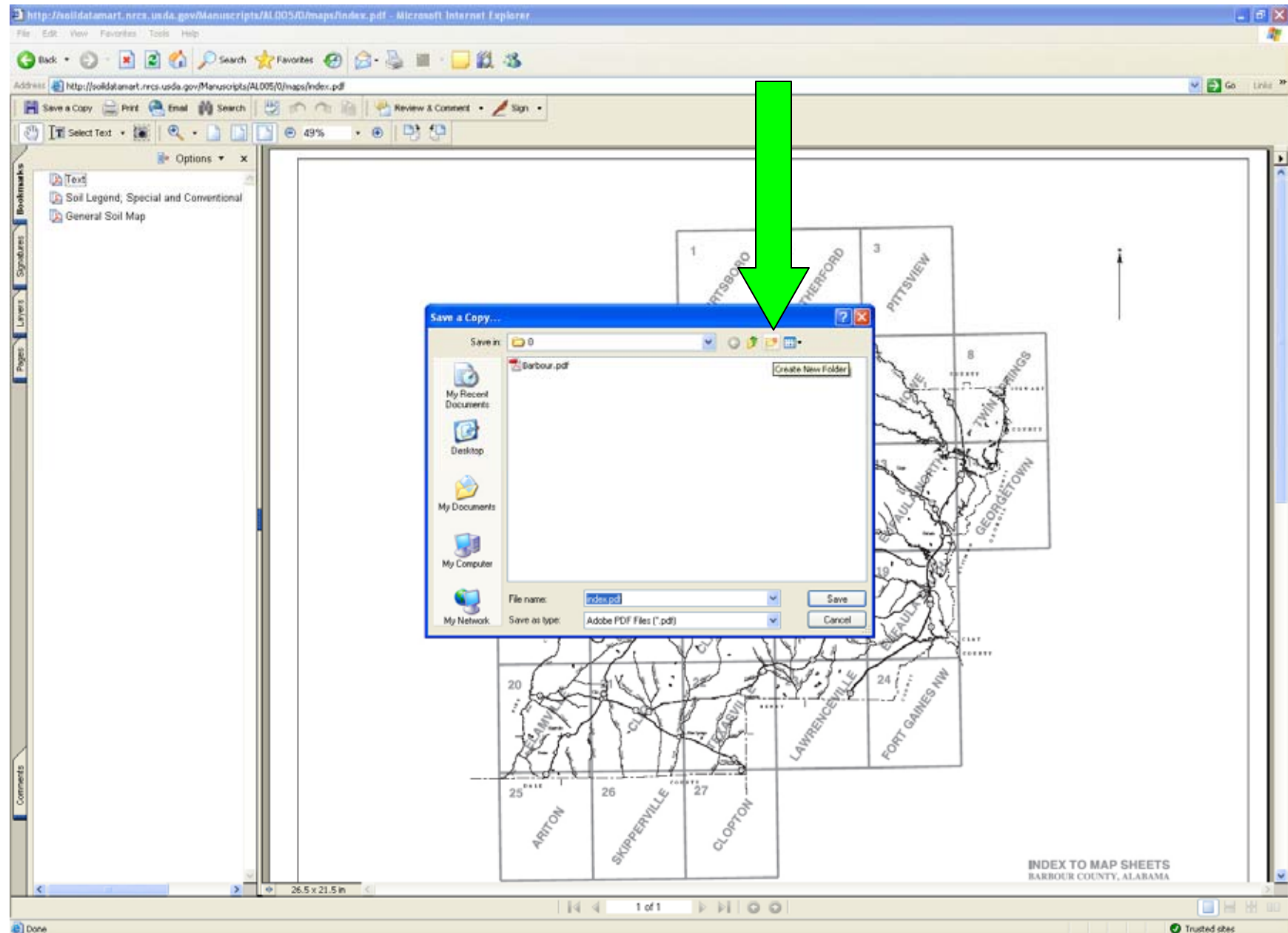
8.—Note the name of the folder that contains the file. The name of the folder will be on the address bar of your Web browser directly to the left of the name of the PDF file. For example, if the index is at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/AL005/0/maps/index.pdf>, then the folder containing the index is named "maps". The "maps" folder is inside the "0" folder. The process used to copy the index file (index.pdf) into a new folder on your machine (C:\My Documents\0\maps) is similar to the process used to copy the main text to your machine.



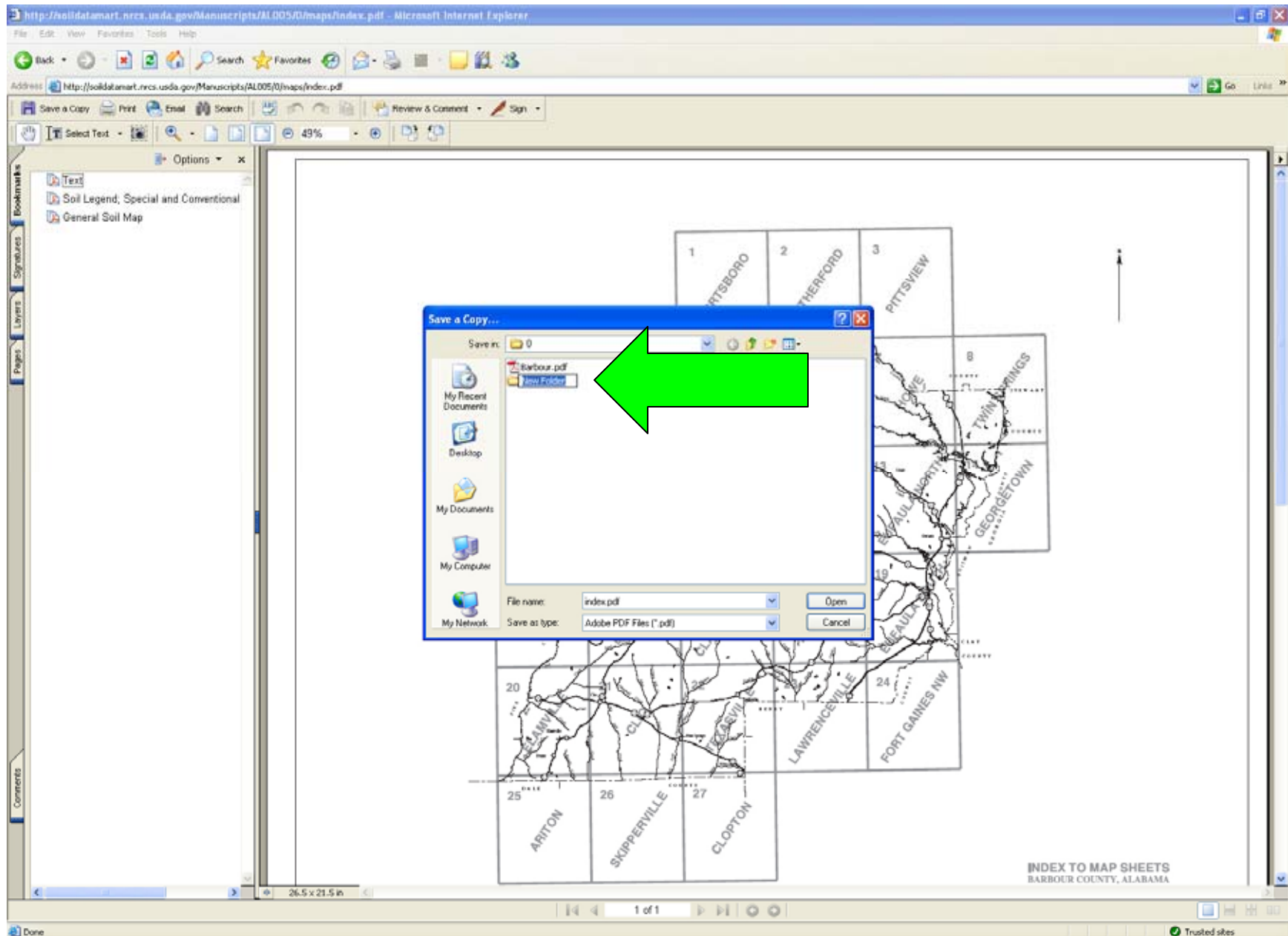
9.—Select File > Save.



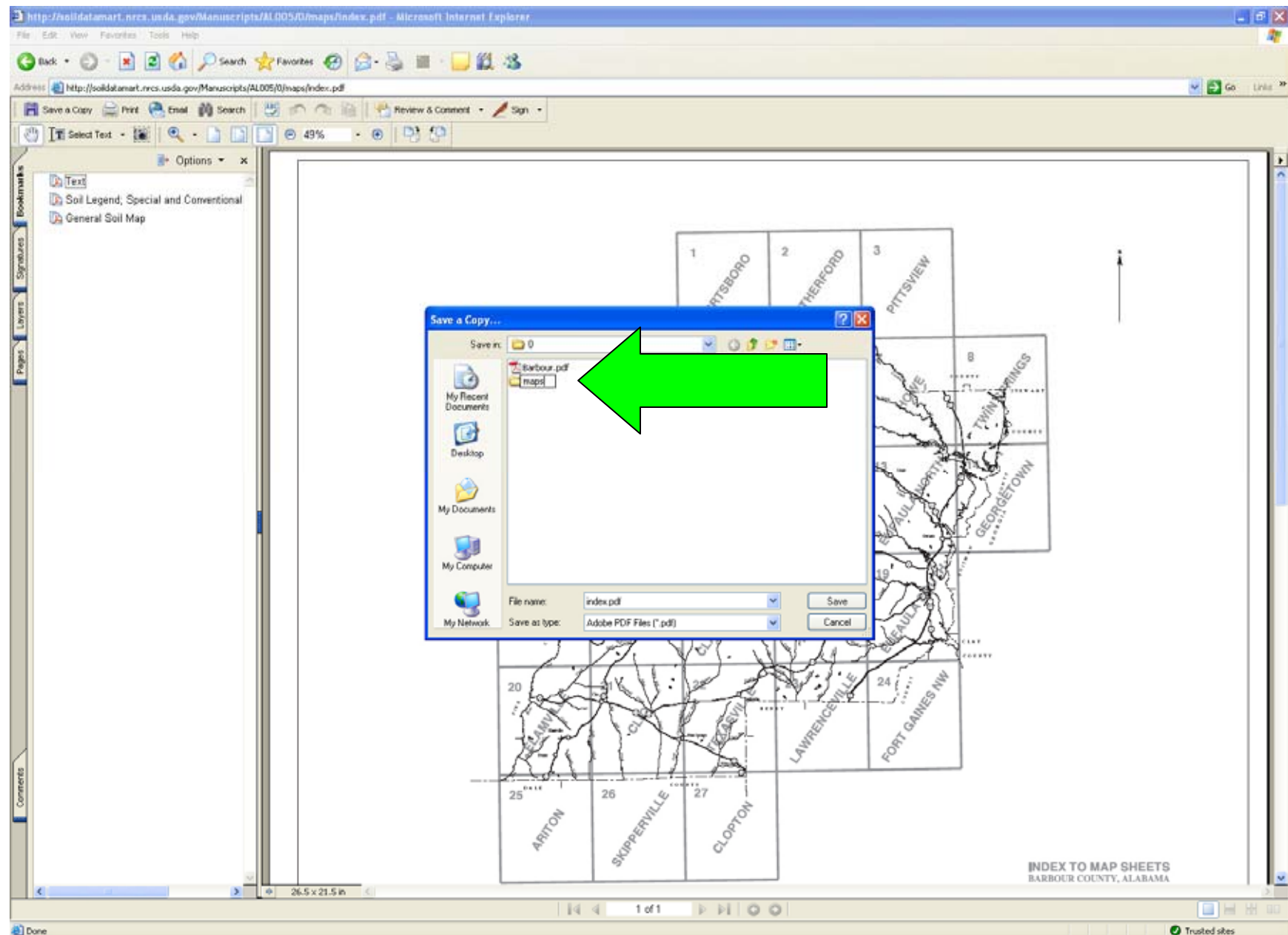
10.—Click on the “Create New Folder” button.



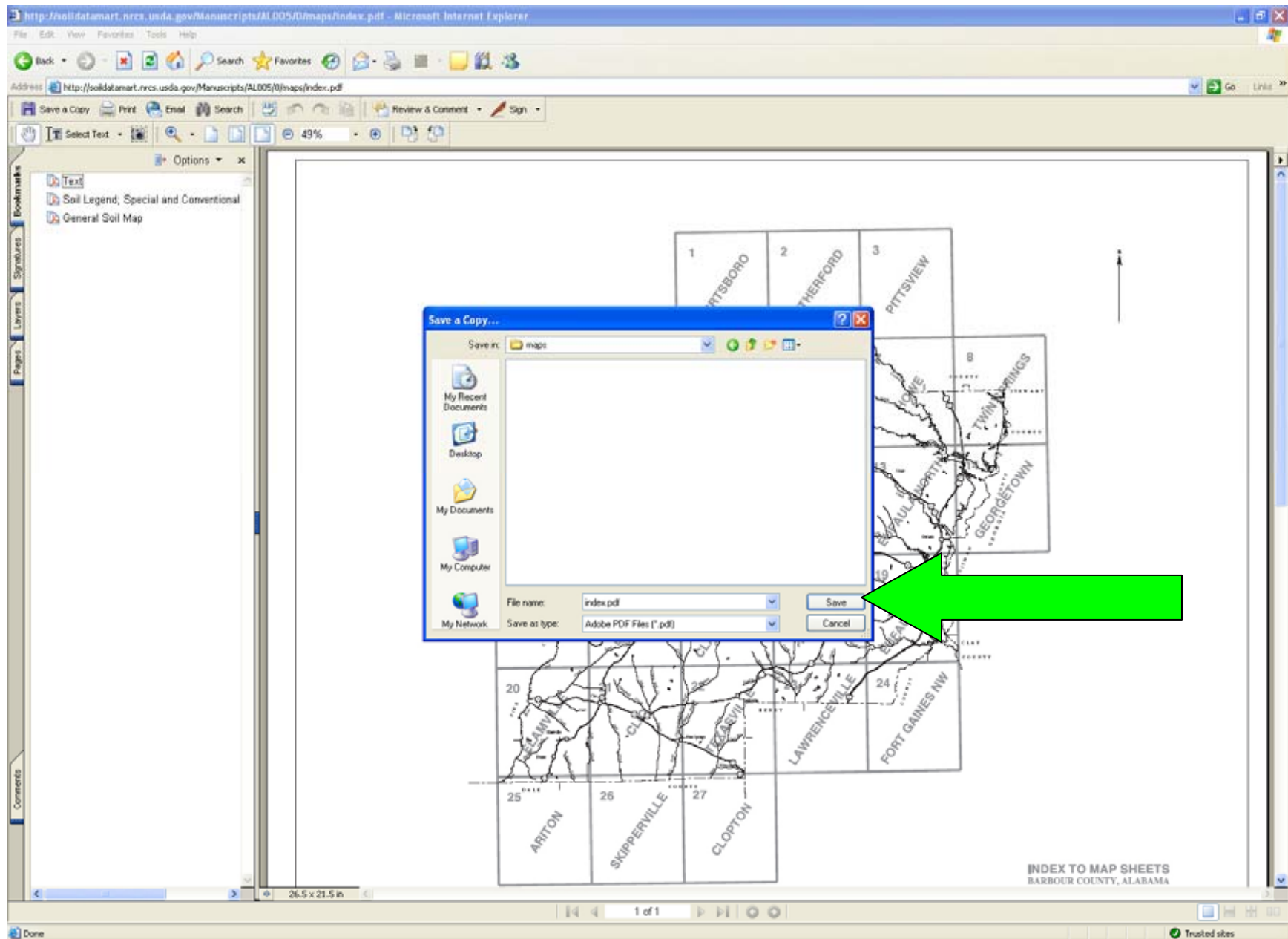
11.—After you click on the “Create New Folder” button, a folder appears with the temporary name of “New Folder”.



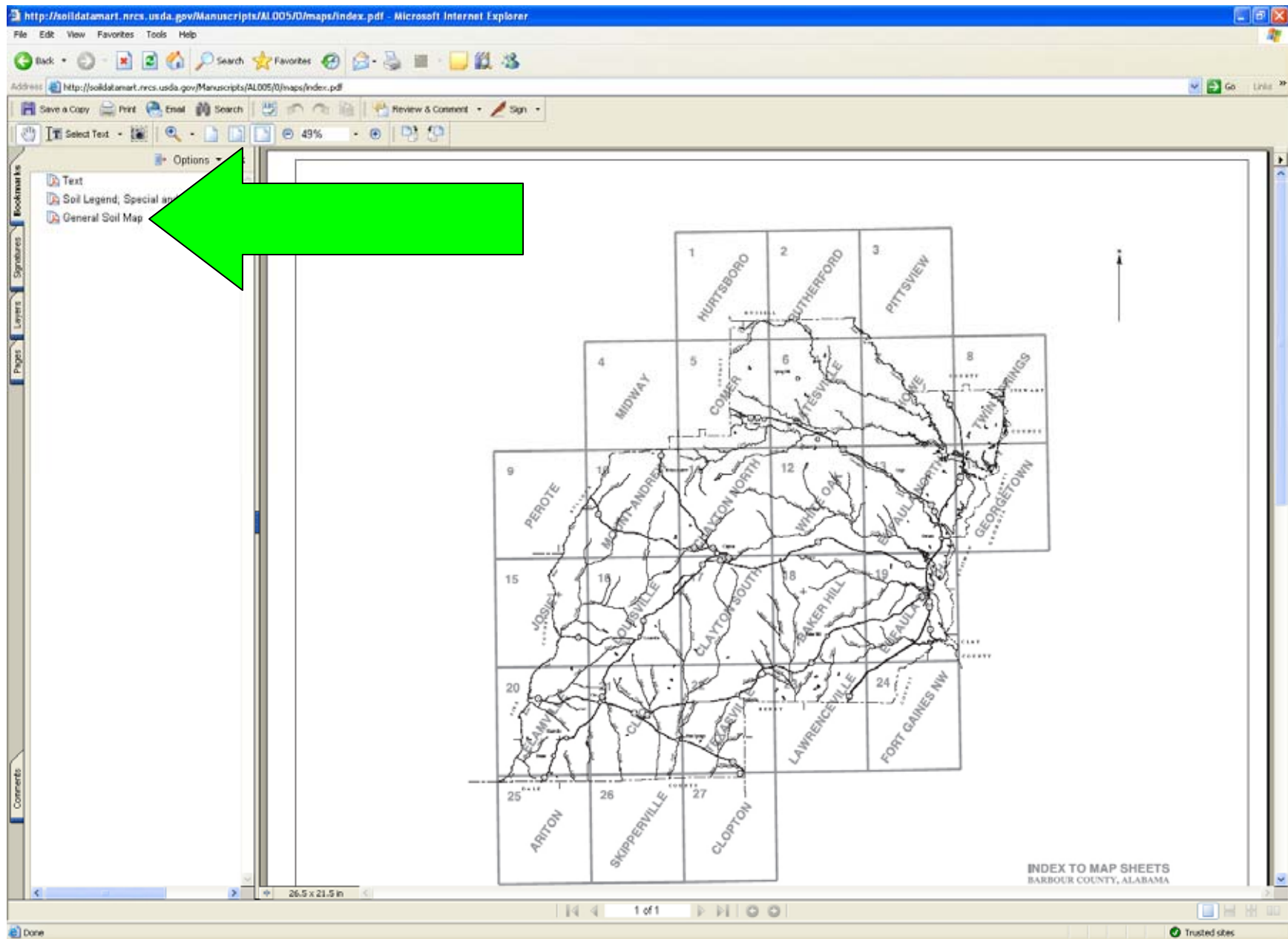
12.—Rename “New Folder” to match the Web. In this example, the folder is named “maps”.

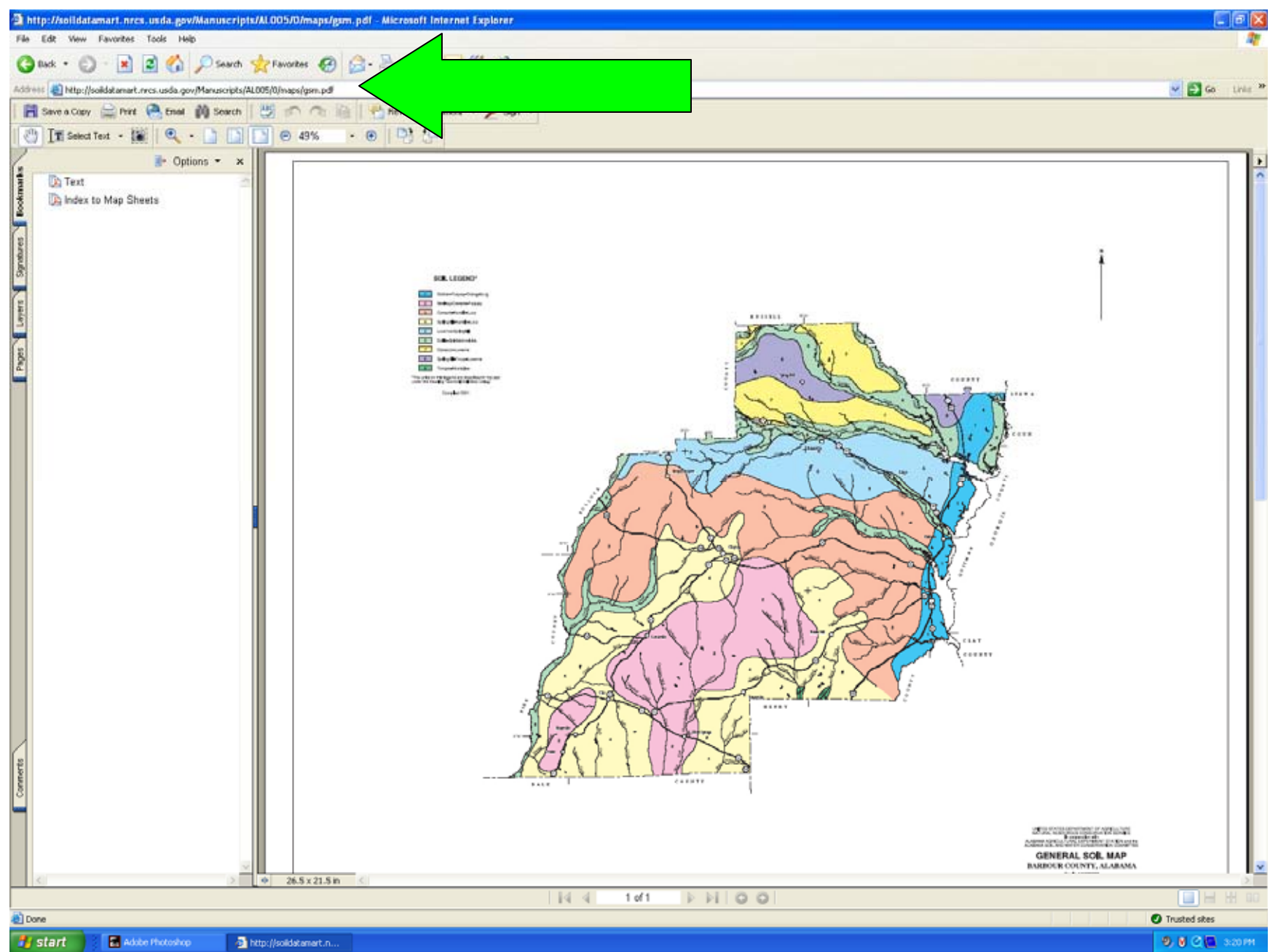


13.—Double clicking on the folder name ("maps") as shown in the previous illustration takes you to the folder. Click on the "Save" button to save the file into the folder.

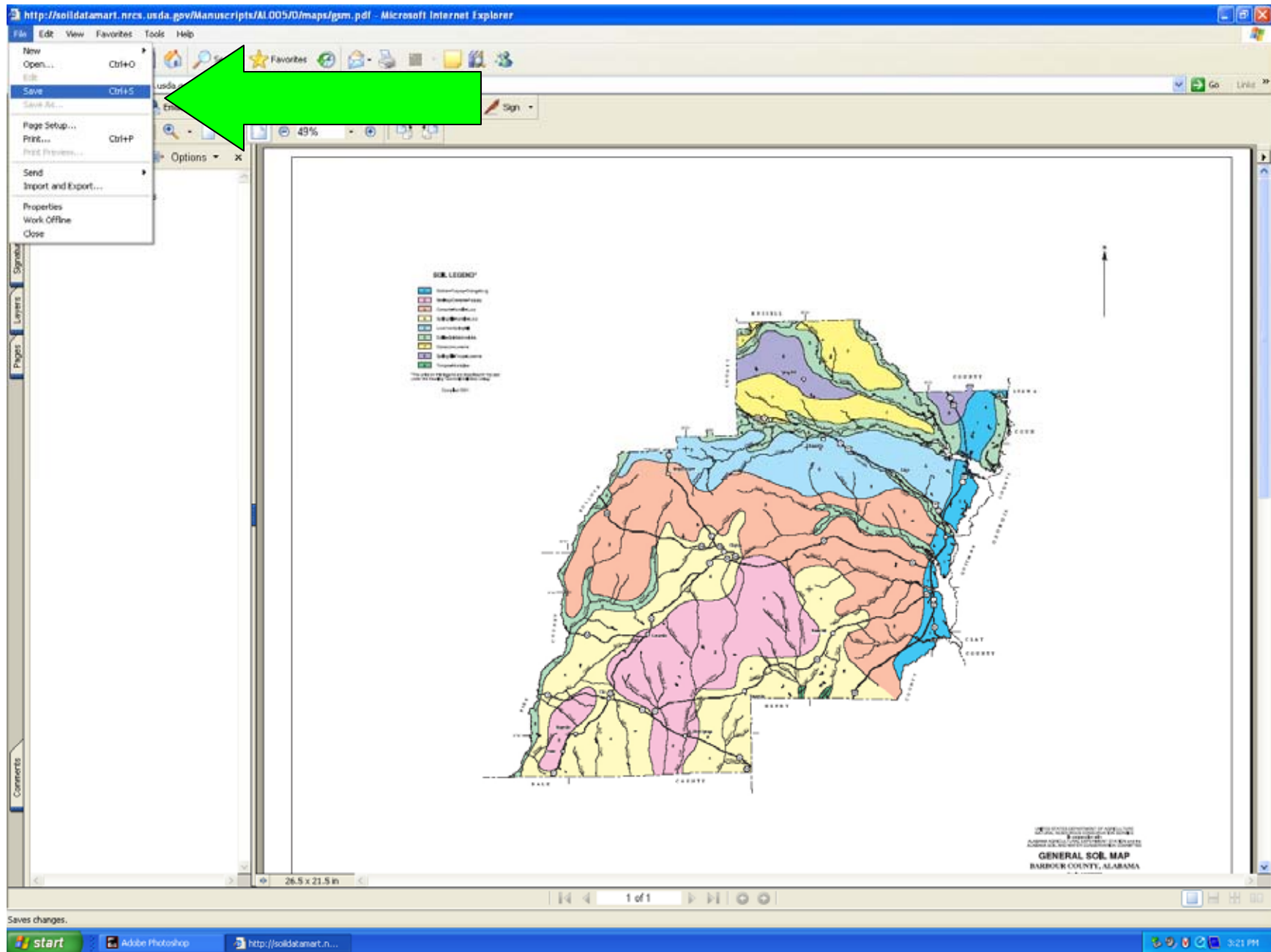


14.—Clicking on the Save button in the previous step returns you to the original window. Navigate to the next file you want to save. In this case, the general soil map will be selected.

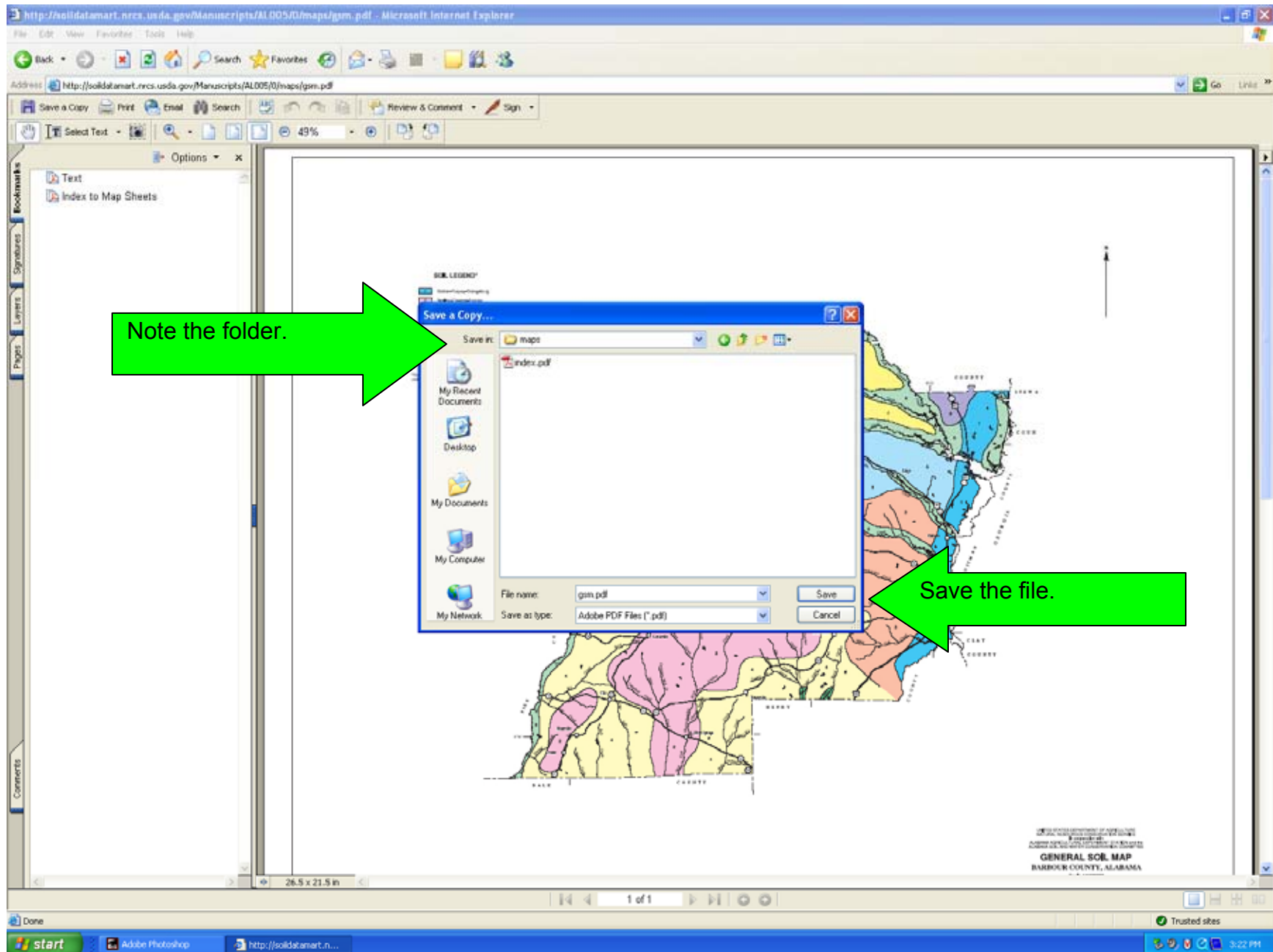


[illegible]

16.—Select File > Save.



17.—In this case, because the file (gsm.pdf) is to be saved in the same folder as the previous file (index.pdf), it is not necessary to create a new folder. Simply save the file in the current (maps) folder.



18.—Repeat the previous steps until all of the files have been saved to an appropriate folder. Once all of the files have been saved to your local machine, the name of the uppermost folder (in this case "0") may be changed to a more meaningful name (for example, "Soil Survey of Barbour County"). Do not change the name of any other folders (don't change "maps").

For some soil surveys, all of the files will be in the same folder on the Web. (There will be no "maps" folder.) For such surveys, simply copy all of the files into any folder on your machine.