

The Perspectives of Digital Curators on Building Distributed Repositories

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Recent Collaborations on Preservation (NARA, NHPRC, LOC, NSF, IMLS)



NARA: 1998-2007, NARA - U Md, GTech, SLAC, UC Berkeley

Transcontinental Persistent Archive Prototype based on data grids.

1P2: 2002-2006, NHPRC/SSHRC/NSF - UBC and others.

InterPARES 2 collaboration with UBC on infrastructure independence

PERM: 2002-2004, NHPRC - Michigan, SDSC

Preservation of records from an RMA. Interoperability across RMAs.

LoC: 2003-2004, LoC - SDSC, LOC

Evaluation of use of SRB for storing American Memory collections

ICAP: 2003-2006, NHPRC - UCSD, UCLA, SDSC

Exploring the ability to compare versions of records, run historical queries

A&W: 2000-2003, *NHPRC - SDSC*

Methodologies for preservation & access of software- dependent electronic records

DIGARCH: 2005-2007, NSF - UCTV, Berkeley, UCSD Libraries, SDSC

Preservation of video workflows

eLegislature: 2005-2007, NSF - Minnesota, SDSC

Preserving the records of the e-Legislature

VanMAP: 2005-2006, UBC - UBC, Vancouver

Preserving the GIS records of the city of Vancouver

eLegacy: 2006-2008, NHPRC - California

Preserving the geospatial data of the state of California

T-RACES: 2006-2008, IMLS - UCHRI, SDSC

California's redlining archives testbed

PAT: 2004-2007, *NHPRC - Mi,Mn,Ke,Oh,Slac,SDSC*

Demonstration of a cost-effective system for preserving electronic records.





Project Summary



- Participants were digital curators from:
 - Libraries / archives / historical societies / scientific data environments / museums
 - IT researchers and staff
- Main Goal:
 - Design a distributed repository for electronic records management
 - Demonstrate the management of various types of records with a common software infrastructure
- Approach: each site...
 - chose an archival collection
 - set up access control and update permissions for their preservation environment independently of the other participants
 - implemented a different preferred interface for interacting with their archival collections





Presentation Goals



Comments:

- "No repository is an island", David Giaretta
- ... PAT fits the archipelago model

• Examine:

- lessons learned and skills needed by digital curators to automate archival functions: appraisal, accessioning, arrangement, description, preservation, and access of records.
- benefits achieved by using common infrastructure





Partners









PAT Project



- Test a <u>community model</u> for electronic records management, with archival and technological functions in a distributed network (using the SRB: Storage Resource Broker – data grid technology)
- Initial Test sites:
 - (1) Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries,
 - (2) Ohio Historical Society,
 - (3) Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives,
 - (4) Minnesota Historical Society,
 - (5) **SLAC** Stanford Linear Accelerator Archives and History Office.

Participants:

- (a) California State Archives
- (b) Kansas State Historical Society
- (c) University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- (d) University of California Los Angeles (UCLA):
- (e) Yale Manuscripts and Archives
- (f) Georgia Tech

Observers:

(a) Getty Research Institute

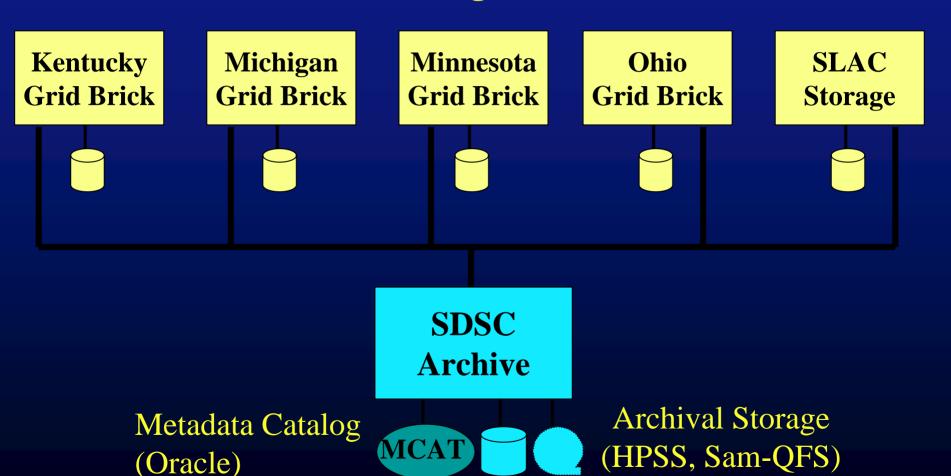




PAT Community Grid



Local Storage Resources



Shared Preservation Environment





Automating Archival Processes ^{學鹽鹽}鹽盐



	Kentucky Web	Michigan RMA -Precinct Results DB	Minnesota Spatial	Ohio E-mail	SLAC Documents
Appraisal				X	
Accession	X			X	X
Arrangement	X	X		X	X
Description	X	X	X	X	X
Preservation	X	X	X		X
Access	X	X	X		X





Unique Contributions of the Digital Curators to the Infrastructure



- Windows-based SRB clients / servers
- Development of a Perl for Windows client library
- Bulk operations were developed, tested, and refined (registration, accessioning, metadata extraction from records, metadata loading, validation of data movement into/out of/within the system)
- End-to-end workflows were developed (accessioning, replication)
- SRB bugs revealed: better reliability
- MCAT ported to mySQL (Oracle, DB2, Sybase, Informix)
- Development of a wiki for documentation
- Registration of filenames with unusual characters discovered and fixed
- Suggestions on ways to simplify governance issues tied to particular types of data management:
 - Need to express such policies as rules to be applied to the data mgt. system
 - Development of the next generation of data grid technology: iRODS (integrated Rule-Oriented Data System)
 - Each preservation process is express as a set of micro-services (operations that can be performed using a remote storage system access protocol)







- Leverage common software and hardware
- Use commodity storage hardware
- Lower the cost of participation
- Reduce the level of expertise required at each site
- Focus on management of the archival collections and outsource the details of the archival repository
- Automate the manipulation of collections to minimize the level of effort





Conclusions



- PAT suggests that sustainability is probably beyond the capability of most individual archival repositories (cost of tracking new types of technology, expertise required to manage new technology, costs of the storage systems and databases, expertise necessary to manage multiple types of storage systems)
- Outsourcing of the mgt. or records is feasible through use of data grid technology
- Preservation environments can be assembled by creating regional community archival partnerships with university data centers
- Independence can be maintained:
- Service agreements for storage and preservation or archival e-records are needed





The Michigan example:



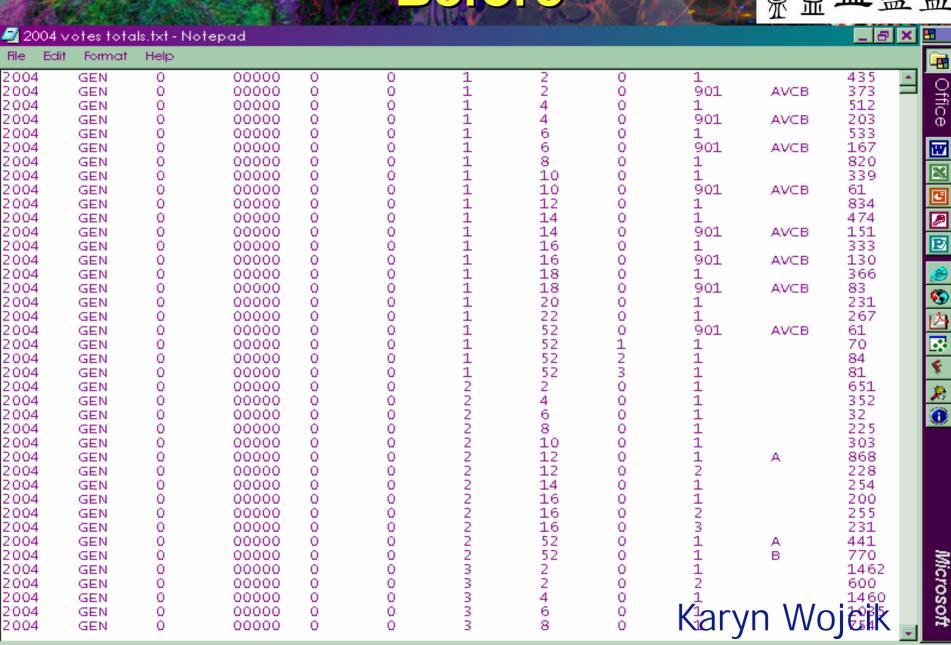
- Preservation of historical election data for the state of Michigan: precinct-level election data
- Process: from tape to archive to web...





Before









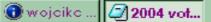








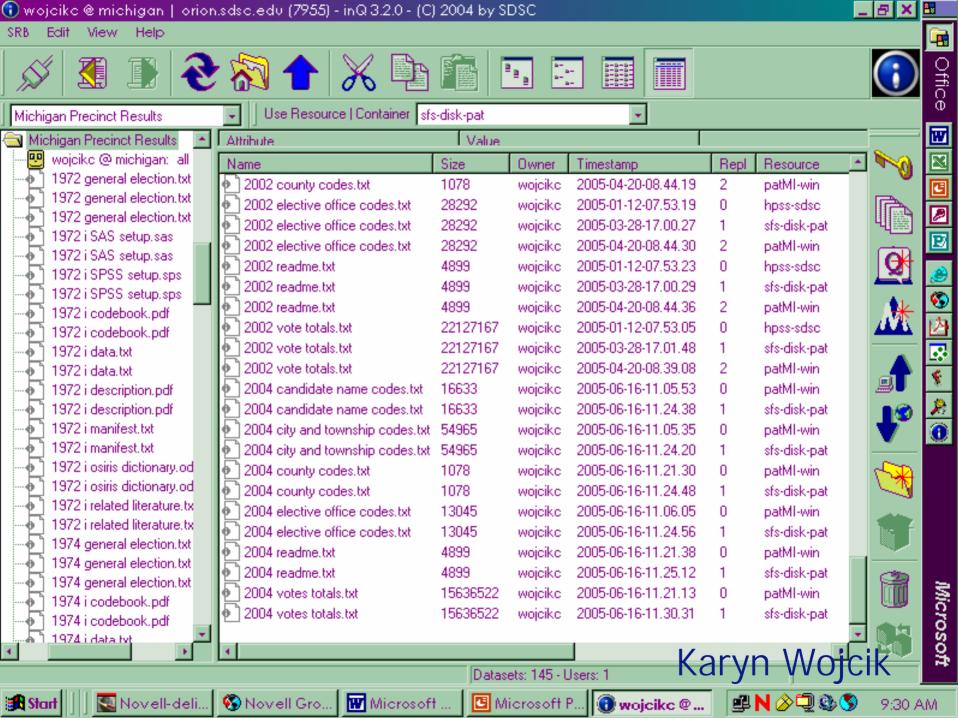






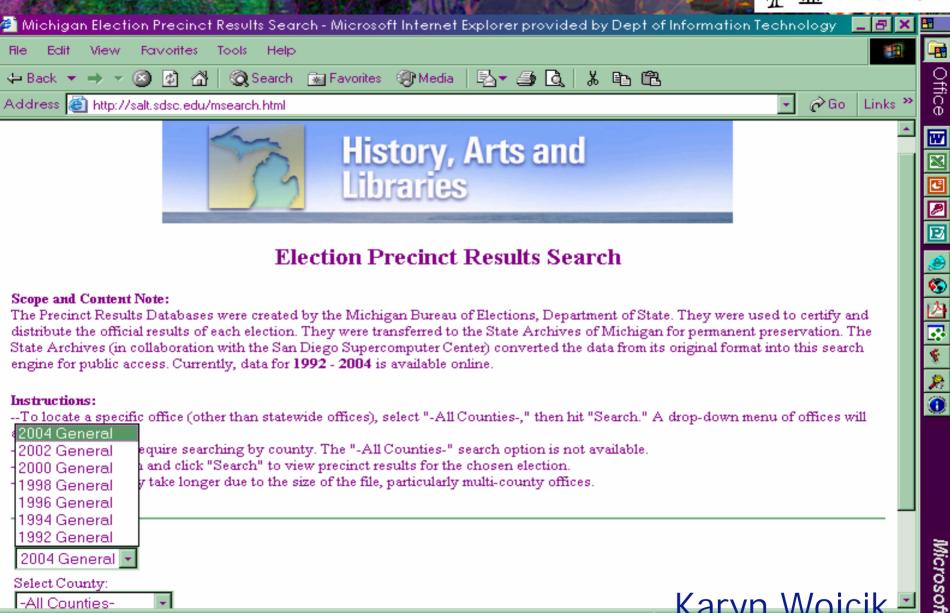






After





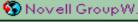
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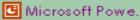
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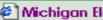
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-All Counties-





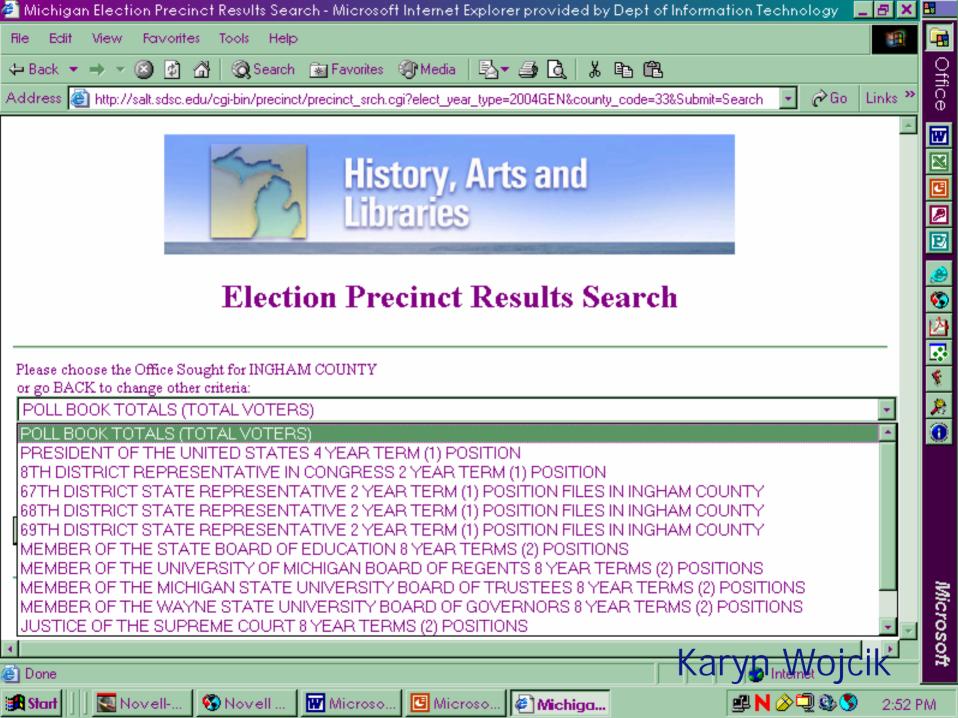


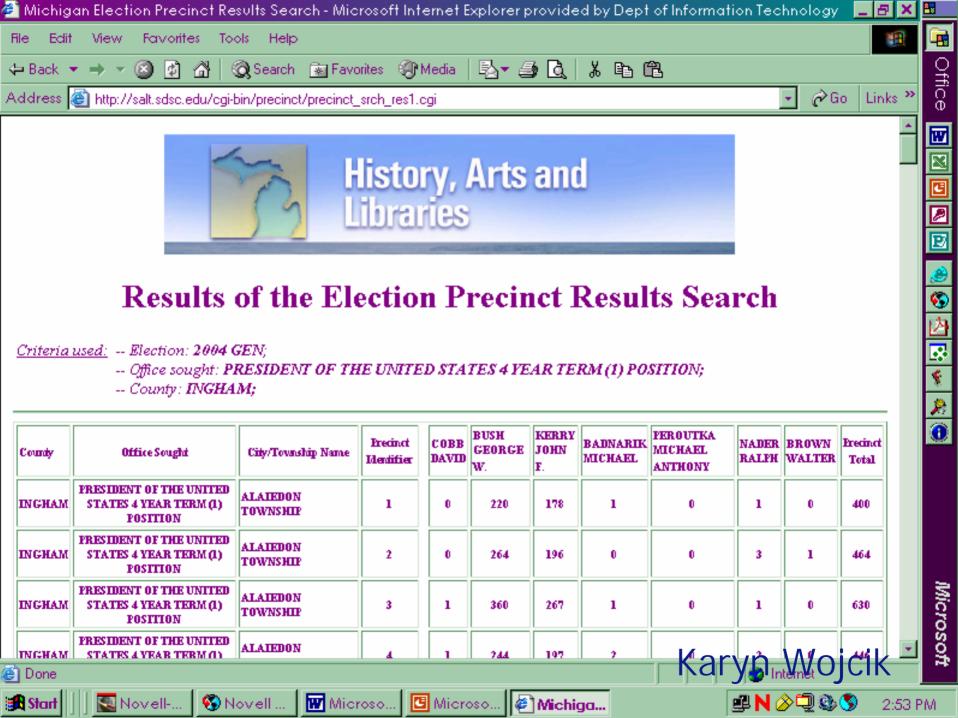


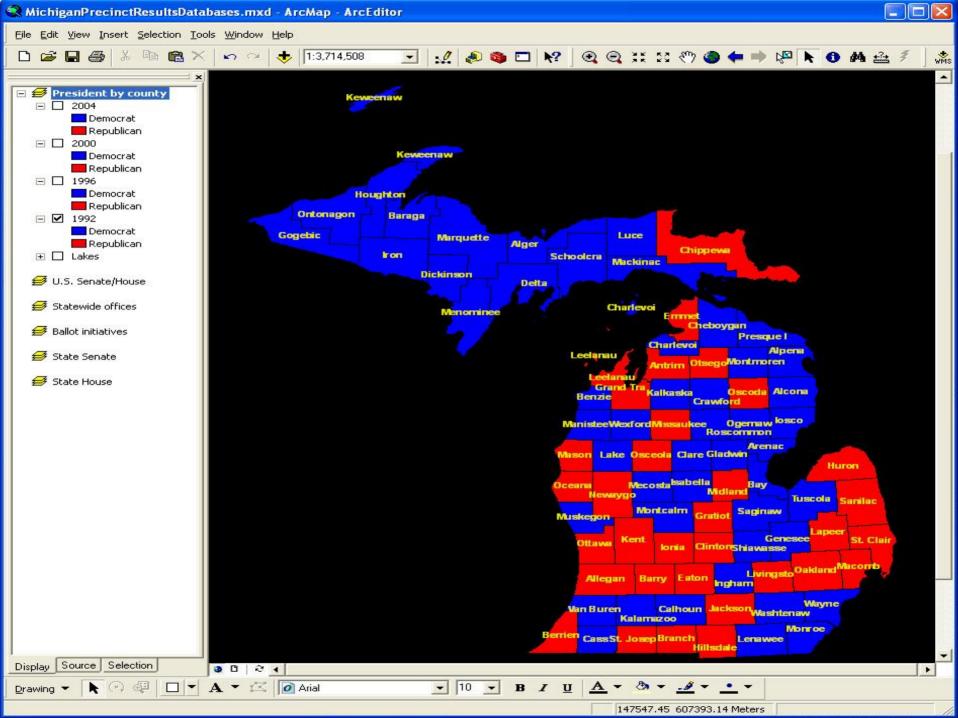


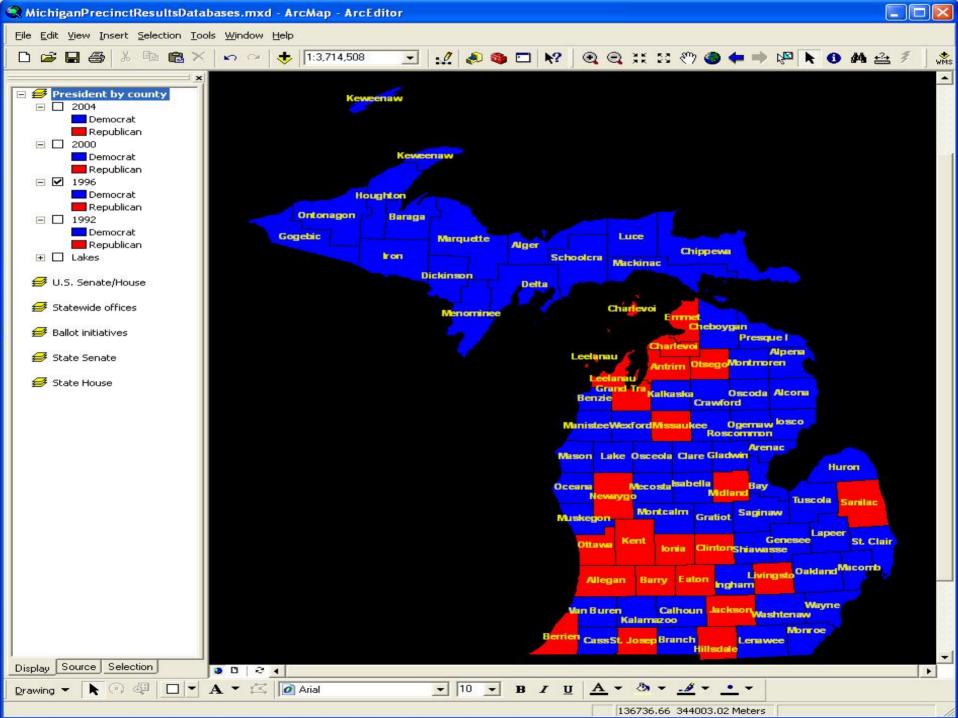
Karyn Wojcik

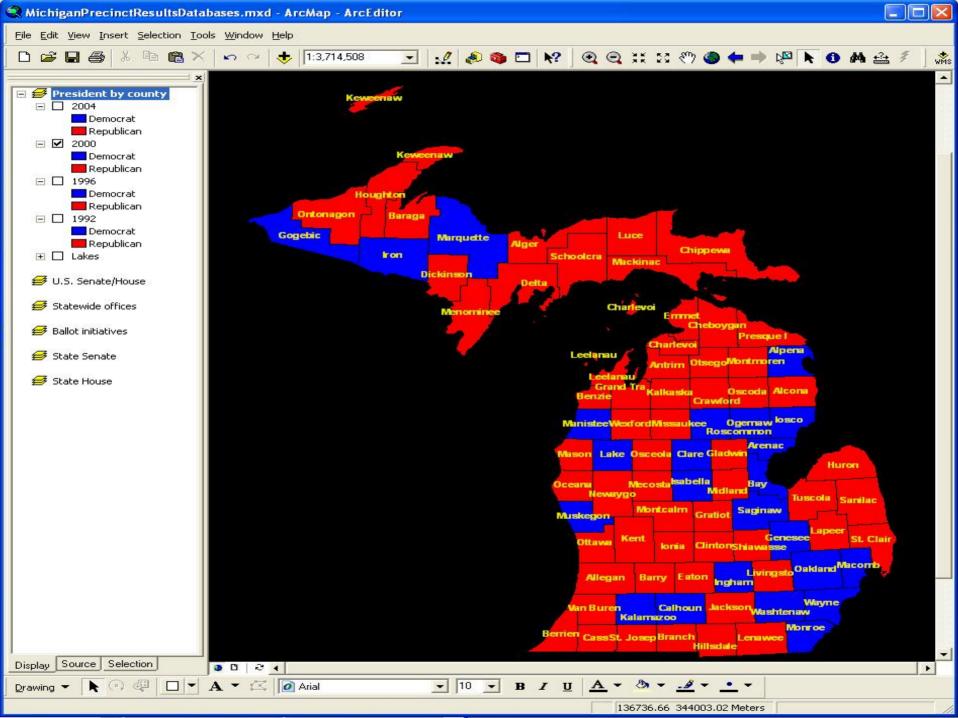


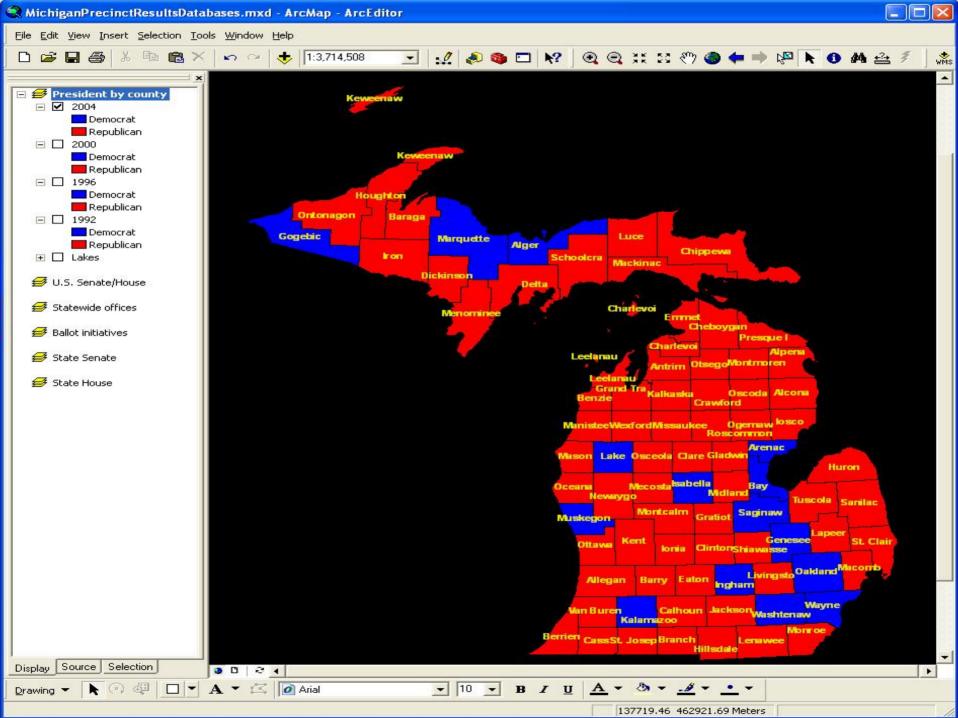


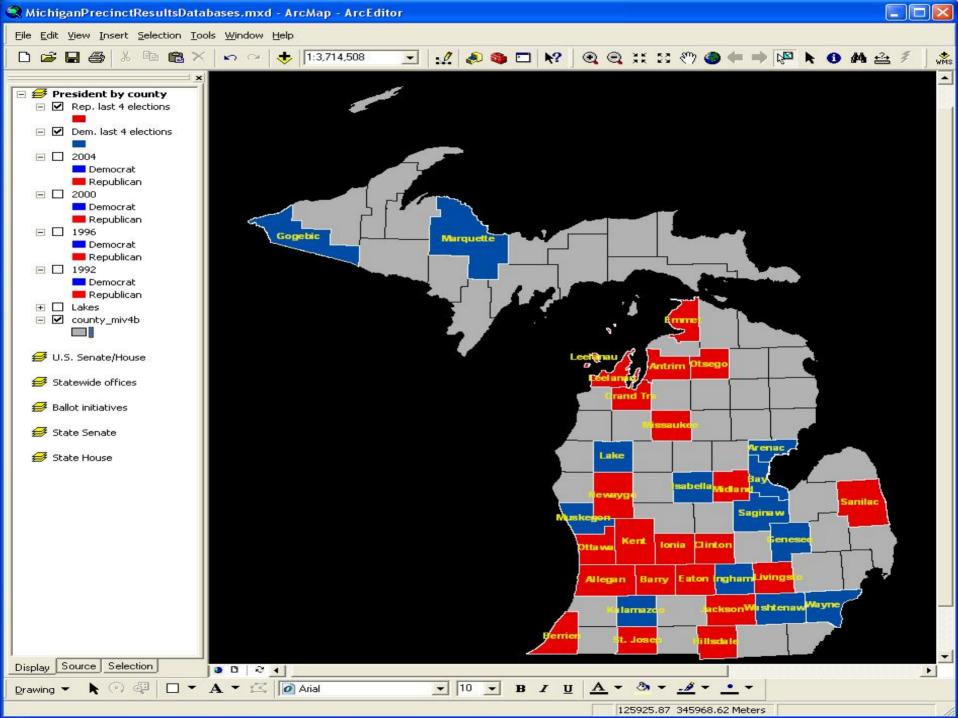












For More Information

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