
Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative

North American Pilot Project

ECAI Project Goals

North American Team

A long-term aim of the North American Team for the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative is to develop and provide accessible resources for the study and teaching of U.S. religious history.

The resources developed will depict the history, spread, social environment, development of religious communities, and cultural context of religion in North America.

North American Team

Intended Products and Audience

Research and analysis resources will contain:

Maps

Text

Images

Animation

Targeted users will include:

Scholars

Students (both in higher education and K-12)

Religious leaders, laity, and organizations

General public

Pilot Project Goals

Evaluation of issues associated with development of ECAI standards and guidelines

Cartographic

Data development

Metadata

Compatibility with TimeMap

Lessons Learned

Data Issues

Data Availability

Basemaps

Non-digital data

Incomplete coverage

Data Quality

Source documents in multiple formats

Data categories often collected inconsistently

Examples:

- Membership data (reported at different levels of detail)
- Location (circuits vs. individual locations)

Lessons Learned

Data Issues

Quality Control

Accuracy of data entry

Availability of expert knowledge

Lessons Learned

GIS Issues

Scale

Change in reference geographies over time

Data representation

Cartographic display

Normalization

Future Issues

Funding

Research assistance

Expert consultants

Technical expertise

Data processing

Many datasets of value to scholars are not available in digital form. Making them usable within the ECAI framework will require acquisition of significant resources.