

## Analyzing Card Information and Service Points with Online Geographic Information Mapping and Overlays

Derek Brown (Director of IT and Building Services at the Rochester Hills Public Library

#### Introduction for myself and our Library.

- Derek Brown (Director of Information Technology and Building Services for the Rochester Hills Public Library).
- IT professional with an educational background in public administration.
- Served on the IUG Steering Committee in the past as well as a new tenure beginning in 2022.
- The Rochester Hills Public Library is a single location with two bookmobiles and multiple of mini-branches.
- Circulation of roughly two million items (pre-covid yearly) with 68,000+ active library cards.



## **Confused Service Population**



RHPL serves the largest population size in Oakland County (Second largest county in Michigan).

Rochester Hills: 76,300 Oakland Township: 20,067 Rochester: 13,035 Total Population Served: 109,402

No one really knows where they live... Zip codes overlap.

Michigan drivers licenses are often wrong. Google is often wrong.

Washington residents use our post office as their home branch as well as some students attend our schools.



#### **Project Outline**

#### Short-term Goals:

- Clean up existing resident library card address data for imperfections (mistypes, invalid symbols/characters, misspellings).
- Standardize our data with organized prefix/suffix/case of text/abbreviations.
- Re-evaluate all city data based on valid authority records (Misconceptions, drivers license abnormalities, etc.).

#### Long-term Goals:

- Incorporate our data with ArcGIS (leveraging Rochester Hills GIS team) to visualize our addresses with robust overlays such as census data (ages, household sizes, primary languages, income, etc.) and population density (assisting mobile services – bookmobile).
- Increasing library card enrollment by targeting specific areas with low adoption rating.
- Maintaining valid data for accurate reporting.



#### **BAD** data is **BAD** (examples)

- Apartments, Suites, Units, etc. formatting was all over the place. Some used Apartment, Apt, APT., #?
- Addresses often were missing prefixes, suffixes, or in the wrong spot.
- Some addresses were capitalized while others were missing case.
- Commas were a common occurrence.
- Some were not located in the state of Michigan...
- Misspellings abundant.

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#### **Local Partnerships**

- We worked directly with the City of Rochester Hills' GIS team to acquire lists of all known addresses for all three areas of importance (postal mailing information only – no personal information).
- The GIS team had direct access into the Oakland County records which allowed us to bypass Freedom of Information Act requests for both the City of Rochester and the Charter Township of Oakland.
- Initial efforts were direct to the smaller entities, but they do not have the dedicated staffing like the City of Rochester Hills (making the FOIA request necessary).
- Rochester Hills GIS also recommended ArcGIS due to their familiarization with the product and it being a market leader in GIS mapping.
- Alternatively; Michigan's municipalities use BS&A (bsaonline.com) for all public records online. This is a great tool to pinpoint exactly where an address pays it's taxes, but searches are 1:1.





#### **Local GIS Data**

The master list (CSV) from Rochester Hills allowed us to easily see accurate data to make direct comparisons.

Having the pre-directions, postdirections, street type, and apartment number segmented helped us to track down oddities.

Rochester and Oakland Township handled their apartment numbers differently and did not segment their information.

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#### **Verified Data on Polaris**

Uploading verified address data into our Polaris SQL allows us to make crossreferences for address checks.

We kept each city segmented due to inconsistencies (ex. Rochester Hills uses APT.Number versus Oakland Township uses Apt #Number).

This also makes it easy to find patrons in the wrong city with the verified street data.



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## Phase 1: Examine Existing Data

Distinct Address IDs associated with Patron records inspected during the first pass-through

Rochester Hills (w/ apts)	47,158	10,830 unmatched
Rochester:	10,109	5,324 unmatched
Oakland Township:	8,119	2,135 unmatched

72.03% Validity

Initial bulk clean up completed...

Rochester Hills:47,158Rochester:UntouchedOakland Township:Untouched

5,776 unmatched

#### Phase 2: Street, City, and Zip Corrections

After a detailed cleaning of all three service populations we've found significant changes to our data

Rochester Hills (w/o apts):	41,199	1,493 unmatched
Rochester:	9,072	973 unmatched
Oakland Township:	10,075	191 unmatched



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### Phase 3: Verified accounts and future planning

- We use a nightly SQL job to mark our accounts with "verified" addresses. The code inspects all accounts (new or old) comparing the existing card data to our known addresses for all patron codes that are considered "residents".
- Marking an account as "not verified" allows our staff to build record sets and perform manual inspection for data clean up. Once the low hanging fruit has been completed the next step will be to notify patrons for corrections. There are addresses that are impossible to correct without patron involvement.
- Our team wants to build SQL statements that will cross-compare addresses for automatic switching of zip/city since this is the majority of our issues (ex. Rochester -> Rochester Hills).
- We hope to embark on developing a library card sign-up page that will handle the majority of all address verification prior to account creation. Using our known address data to prepopulate street addresses as a patron fills out information.
- Added complexity layer: RHPL and Rochester Community Schools synchronizes card data every week and their data is often dirty.
- Our goal is to have (and to hold onto) +98% validity for all residents by the end of 2022.





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- ESRI Non-profit organizational program pricing is extremely affordable: \$100 desktop bundle.
- That includes ArcGIS Pro + access to ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World (global layers and data points – ex. Census info)
- ESRI is the market leader in the GIS industry and is used globally.
- Ability to scale up to larger models if necessary (SaaS products like ArcGIS Online).



Ex. Rochester's postal address data with RHPL's card holder data layered on top (black)

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## **GIS: Displaying Cardholder Data**

- Removing business and industrial zoned addresses from our current mapping. This is a bit more difficult for us since the Oakland County data came restricted and uneditable (at least for now...)
- Overlaying census data (Living Atlas) on our cardholder data to help develop strategic planning (ex. English as a second language, income levels, lack of cellular service, etc.).
- Determine how to visually represent multi-card addresses such as large households, apartments, senior centers, university students, etc.
- Finding deficits in our cardholder addresses and possibly using targeted mailing to increase enrollment. We sent out over 500+ snail mail surveys to residential non-cardholder addresses for their input.





#### **GIS: Bookmobile locations**

- Existing bookmobile locations were often based on ease of parking rather than on necessity of our patrons.
- This will allow our Outreach librarians to evaluate real world data rather than intuition.
- We can develop heat maps to find where the bookmobiles will not overlap service points.





#### Work in progress...

- We'd love to hear your experiences! This is a long term project for our library and speaking with other libraries can help us determine the usefulness of big data.
- Have you used big data to develop strategic planning at your library? If so what did you find the most useful?
- Have you taken on a large-scale address clean up? Do you have any recommendations for other libraries that we can share during the open questions segment?
- Do you current verify all new library cardholder data? If so, how do you do this? Third-party? In-house? Any recommendations are appreciated!
- Please feel free to email me ahead of time with any questions or suggestions for other libraries: <u>Derek.Brown@rhpl.org</u> or call my direct line (248) 650-7123.







# **THANK YOU**

**Questions?** 

