

Project Abstract

As computer-based technology is readily becoming more available and digital material is continuously being created, the need for a digital library emerges. The purpose of the Digital Library created for the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) during the summer of 2008 is to communicate the Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast (UCERF), Version 2 report, as well as to digitally preserve its contents and related materials. SCEC's digital library is supported by the University of Southern California (USC) Libraries system, from which assets and metadata records are accessible to the public. An asset is a document or item that is to be digitally archived in one or many formats and is described by a metadata record. A metadata record is a brief overview that includes such information as a title, a short description, the author(s) name(s), keywords, etc. The process of creating a metadata record to archive an asset includes careful analysis of the asset's content, the extraction of the asset's key concepts, and the internal and external review necessary to preserve the integrity of the asset itself. The retrieval of pertinent information from an asset is required to prepare an accurate description of the document at hand. Also, a controlled vocabulary used to describe the assets is needed for consistency and precision. Internal review among the archiving individuals, as well as the collaboration with the authors of the assets and other persons familiar with the materials ensure an honest representation of the assets being digitally archived. The assets for which metadata records have been created for SCEC during the summer of 2008 include the UCERF main report, its appendices, tabular datasets, images, the SCEC-VDO software, the SCEC-VDO plug-ins, etc.