

# **Second WaterWeb Information Summit**

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

October 3-6, 1999

## **Report from Availability of Water Information Working Group**

### **Our Charge**

What is the state of water information?

What are information gaps that prevent effective water resources management?

What, if any, redundancies should be reduced?

Identify barriers and opportunities for using networks, the Water Ring, etc. to share and access.

### **What is water information?**

Data plus added information

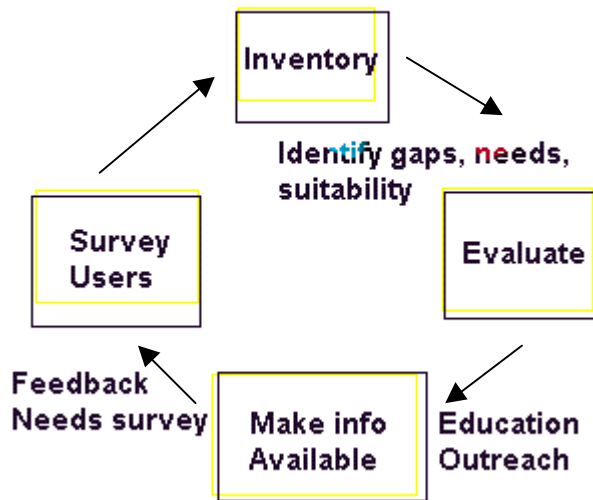
Can be classified into levels of availability

- Available on Internet
- Available but not on Internet
  - Catalogued (library, etc.)
  - Worked on but not available
- Not codified (folklore, etc.)

### **Problem Statement**

Water information exists, but the relevance, distribution, quality, and accessibility are variable to users.

## Recommended Approach



## **Recommendations**

- Current information should be made available in hard copy or electronic format.
- Define all acronyms.
- Index information according to age (date), geography, and keywords/topics.
- List a contact for access to more information.
- Identify, understand, and involve stakeholders (including the disadvantaged) in the development of water resource issues
- Customize information according to stakeholder interests.
- Comprehensive listing of global links is required to improve the use of Internet water information, similar to a water search engine.
- Encourage decision makers to provide the commitment, dedication and funding to develop and deliver the necessary web tools and information for effective resources management.

## **Business Opportunities**

- Lack of availability of hardware and software
- Lack of connectivity