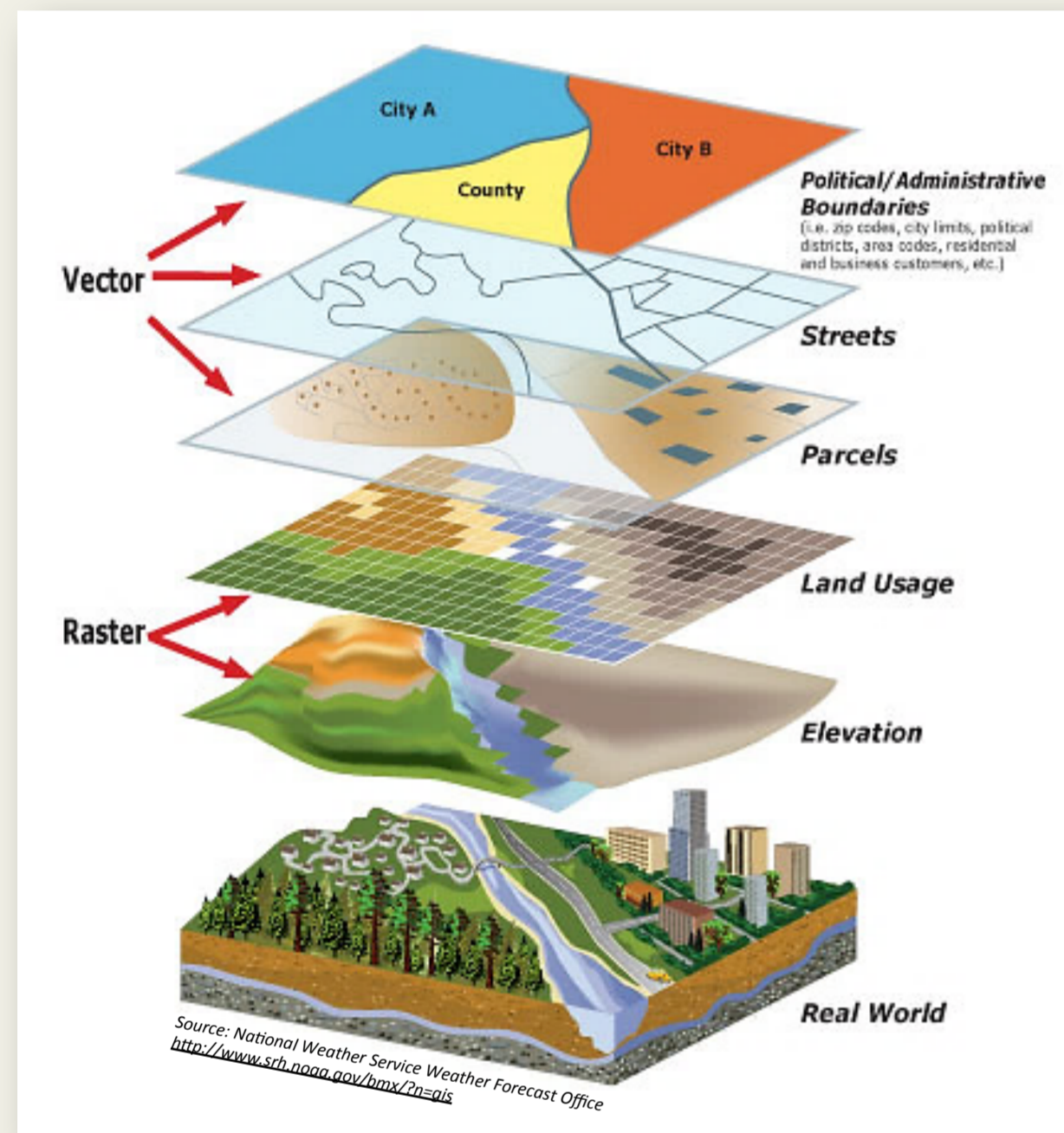


**Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Government Data** GIS technology allows researchers to organize, manage, analyze, distribute and display many layers of relevant data. Federal, state and local government agencies use GIS to fulfil their mission and communicate to the public.



### Best Practices for Local Governments Geospatial Programs

National Geospatial Advisory Committee, 2011

- A) *Establish a Geospatial Program:* Executive Sponsorship and support; Defined Vision/Mission; Shared Governance; Designated Coordinator; Use of Industry Standards; Geospatial Plan
- B) *Develop & Maintain Data As an Asset:* Base and Live Geospatial Data; Metadata; Published Data Maintenance Schedule
- C) *Enterprise Systems Approach:* Applications (web or desktop); Centralized Database; Pooled Software Licenses; Mobile Computing; Publication of Services; General IT Services and Support
- D) *Share with Public:* Web-based Data Clearinghouse; Data Feedback Loop

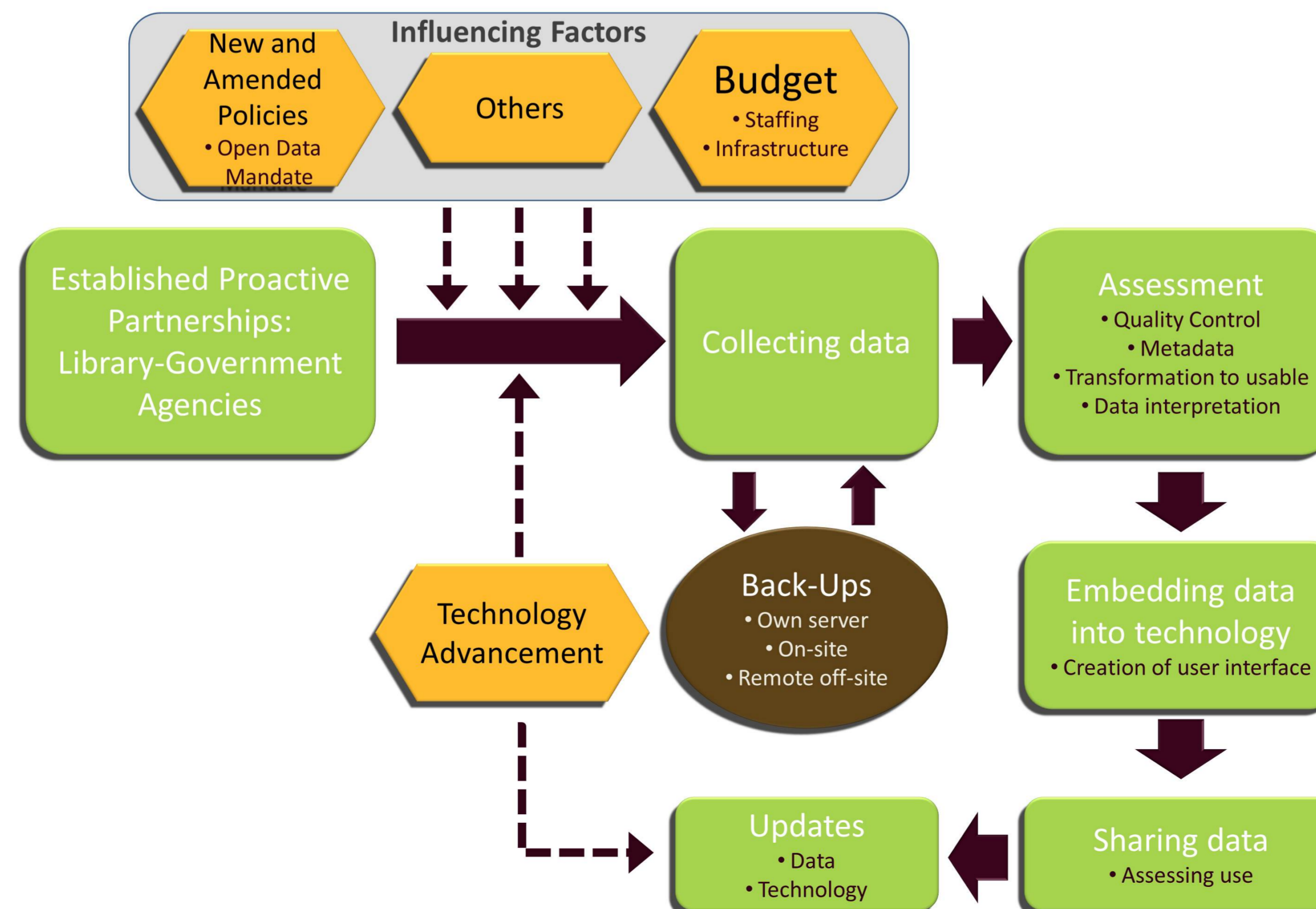


- Texas A&M University:**
- Public, founded in 1876
  - Land-, Space- and Sea-Grant
  - Student population: 50,000+
  - Over 5,500 acre (22 km) campus
  - Tier 1 Carnegie Research University
  - Located in Bryan-College Station metro area, population 175,000

### Data Themes



### Government Data Curation Workflow



### Benefits to Library Users

- Immediate access to files and their metadata
- Able to conduct longitudinal studies
- Can obtain technical support
- GIS lab and software are located within main library

### Benefits to Local Agencies

- Reliable archiving and preservation of their data over the long term
- Minimized costs for long term storage
- Less time diverted with public requests
- Metadata expertise and support provided by library
- Greater transparency of governmental services
- Greater use of data

### References:

- 1) Hartter, Joel, et. al. "Spatially Explicit Data: Stewardship and Ethical Challenges in Science," *PLOS Biology* 11(9). <http://www.plos.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/plbi-10-09-Harter.pdf>
- 2) National Geospatial Advisory Committee. *Best Practices for Local Government Geospatial Programs*. March 2011. <http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/ngac-local-gov-gis-best-practices-paper.pdf>
- 3) *Executive Order of May 9, 2013, Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/05/09/executive-order-making-open-and-machine-readable-new-default-government->