



Name: Leslie Rackham

Current Position: Director

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Key skills:

Data management
Standards development for geographic information
Quality systems design and implementation
Development of spatial data infrastructures (SDIs)
Management Training
Business process analysis and transformation
Programme and project management and project assurance

Profile

Les has thirty years experience of working with location-based or spatial data, some twelve years of which he specialised in the development and management of IT systems, particularly for the storage and maintenance of very large databases of spatial data. He has held senior management positions in the public sector and transitioned successfully into programme management and independent consultancy in the private sector.

Currently, Les is a Director of ConsultingWhere an independent IT consultancy specialising in advice on strategic IT and business development particularly where location-based data is being used. His expertise lies in, data management strategy, data modelling, data standards, quality management and improvement and business process analysis. Through his work at the national and international level he has wide knowledge of spatial data infrastructures (SDIs). He also acts as ConsultingWhere's Training Manager and is responsible for designing, organising and running their training courses both public and those tailored to the specific needs of organisations.

After working on land resource surveys in Africa for fifteen years, Les joined Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain, and worked in R&D, digital map production and IT project management before becoming Corporate Data Manager where responsibilities included the specifications, quality and integrity of all spatial datasets. Latterly he was the head of programme for MasterMap, a major re-engineering of the Ordnance Survey's large-scale topographic database. Les then worked for ESRI (UK) for two years as a programme manager before moving into independent consultancy in 2004.

Les has been an active member of the British Standards Institution (BSI) committee on geographic information (IST/36) for eighteen years serving as Chair from 2007 until April 2011, resuming this role in mid 2012. Previously, he was a working group convenor for Technical Committee 211 (Geographic Information) of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and chaired the steering group for the latest revision of the national gazetteer standard for streets and land and property - BS 7666. He also served on the UK Location Information Programme's Interoperability Board and was actively involved in making and collating comments on drafts of the INSPIRE data specifications. Les has presented on standards at national and international meetings and workshops as well as representing UK at ISO and CEN meetings.

Professional Experience

2008 Director and Principal Consultant, ConsultingWhere Ltd

ConsultingWhere is an independent IT consultancy which specialises in the provision of strategic IT and business advice where that business is using location-based data. Les provides support to clients in analysing their requirements, modelling their data and processes, developing their quality management and advising on standards. He also provides project and programme assurance and training.

Achievements:

Advisor to Ordnance Survey on the Digital National Framework (DNF) initiative
Consultancies on the development of quality management frameworks
Consultancy to English Heritage on planning processes in local authorities for heritage protection
Research into land administration in UK and Canada
Research into the size and value of the UK and European location markets;
Research into SDI development in Denmark and Singapore
Developing and running courses on return on investment and managing successful geospatial development projects both in UK and overseas
Training course on standards for geographic information in Bahrain
Chair of IST/36 the British Standards Committee for Geographic Information.
Member of the UK Location Programme's Interoperability Board

2004-2008 Independent consultant

Les worked on consultancies in the public and private sector including for standards, metadata services, data quality improvement, business process improvement, data and systems analysis and GI strategy. He also taught IT project management as part of a software engineering programme for post graduates at Oxford University.

Achievements:

Leading the Steering Group for the successful revision of BS 7666, the British Standard for street and land and property gazetteers. Co-authored the guidelines for the Standard.
Provided consultancy on a national metadata service to government and AGI, contributed to the development of a UK profile of the ISO metadata standard and co-authored the guidelines.

2002-2004 Programme Manager for ESRI (UK)

He was responsible for implementation of geographic information systems on client sites, In particular the project management of the mapping component of a major e-Commerce project in Ireland.

Achievements:

Project management of the accreditation of the quality management system to ISO 9001 in Consultancy Services.

1984-2002 Head of Programme Management at Ordnance Survey

Les worked in a variety of technical and managerial posts, and was responsible for the largest data and systems re-engineering project attempted by the organisation.



His early assignments included working on ground-breaking research into the management of very large databases (VLDB) in the Research and Development division and management of a team of 50 staff undertaking large scale digital data production.

He was then promoted to be Corporate Data Manager with oversight of all Ordnance Survey's corporate data and databases. He also represented Ordnance Survey and UK on a number of standards bodies and was heavily involved as convenor in international standards for geographic information.

After showing his ability to manage large complex IT projects through responsibility for the Y2K programme, he was again promoted to Head of the MasterMap programme. The introduction of MasterMap revolutionised the use of geospatial data in Great Britain. The programme involved a major re-engineering of major IT and production systems. It employed a team of 150 staff at its peak.

Achievements:

Establishing a corporate data management infrastructure with clear policies on data specification, integrity, security and quality improvement. Development of geospatial data strategies.

Delivering the MasterMap programme, delivered to time and budget And involving the management of a team of 150 IT, production staff and contractors.

Awarded OBE for the MasterMap programme and other services to mapping.

1969-1984 Scientific Officer, Land Resources Development Centre

Scientific Officer and Senior Scientific Officer in a scientific unit of the Overseas Development Administration (now DFID) specialising in air photo interpretation, geomorphology and soil survey for agricultural development projects. Over ten years' experience overseas in Nigeria, Tanzania and Malawi.

Qualifications

MSc Geographic Information Systems, University of Edinburgh (1987)

BSc (Honours) Geography, University of Sheffield (1968)

Memberships

Member of British Cartographic Society

Member of Association for Geographic Information (AGI)

Member of IST/36 of British Standards Committee for Geographic Information

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