Savannah Cooley is a senior undergraduate student at Clark University in Massachusetts, majoring in Economics and minoring in Math and Geography with a concentration in Computational Science. She is an M.S. candidate for Clark’s accelerated M.A. program in Geographic Information Science (GIS). The cross-disciplinary education Cooley pursues reflects her passion for recognizing the inter-connected nature, particularly the spatial relationships, of environmental and human systems. Cooley’s applications of GIS range from working with a non-profit in the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest to create the region’s first web-based GIS application, to working with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to identify priority road segments to improve in order to increase Worcester County’s food system connectivity by using road-condition data and modeling the routes farmers would take to transport food to regional farmer’s markets.

Cooley is currently an intern at the Center for Spatial Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) working on a project with the UCSB Library to coordinate an integration of spatial data into the university’s online GIS application. The project seeks to resolve the challenges that libraries and researchers face in trying to discover spatial data via metadata on diverse platforms and in a variety of environments.