Chris Gist is the GIS Specialist in the University of Virginia Library where he builds spatial data collections, teaches GIS courses, consults on research projects and provides GIS user support. His research work includes various demographic, neighborhood indicator, alternative transportation, environmental science and humanities GIS projects. Gist has a B.S. in Environmental Science and an M.S in Information Systems from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a certified GIS professional (GISP).

Presentation Abstract:  
History of Geodata and Metageodata at the University of Virginia Library

Dealing with geodata is a continuing issue for university libraries. The University of Virginia Library has a long history of making spatial data available to end users in usable formats. Starting with projects like the Historic Census Browser, the Library’s work on spatial data curation, management, discoverability, and ease of use continue to be a driving force. The Scholars’ Lab pioneered the use of open source applications to create spatial data portals that make end use of spatial data practical. These efforts, in combination with our partner universities, have led to GeoBlacklight which is a project to integrate a geoportal into library catalogs. To me, seamless integration into the Library catalog is the end goal.