EMERGING FROM THE SHADOWS:
Making Unique Fire Insurance Maps Available to Researchers

Presented by David Hodnefield
President of Historical Information Gatherers, Inc.

FIMO
Fire Insurance Maps online
Barriers to Good Research

- Low Quality Source Materials
- Lack of Source Materials
- Time and Budget Constraints
- Lack of Understanding the Limits of Source Materials
Quality Research Requires Quality Source Materials
Color Map Scanning: A Good Beginning


>500,000 sheets digitized
Amount of Coverage

Seattle V. 1, 1916 Revised to 1950

31 revisions in 34 years
You Can’t Use What You Don’t Know About (or readily access)!
UNIQUE COLLECTIONS

Unique FIM collections exist in libraries and archives throughout the country.

- Sanborn Maps prior to 1883
- Maps with different revision dates
- Non-Sanborn FIMs
Historical Information Gatherers is committed to identifying and digitizing unique collections around the country!

**FIMo** or a future incarnation will provide a centralized source to access historical property data from numerous sources.
Objections to Data Sharing

1. “You just want to monopolize the data.”
2. “We don’t allow private parties to profit from our materials.”
3. “This is what brings patrons in.”
4. “I’m too busy to deal with negotiating a contract.”
5. “We can do it ourselves.”
HOW YOU CAN HELP

3S’s = Share collections, Subscribe to FIMO, Spread the word
Thank You for Your Support

For more information contact:
Historical Information Gatherers, Inc.
952-253-2004
Tad Anderson
TadA@historicalinfo.com
www.historicalinfo.com/FIMO