

General Info on Databases

Linking your data

- Flat file database
 - ▶ Earliest form and still common
 - ▶ Repetition of input is common
 - ▶ Data can be represented as a grid
 - Each column is a variable (attribute)
 - Latitude
 - City
 - Customer ID
 - Each row is a set of data that goes together
 - A sampling point and its data
 - Customer name and address
 - ▶ Can be entered as a single sheet in Excel

General Info on Databases

(Continued)

- Relational database
 - ▶ Made of multiple tables linked together
 - A common variable (primary key) must be used in linked tables
 - Customer ID
 - Student ID
 - ▶ Most common form is one-to-many
 - ▶ Big advantage is in storage and access to data
 - Much more efficient
 - Some things change rarely
 - Address
 - Job title
 - Some things need constant updating
 - Financial accounts
 - Order status

Creating a Flatfile Database

- Done easily in Excel
 - ▶ Sorting is easy
 - ▶ Graphics are available
 - ▶ Can be imported into many programs
- Example: Simple address book
- Can create format for import to ArcGIS

Examining a flatfile .dbf file

- Open Excel
- Open the file
C:\Apps\ArcGIS\ArcGlobeData\country.shp
- Note the column headings and file format
