Saving and recovering georeferencing transformation statistics for future reference

So, go about the procedural steps described in “Georeferncing a raster dataset” to add the control points of your choosing. You’ll have the Link Table window open, displaying all the link coordinates and their residuals that you choose to collect, and the RMSE. While still in the “add control” mode, you can delete and add as many control points as you wish, as you seek the “best” RMSE you have time to pursue. Note that as you identify your control points readily observable “+” marker are shown on the data canvas (red for target, green for image).

When you get to an RMSE that you want to establish for an image and save the link data for, in the Link Table window click on the Save… button. You’ll get an ordinary Save as… navigation window to name and save an ascii file that will contain just the raw link coordinates you captured. I stored this file with the raster images and named it <image\_filename.jp2.txt> so as to keep the “image file family” (the image, world, aux, and txt) together. CAUTION: the image is still NOT georeferenced. The Link Table still contains the link coordinate pairs you captured. From the Georeferencing dropdown menu chose “Update Georeferencing” which saves a world file and aux file. There are now four files that constitute a georeferenced image.

Now, whenever a georeferenced image is added to an ArcMap session I can recover the link coordinates, residuals, and RMSE by making sure the image name is displayed in the Layer field of the Georeferencing toolbar, clicking on the View Link Table button, and from the Link Table window clicking on the Load… button, navigating to the link text file previously saved as described above