The Evolution of Cadastral Systems in Austria and Galicia (Poland): Different Approaches to a Similar System from a Common Beginning

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Abstract

The main aim of this paper is to document the gradual evolution of cadastral maps and associated land books in the area of today's Austria as well as the more dramatic development of the cadastral system in Galicia (Poland). The continuous development of the Austrian system is compared to the more gradual evolution of the Polish system, the development of which was more complex because of the historical and political developments in this country's turbulent past. However both systems have common roots with the Franciscan Cadastre. The investigation is based on development of the legal instruments, the institutional settings, the technical procedures, and the final products of the respected countries. The comparison of the development in the two countries and the results of the investigated quality assessment of cadastral maps clearly document that the smooth development of a cadastre requires a stable political situation. The Austrian cadastre had already almost finished the period of consolidation, harmonization, and completion in 1938. This allowed a new area of further development to evolve after 1945. In Poland, the unfinished tasks of homogenization and harmonization in 1939 and the significant changes in the political system in 1945 delayed consolidation, harmonization, and completion of the cadastral system and impeded the continuous development of the system for the next decades.

Scope of Information in the Legends of Topographical Maps in the Nineteenth Century – *Urmesstischblätter*

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to determine the informational resource of maps (two folios) of the *Urmesstischblätter* with reference to the legend (three editions). Visual analysis was used as the basis for acquiring information that could be gleaned from the legends, contents of the folios, marginalia and later map. The information gathered was grouped applying the geoinformational method. The informational resource of the folios was determined by identifying separate objects present on the map with reference to the legend (number of separations in the legend), taking into consideration the geometrical type of objects. In addition, the informational resource of a folio was also defined by the number of features of these objects that can be obtained (from the legend, cartographic content, marginalia, *Messtischblätter*) with reference to cartographic measurement levels.

Exploring Evocative Places and their Characteristics

Alenka Poplin

Abstract

The main goal of this article is to study how people describe emotions related to places and to improve understanding of

evocative places, their locations and characteristics as described by the citizens. Evocative places are places that evoke an especially emotional response in terms of images, memories and/or emotions. We aim to contribute to a better understanding of emotions in relation to places. Our study concentrates on Ames, a small university town in the Midwest in North America. The collected 192 locations show two areas with high concentrations of evocative places, specifically the university campus and Ada Hayden Heritage Park. This study opened up challenging research questions related to fuzzy or non-existing boundaries of places, a variety of shapes of places, and questions related to the challenges of modelling emotions as objects or attributes in a geographic information system. We conclude the article with main findings and further research directions.

Cutting the Cord: A Corrective for World Navels in Cartography and Science

Rasmus Grønfeldt Winther

Abstract

A map is not its territory. Taking a map too seriously may lead to *pernicious reification*: map and world are conflated. As one family of cases of such reification, I focus on maps exuding the *omphalos syndrome*, whereby a centred location on the map is taken to be the *world navel* of, for instance, an empire. I build on themes from my book *When Maps Become the World*, in which I analogize scientific theories to maps, and develop the tools of *assumption archaeology* and *integration platforms*. Here I argue that excavating assumptions helps fill *cartographic silences*, showing the limitations of perspectives often at war. Furthermore, integrating perspectives permits resisting imperial *central* or *master images*. A worthwhile future project would be a repository of world-navel maps, critically annotated with cultural context and imperial information. Mutual understanding may result from such an integration platform, perhaps implemented online or in a museum.

Territory and Claims in the Antarctic Treaty Region: A Disquisition on Historical and Recent Developments

Robert Keith Headland

Abstract

Formal specifications of territorial claims over Antarctic regions south of 60° south latitude, the region under the ægis of the Antarctic Treaty made on 1st December 1959, have been significant from their origin, early in the twentieth century, until several of the conundrums they raised went into abeyance after the Treaty came into force in 1961. Nevertheless, the history of such claims has not been entirely simple and there have been significant subsequent events involving Ecuador and Norway. Changes after the Antarctic Treaty are noted and the history of earlier territorial specifications recapitulated. Documents are quoted in the original languages. Comparative data of territories are presented with summarized observations on accuracy of cartographic representations.

An Alternative to Desktop GIS? Evaluating the Cartographic and Analytical Capabilities of WebGIS Platforms for Teaching

Victoria Fast & Fahim Hossain

Abstract

The increasing prevalence of (open) geospatial data has amplified the demand for online tools to input, manage, and analyse data and generate cartographic outputs. WebGIS platforms are responding to this demand by delivering cost-effective, relatively easy to use compared to desktop GIS software, and increasingly sophisticated tools. The continued advancement of webGIS platforms highlights the necessary, but tricky, integration of these platforms into university curriculum. In this paper, we develop an evaluation framework for users to assess, compare, and benchmark the cartographic capabilities of four webGIS platforms–ArcGIS Online, Carto, Mapbox, and GIS Cloud–against standard GIS functionality. The webGIS platforms studied offer advanced data management and some spatial analysis capabilities, but in contrast, they have limited cartographic capabilities for creating static maps. Recognizing that platforms change, and change often, this study serves to benchmark the capabilities of webGIS platforms, while reflecting on the observed challenges to teaching neocartography tools.