**THE MAP COLLECTION & CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES: A WORLD OF MAPS OF THE WORLD**

By Anne Zald, Head Map Collection & Cartographic Information Services, University of Washington Libraries

Questions like these are what make the work of a map librarian so interesting:

1. I am teaching a course about independence movements in Africa and need a map showing areas administered by the various European colonial powers.
2. I’m researching my family history and want to identify the area we came from. Great-grandfather emigrated from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the mid 19th century. The area has been in a couple of different countries since that time. Since I’ve transliterated the town name from conversations with my grandmother I’m not certain if the spelling is accurate. Oh, and the town might have had different names in different languages spoken in the area.
3. I’d like to do an analysis of the potential impacts of global warming and sea-rise on coastal areas in Washington.
4. Are people who live in Michigan called Michiganians or Michiganders?
5. I’d like to study changes in land cover and land use around the Elwha Dam over the past 50 or 60 years.
6. Is there a relationship between various factors such as income or race and school performance on the WASL exam? Where are those relationships strongest?
7. I’d like to analyze changes in the location of low-income housing in King County over the past decade.

See: UW Map Collection, page 2

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**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN**

Fellow Friends and Colleagues,

Warm wishes and Happy New Year! 2009 promises to be a year unlike any other, with new challenges and opportunities in all aspects of our lives. WAURISA is an organization that exists to recognize, support, and encourage professional growth through continuing education, communication, technical development, and service to our members. As many of us face budget cuts and the challenge of doing more with less this year, let us look for opportunities to learn from and work with each other, share resources, and find new ways to excel in these tough times.

Projected attendance of the 2009 Washington State GIS Conference has been a topic of great concern to our board this year while planning the conference. Very mindful decisions have been made to hold the conference at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue -- just one block from a major public transportation hub -- and use some thoughtful budgeting to find ways to maximize benefits to our attendees without raising any costs to attend.

The theme for the conference is ‘GIS Every WHERE’, reflecting how pervasive GIS have become in all of our lives. Please think about how the theme relates to your life and consider presenting a talk, volunteering to help, or simply attending the conference.

You’ll find lot’s of preliminary information about the 2009 Washington GIS Conference beginning on page 8 of this issue of The Summit. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. I continue to enjoy my work with the board, committees and volunteers that make this organization so great! Please feel free to contact me at president@waurisa.org if you would like to become more involved in WAURISA or have any suggestions on how we can serve our membership better.

-Angela Johnson, WAURISA President
These are among the questions asked every day at the Map Collection & Cartographic Information Services of the University of Washington Libraries [sources provided at the end of this article]. We use the more than 271,000 maps, nearly 87,000 air photos, and 5000 books (such as atlases, GIS software manuals, gazetteers and carto-bibliographies), and 1400 computer discs (including geospatial data and commercial mapping applications on CD/DVD) to achieve our mission which is to, “enrich the quality of life and advance intellectual discovery by connecting people with knowledge.”

Our goal is to collect topographic mapping for all world regions at 1:250,000, with larger scale mapping for many countries and particular emphasis on Washington State. As a Federal Depository Library we have strong holdings of maps published by federal agencies including the US Geologic Survey (USGS), Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Census Bureau. For example we have USGS topographic mapping of the entire United States at three scales (1:250,000; 1:100,000; and 1:24,000) and retain all scales and editions of USGS topographic mapping for Washington state (1:125,000; 1:62,500; and 1:24,000). Our collection emphasis on Washington State and the Puget Sound region results in much more variety of theme, scale and publisher for these areas. In addition to terrestrial mapping we also collect aeronautical and nautical charts, polar mapping, planetary maps, and even maps of imaginary places. Our collection of digital geospatial data follows the same pattern with generalized layers for the United States and the world and more detail of scale and theme for Washington State.

**Quick Facts: Map Collection & Cartographic Information Services, University of Washington Libraries**

**Website:** http://www.lib.washington.edu/maps  
**Location:** Suzzallo/Allen Library, Basement (for maps and directions see website)  
**Phone:** 206-543-9392  
**Email:** maplib@u.washington.edu  
**Hours:** M-Th 9 am – 8 pm; Fri 9 am – 5 pm; Sat 1 pm – 5 pm  
Hours vary on holidays and during periods when classes are not in session.

Start with the **UW Libraries Online Catalog** to identify whether we have maps for any particular theme or region since approximately 80% of Map Collection materials are included. Our website provides tips for conducting keyword searches in the catalog. Map Collection staff provide assistance on-site as well as by phone and email. Collection materials can be used on-site or you can arrange for borrowing privileges to take materials out of the library (see box on page 3 for websites providing additional information).

**Collection Highlights**

**Geospatial Data Services**

The Map Collection provides geospatial data services to support the use of GIS for teaching and research in many academic departments. The primary vehicle for geospatial services is the **Washington State Geospatial Data Archive** website (WAGDA, see box on page 3).

WAGDA provides pointers to web-accessible data, password-controlled access to downloadable data, and a link to the Washington State Geospatial Clearinghouse providing metadata to the NSDI which is hosted by the University Libraries in partnership with the Washington State Geographic Information Council (WAGIC). We aspire to make WAGDA and the Clearinghouse a primary portal for Washington geospatial data and are seeking additional data sharing partnerships. Many datasets on WAGDA are in the public domain and made accessible to all (including DOQs/DOQQs for the entire state). However there are many datasets labeled **UW Restricted** which, due to license agreements, require a University password for access. Distribution of licensed data is limited to currently enrolled students and to current faculty and staff for non-commercial uses.

To facilitate the analysis and mapping of 2000 and 1990 census data, WAGDA provides public access to geodatabases for each of the six counties in Puget Sound (Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston) and for Washington State as a whole. Selected census geographies are included in the geodatabases along with all variables from the 100% and sample data.

**Aerial Photography**

Aerial photography, which we have for various areas of Washington State dating back to 1942, is acquired through both purchase and gift. Map Collection staff welcome visits from those interested in using the collection and are happy to assist you onsite. The print collection provides a rich historical supplement to digital orthophotography which, if in the public domain, is available for download through WAGDA. Digital Orthophoto Quads and Quarter Quads for all of Washington (produced by USGS & USFS in the 1990s) are available as well as more recent color coverage of the Puget Sound region.

Using ArcIMS we are building the **Aerial Photo Project Finder**, an online interactive map tool (see box) which can be used to identify date and scale of photos for areas of interest. A project to supplement this tool with scanned images of flight line indexes was completed in November 2008. Those unable to visit the collection can request photo reproductions by providing the project name and specific photo numbers to the Interlibrary Loan department’s fee-based document delivery service (see box).

**Historic map resources**

As mentioned above, the Map Collection retains all scales and editions of USGS topographic mapping for Washington State, which extends back to the 1890s. We also retain all editions of nautical charts for Washington waters. Plat atlases and many pre-1930 PNW urban maps will be located in Special Collections (see box), as will any antique maps. The UW Libraries Online Catalog will point you to map materials in both library departments. **Early Washington Maps Online** (see box) provides access to images of historic maps of Washington State and includes maps held by Special Collections, the Map Collection, as well as the Washington State University Library.

*See: UW Map Collection, page 3*
**UW Map Collection**  
*Continued from page 2*

**What’s Next: Data Preservation**

In addition to these daily efforts to build collections and connect people with geographic information, the Map Collection, as a unit within a research library, is also exploring our responsibilities to preserve and provide access to cartographic materials over the long term. A quick search of our catalog shows that we have many digital map products produced before 1999 which require operating systems to which we no longer have access. While newer versions of some of these products are available, the larger question remains of how to identify those digital materials produced today which will need to be accessible in five, or fifty, years. Our experience with both print and digital materials indicates ongoing public and research interest in ‘how things used to be’. The Map Collection is beginning to explore the partnerships and processes that are needed to ensure that these long term data uses, and the metadata which will support data preservation and migration, are addressed.

The Map Collection not only builds a collection, we continuously seek to broaden our knowledge of complementary cartographic collections as well as agencies creating geospatial data. We look forward to speaking with you, whether to help solve a problem, share your data with researchers and students, or to boost your child’s homework into the ‘A’ range with great maps!

**Answers to Questions of Page 1:**

2. We work with topographic maps, print and online gazetteers, and other resources to help genealogists. If we don’t always find small villages on maps, we can often clarify the region of interest.
5. A group of UW Tacoma students worked on this very question a few years ago by digitizing and geo-referencing aerial photographs and analyzing them alongside more recent digital orthophotography. The students conducted their analysis using GIS and ERDAS Imagine software. To develop land cover characterizations for earlier time periods students have used the General Land Office Cadastral Survey Field Notes and maps (http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/ySrty1.php) dating from the 1850s.
6. Census data is a source for population characteristics. See the census geodatabases for Washington posted on WAGDA (http://wagda.lib.washington.edu/data/type/census/geo/db/ index.html). In addition, use the Census Bureau’s Cartographic Boundary Files to find school district shapefiles (http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/). Data on WASL scores can be found at the website of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ summary.aspx?year=2007-08).
7. The Map Collection began acquiring King County Standard Data Disks in 1997. WAGDA points to current data hosted by the Assessor’s Office and current UW students can contact the Map Collection to inquire about earlier data on CD.

**I mportant online resources mentioned in this article:**

- **UW Libraries Catalog:**
  - http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search–
- **Tips for Searching the UW Libraries Catalog for Maps and Cartographic Materials**
- **What We Answer By Email or Phone**
- **Visitor Borrowing Privileges:**
  - http://www.lib.washington.edu/services/borrow/
- **Interlibrary Loan – Document Delivery Services**
  - http://www.lib.washington.edu/uworld/
- **Early Washington Maps: A Digital Collection**
  - http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/xmaps.html
- **Washington State Geospatial Data Archive (WAGDA)**
  - http://wagda.lib.washington.edu/
- **Aerial Photo Project Finder**
- **Special Collections (plat atlases and other historic mapping)**

**Disclaimer**

http://www.lib.washington.edu/maps/MapResources/airp hotodisclaimer.html

**Footnotes:**

1 To see the video we produced in 2003, from which the title of this article is appropriated, see:
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQbXHP9-Vdg (part 1)
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMdYs0swEmY (part 2)

  - http://www.lib.washington.edu/about/vision2010

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Based on input from across Washington State, GIS Day 2008 was a huge success. The Summit's request in the previous issue for news and photos about GIS Day activity resulted in a flood of input. The following stories provide a glimpse into how GIS is being used by many agencies and companies...and maybe will provide some ideas for your GIS Day activities for 2009.

**Green River Community College**

GRCC GIS Program Instructor Sabbah Jabbouri expanded GIS day into a four-day GIS Awareness Week. GIS program student presentations were a key part of each day's events. On Tuesday, Karsten Vennemann gave an open-source based mapping demonstration, followed by a hands on exercise for students and staff.

On GIS Day itself, WAURISA Board Member Donna Wendt and volunteer Bob Wendt did a GIS Day lunchtime presentation on Municipal GIS Analysis, including Alcohol Impact Area analysis, First-in Fire Station analysis, and a QC method for street address data using fishbone maps.

On Thursday, City of Tacoma GIS Analyst Michael Stoddard gave a presentation on 3D GIS analysis done for building size visualization along the Foss Waterway.

Friday was high school day – with high school teachers and students invited in to learn about GIS from GRCC students.

For an online update on GRCC GIS Program GIS Day Activity, see:

http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/gis/GIS_Week_Activities.html

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**City of Kennewick**

The City of Kennewick observed 2008 GIS Day with a poster presentation at several locations. The information provided covered the basics of what GIS is, how GIS can be used, and specific applications and products from the City's GIS.

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GIS Supervisor
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**Group Health Center for Health Studies**

Group Health held a very successful first-ever GIS Day Event.

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GIS Day 2008
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City of Bellevue

The City of Bellevue hosted nearly 100 fourth graders, chaperones, and teachers from Cherry Crest Elementary at City Hall for GIS day. The students participated in several mapping activities including measuring the distance from their homes to their school on a floor map, finding aerial photos of their houses using our internal map browser, drawing their own map of their imagined city, and an orienteering course around City Hall. A raffle of ESRI-donated prizes for students who completed all the activities was a big hit. The event was a blast for the guests and more than 20 City of Bellevue staff volunteers who helped make it happen.

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Washington Military Department
Camp Murray, Washington

This was the first GIS Day since the reorganization of the GIS Personnel within the Washington Military Department (WMD) which took place in May 2008. Just like some of the data we use, the joining of different GIS Shops brings together the rather disparate methods of how GIS technology is utilized. Brigadier General Gordon Toney, Commander of the Washington Army National Guard, provided the introduction and welcome to the audience. To give the audience a broad idea of many different applications of GIS, four outside speakers gave presentations on Winter Operations Situational Awareness at WSDOT, Spatial Analysis of Forest Stewardship from Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR), Data Availability from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and a demonstration by ESRI on updating utilities from data collected in the field.

The WMD GIS Section, which is made up of five personnel within the new Information Technology Division, displayed posters on the methods we used to produce several of the products created over the last year. We also had data collection equipment such as, GPS units, a Total Station, laser, etc. to show how we collect data at our multiple property locations around the state. To round out the displays, several books and pamphlets about the many different aspects of GIS were available for the attendees to browse or take with them. We hope as our GIS Section grows together that we are able to provide a greater array of GIS Services for the Military Department.

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GIS Day 2008
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Washington State Department of Transportation

This year the Washington State Department of Transportation’s GIS Support Team sponsored several GIS related events that were open to all State employees. They included lunch time GIS seminars on Tuesday and Wednesday and a hands-on workshop on Thursday that addressed ‘getting your data into ArcGIS Desktop’ and WSDOT’s custom version of ArcGIS Explorer. Events were held at both the WSDOT HQ building in Olympia and our Tumwater location.

WaDOT GIS Day Display

WaDOT GIS Day Seminar

Rich Daniels, GISP
Office of Information Technology
Washington State Department of Transportation
GIS Product Support
(360) 705-7654

UW Map Library

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Entrix, Inc. & Union Ridge Elementary School in Ridgefield

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ENTRIX GIS staff: Sarah Jenniges, Kyla Larson, and Kevin Gabel.

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On January 22, 2009 the URISA Board of Directors voted to endorse the ‘GIS for the Nation’ proposal (see: http://urisa.org/policy) as a component of the national economic stimulus package. The National GIS Proposal can be found at: http://www.gis.com/gisnation. In addition to URISA the proposal has now been endorsed by:

- AAG - The Association of American Geographers
- American Forests
- GITA - The Geospatial Information & Technology Association
- The International Map Trade Association
- National Association of County Engineers
- National Association of Counties
- NSGIC – National States Geographic Information Council
- NatureServe
- The Trust for Public Lands
- UCGIS – University Consortium for Geographic Information Science

URISA’s endorsement letter, addressed to the members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives stated:

Local, state, and federal agencies increasingly rely on spatial data for a number of mission-critical operations, such as emergency response, taxation, and facility management. Yet, the process of compiling the data on which these operations rely is, at best, a hodgepodge of disconnected activities across all levels of government without any coordinating capabilities. As a result, data are often unavailable at the most critical times, such as in response to a natural or manmade disaster. A voluntary system of spatial data, called the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), was proposed in the 1990s as a data sharing mechanism. The problem with such a voluntary approach is that no one has the job of providing the data everyone wants to use.

The proposal for Building a National GIS establishes the required balance of authority and responsibility. The Board of Directors of URISA - The Association for GIS Professionals welcomes the opportunity to endorse the National GIS as a rational approach to populating the NSDI. Rather than pursuing piecemeal projects that address the needs of only one user group, we believe that a comprehensive solution is required. The National GIS proposal sets up a mechanism to create and maintain critical spatial datasets, such as property records, aerial imagery, and topography. It is very likely that the savings from operational efficiencies will substantially finance the project.

The National GIS is an idea that is rational in its approach, reasonable in its reach, and vital in its deliverables. We urge the Congress to take up legislation that will start the country on the road to spatial data sufficiency. We also urge the Congress to specify that any related procurement be accomplished through a method that includes consideration of the vendor's technical capabilities along with price. Only a national effort will allow us to develop and maintain a complete set of data as we chart a new path into the future. And only a competitive procurement process can ensure that we get the right data at the best possible price.

URISA and its 2,500 members stand ready to provide whatever planning and operational support we can provide.

- Wendy Nelson, Executive Director

In parallel with the ‘GIS for the Nation’ proposal, two other similar proposals have appeared, each with strong support:

- A Concept for American Recovery and Reinvestment - NSDI 2.0: Powering our National Economy, Renewing our Infrastructure, Protecting our Environment (see: http://www.nsdii2.net/)
- A Proposal for Reinvigorating the American Economy Through Investment in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) (see: http://www.cast.uark.edu/nsdi/nsdiplan.pdf)

Finally – COGO – the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (see: http://urisa.org/cogo) both endorsed the proposal for a National GIS and recommended that Congress designate a committee or sub-committee in both the Senate and House of Representatives with primary responsibility for geospatial activities.

GIS VOLUNTEERS – PAST & PRESENT
SHARE YOUR STORIES...

Do you know of any great volunteer organizations using GIS that deserve some recognition? How about great volunteers? The next issue of The Summit will run a story on local GIS volunteering, so here's your chance to publicize the good works in your neighborhood. Contact Eadie Kaltenbacher by February 27 to get your volunteer story of your cause in the news! Phone: 360-307-4217, E-mail: ekaltenb@co.kitsap.wa.us.
Waurisa — the Washington State Chapter of Urban and Regional Information Systems Association — has begun accepting presentation proposals for the 2009 Washington GIS Conference to be held May 4 - 6, 2009 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington. The conference theme for 2009 is GIS Every WHERE.

WAURISA is seeking potential speakers to provide fresh, dynamic solutions to today's challenges. Presentations are invited that address the broad subjects of interest to GIS practitioners such as:

- GIS Every WHERE
- Data Conversion, Acquisition and Standards
- Application Development
- Internet/WWW
- Local, Regional, Tribal, and Federal Government
- Natural Resources and Environment
- 3D Visualizations and Viewshed Analysis
- Open Source GIS
- Mobile GIS Solutions
- GIS Enabled Business Applications
- Utilities and Transportation
- Training
- Imagery and Remote Sensing
- CAD/GIS Integration
- GIS Management Best Practices
- Other GIS Topics

This is an opportunity to share experience, expertise, and knowledge with colleagues and offer solutions for success. Individuals chosen to present will gain recognition by their peers, raise awareness of critical issues and identify current trends in the industry. The Presentations committee will select session presentations to represent a wide range of interests and levels of expertise. Selection will be based on the value of the proposed topic to the audience and the clarity of the abstract.

Four types of presentations are available:

- Student presentation, allotted 15 minutes — Enter the Dick Thomas Competition
- Individual presentation, allotted 25 minutes
- Panel discussion, allotted 90 minutes
- Maps and Posters

Abstracts must be limited to no more than 300 words, and must include: presentation title, type of presentation requested, and author information including complete contact information. A clear concise abstract is your best ticket to a logical track placement and a well-attended session.

Presenters at the 2009 Washington GIS Conference will earn 1 GISCI Contribution Point for Conference Presentation or Conference Poster Display in addition to points earned for attending the conference and being a member of WAURISA. Speakers: If your paper is chosen for presentation you may attend the Monday workshops for only $10 with your regularly paid conference registration. Electronic submissions are preferred - please email to address at the left by March 16, 2009. See complete presentation guidelines at the Presentation Guidelines Link.
Presentations may address any GIS topic of broad interest to the audience. Possible topics are not limited to the sample tracks listed in the Call for Papers. A presentation should not be used to market a commercial product. Commercial presentations may be given by reserving a vendor booth.

A presentation should describe a project, process, experience, expertise, management, or best practices related to GIS. Specific tracks will be assigned after the abstract proposals have been received. The subjects will be generally divided into management or technical categories. There will be a track for presentations that relate to the conference theme, GIS Every WHERE.

Where is GIS? It started with computerized maps, as witnessed by name of the predecessor organization for WAURISA, Northwest Computer Mapping Association (NWCAMA). Now, we have GPS in our cars. Appliance deliveries are routed to meet a schedule and cut costs. Lighthouses are historic buildings. Hiking is safer. Professional cartographers have thoroughly embraced GIS. GIS is imbedded into utility billing and advertising. GIS is pervasive in the Internet and is part of our phones and cameras. We can analyze our world in 3D.

To submit an abstract, please include the following information in your email to the address on the left:

- **Name:**
- **Job Title:**
- **Agency:**
- **Department:**
- **Mailing Address:**
- **Email Address:**
- **Phone Number:**
- **Type of Presentation:**
  - Student Presentation, 15 minutes. Enter the Dick Thomas Competition. Individual Presentation, allotted 25 minutes. Panel Discussion, allotted up to 90 minutes (specify amount of time needed). (For posters, please refer to the [poster registration link](#).)
- **Presentation will appeal to:** New, Intermediate, or Advanced GIS Users (indicate group or groups)
- **Presentation Title:**
- **Abstract:** No more than 300 words, a clear concise description of the presentation to be used in the conference program. A quality abstract results in correct track placement and a well-attended session.

Selection criteria will be based on the value of the proposed topic to the audience and the clarity of the abstract. Individuals chosen to present will gain recognition by their peers, raise awareness of critical issues and identify current trends in the industry. The presentations committee will select session presentations to represent a wide range of interests and levels of expertise.

**Note:** All accepted presenters must register and pay the regular Tuesday-Wednesday conference registration fee. Acceptance as a presenter does not register you for the conference. Presenters must register by April 10, 2009.

Presenters at the 2009 Washington GIS Conference will earn 1 GISC Contribution Point for Conference Presentation or Conference Poster Display in addition to points earned for attending the conference and being a member of WAURISA. If your paper is chosen for presentation you may attend a full-day Monday workshop for only $10 in addition to your conference registration.

Continued on Page 2...
Presentation Tips

There are a few things you can do to make your presentation as professional as possible. When using a PowerPoint, limit the number of bullets to 6 or fewer, and keep the number of words to a minimum. Use large fonts that can be seen from the back of the audience.

Rather than reading verbatim from the screen, expound from an outline. Illustrations and maps spice up a presentation, but do not go overboard on animation and sound effects. At the beginning of your presentation, state what your talk will cover, and at the end do a review of what was covered. Allow time for questions from the audience. Repeat questions for the audience before answering.

Practice the presentation with a test audience using a projector. Speak in a voice that projects well, stand up straight, and make eye contact with different individuals in the audience. If possible, step out from behind the podium, which can make you seem more approachable and personable.

Some applications work differently with a projector. Plan to come to the conference early to verify that your laptop works correctly with the projectors. Bring the PC power adapter rather than depending on battery power during your presentation. Copy a backup presentation onto a CD and thumb drive. If bringing handouts, make sufficient copies and provide Internet links to the information.


Cy Smith announced as 2009 Washington GIS Conference Keynote Speaker!

Cy Smith is the GIS Coordinator for the State of Oregon. He also serves as Past-President of NSGIC (National States Geographic Information Council), Chair of COGO (The Coalition of Geospatial Organizations), and he just concluded a three year term on the URISA Board of Directors.
Calling All Students!!

The Third Annual
Dick Thomas
Memorial Prize -
Student Presentation
Competition & Award
at the 2009 Washington GIS Conference

WAURISA, the Washington State Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, announces the third annual Dick Thomas Memorial Student Presentation Competition & Award. This award was established to honor Washington State GIS pioneer and mentor Richard ‘Dick’ Thomas. The intent of this award is to honor Dick by continuing his work of encouraging students to excel in their studies and transition successfully into careers in the field of GIS.

WAURISA’s objective is to inspire students to present their original work related to GIS, geography, or geographic research in Washington State at the annual Washington GIS Conference.

Prizes
First Place
• Dick Thomas Award Plaque
• $1000 cash
• One year membership in WAURISA
• Free registration to the 2010 Washington GIS Conference
• Publication of paper in The Summit (Washington GIS Newsletter)

Second Place
• Dick Thomas Second Place Award Certificate
• $300 cash
• One year membership in WAURISA
• Free registration to the 2010 Washington GIS Conference

Third Place
• Dick Thomas Third Place Award Certificate
• $200 cash
• One year membership in WAURISA

About the Competition
The competition has two parts: the first is the selection of four (4) abstracts by the WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee. These papers will be presented during the Student Presentation Session at the 2009 Washington GIS Conference. The second part is the judging of the selected student presentations at the Conference.

Who can enter?
The competition is limited to current students enrolled at least 6 hours in a relevant curriculum at a secondary school, community college, technical school, or university program.

Submitters do not need to be WAURISA members, but all students are encouraged to become WAURISA student members at the special student rate.

For more information about the Conference, please visit: www.waurisa.org.

What to enter
Entries must be original work by the student conducted as a school project or under the supervision of a professor while enrolled in a GIS, geography, technology, or related academic program. Subjects for papers should relate to geography, GIS, or allied technologies, as applied to a social, natural resource, business, government, or a similar subject in Washington State. Previous entries included such topics as:

- Recreation
- Remote sensing
- Public health
- Stormwater
- Environmental/natural resource issues
- Public safety
- Transportation
Other topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Economic/Community development
- Emergency response
- Social justice
- Land use
- Utility systems
- Public health/Social service delivery
- Business applications
- Surprise us!

Selected entries will be presented during a special student session at the 2009 Washington GIS Conference in Bellevue, Washington, on May 6, 2009.

Submittal Guidelines
All submitted entries must include:

- An abstract of the project that describes the proposed presentation with a maximum of 250 words;
- And, a letter from the students' teacher or faculty advisor verifying student status and hours of enrollment
- On the day of the presentation, a PDF of the presentation slides on a CD must be given to Amanda Taub, Dick Thomas Award Coordinator, to be included on WAURISA's web site.

The submitted abstract shall have the following format:

- It should be left justified or aligned to the left margin.
- The title is first; in bold with proper title capitalization.
- Following on a new line with an empty line between the title and author is the author(s) name(s) followed by school name, entrant's mailing address, phone number, and email(s). This line must also be in bold face.
- If there is more than one author, then the contact author must be clearly identified. The contact author is the individual with whom the Competition Committee will correspond and to whom any prizes will be awarded. Multiple named authors are welcome participate in the presentation.
- Following on a new line with an empty line between the author and abstract, is the abstract in 250 words or less.

Submit entries to: abstracts@waurisa.org. Include "Dick Thomas Award" in the email subject field.

Deadline to submit abstracts:
Friday, March 13, 2009

The WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee will review submitted abstracts after March 13th, and will notify the presenters chosen to present at the Conference by Monday, April 13. One (1) author for each paper selected will receive a one (1) day registration to the 2008 Washington GIS Conference. We are continuing at this year's 2009 conference the popular offer of allowing all accepted presenters the option to register for the full-day Monday workshop for only $10 in addition to their free one-day conference registration.

Presentation of Selected Papers:
Wednesday May 6, 2009

Four (4) papers will be selected for presentation and final judging at the Conference. The WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee will provide final presentation details, but authors should plan on a presentation of 15-20 minutes duration. A laptop with a PC Projector will be available. Internet access in the presentation room may be available, but is not guaranteed.

Judging Criteria
Abstracts and presentations will be judged on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of geographic concepts
- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of GIS, related technology, and its application
- Explanation of how the work presented relates to the topic and contributes to greater understanding or knowledge of the topic and GIS
- Demonstration of an innovative approach and/or critical thinking
- Quality of written abstract
- Quality of public presentation

Prize Awards
Screening of abstracts, selection of papers to be presented and judging of papers during the Conference will be conducted by the WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee. All Committee decisions will be final. The Competition winners will be announced during the Conference, shortly after the last presentation.

In the case of an award going to a presentation with multiple authors, the award will be given to the contact author to be distributed equitably among the other authors. WAURISA will not involve itself in the distribution of awards among groups of student presenters.
Attention GIS Professionals!

Enter your best poster or map into the 2009 WAURISA Conference and win fame and fabulous prizes! This is an opportunity to showcase your work and inspire your peers and colleagues with your interesting projects.

And don't forget the PRIZES!

Just email your entry to us by Wed., April 29, 2009 at: mapcontest@waurisa.org

When submitting your entry, please include the following information:

- Your Name
- Your Organization or School
- The Title of Your Poster or Map
- In what Division you wish to be entered into: Professional or Student

Things to know:

- There will be 2 divisions, Professional and Student
- Conference attendees will choose 1st and 2nd place for both divisions.
- Entries should be printed on paper and do not need to be mounted.
- Please include your name, organization, and contact information on your entry (business cards are fine if they can be attached to the entry).
- You must drop off your entry Tues morning, May 5th, for display through noon Wed., May 6th.
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with TerraGo Mobile

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- Collaborate via email, Bluetooth or infrared
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  - photos
  - video/audio
  - comments

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URISA's 47th Annual Conference
September 29 - October 2, 2009
Anaheim Marriot
http://www.urisa.org/conferences/aboutannual

For Immediate Publication
January 15, 2009

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) Certifies Over 3,000 GIS Professionals (GISPs) and Welcomes Largest Monthly Cohort Ever

Park Ridge, IL — With its December cohort of Certified GIS Professionals (GISPs), the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) surpassed the 3,000 GIS professional milestone by more than 200 individuals. As of December 28, 2009, there are 3,231 GISPs. December was additionally significant as GISCI welcomed its largest cohort of GISPs on record. 345 GISPs were certified in December, putting it significantly ahead of all previouscohorts.

With the expiration of the five-year Grandfathering Provision at the close of 2008 (during which time applicants were eligible to be “grandfathered” by virtue of experience alone), GISCI expected substantial growth in the number of applications received in 2009, but did not anticipate such a tremendous response. The year started with an estimate of 600 new GISPs in 2008. During the last week of the year alone, GISCI received more than 700 applications for review. Most of these individuals will be certified in January and February 2009.

GISCI attributes the growth to better recognition of the credential by the industry, GIS-to-colleague networking, and the importance of properly defining GIS as a profession. As GISCI President Al Butler noted upon achievement of the 3,000-GISP milestone, “What has been most remarkable to me over these first five years is the enthusiasm with which members of our profession have chosen to recognize themselves. People become GISPs as a way of declaring their membership in the GIS profession. They are also declaring their obligations to each other, their employers, and society to behave in an ethical manner. Every GISP must be an advocate for the profession.”

The full manifest of Certified GIS Professionals is on the website. To download application materials or for more information regarding the GISCI Certification Program visit www.gisci.org or call (847) 824-7768.

URISA
The Association for Geospatial Professionals
Conference News
(http://urisa.org/conferences_workshops)

GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference
February 8-11, 2009 in Charleston, South Carolina

URISA’s 2nd GIS in Public Health Conference
June 5-9, 2009 in Providence, Rhode Island
The committee is reviewing abstract submissions. Stay tuned for program details!

URISA/NENA Addressing Conference
August 4-6, 2009 in Providence, Rhode Island
Abstract submissions due February 13, 2009

URISA’s 47th Annual Conference & Exposition
September 29 - October 2, 2009 in Anaheim, CA
Abstract submissions due February 27, 2009

2009 GIS in Transit Conference
November 10-12, 2009 in St Petersburg, Florida
Abstract submissions due February 27, 2009

2009 Intermountain GIS Conference
Conference Registration

This year’s conference is being held at the beautiful and spacious Coeur d’Alene Resort. We will have plenty of accommodations close to the conference activities and of course some great training, presentations, and networking opportunities!

Your registration for the 2009 Intermountain Conference includes Wednesday’s opening session, Thursday and Friday presentations and breaks, lunch, and dinner. See draft schedule at: www.intermountaincon.org.

Monday and Tuesday will be chalk full of trainings and workshops for GIS users at all levels.

Conference and Workshop registration will be handled online. The process is easy, straightforward and allows your organization to be invoiced in order to accommodate various purchasing department procedures. You may access the online registration system through the NR-URISA website: www.intermountaincon.org.

Individual Conference Registration: <Openings in December>
Training/Workshop Registration: <Openings in December>

Registration Fees:
Member individual registration: $330
Non-Member individual registration: $350
Late registration: $430
Student registration: $175
Extra meal voucher: $45

Check-in and walk-up registration will be handled at the registration desk during normal conference hours.

Northern Rockies URISA members do receive a discount at registration. Check out the website for the benefits of being a member. To register, visit www.intermountaincon.org or call (208) 676-4600.

*** For participation as a presenter in this year’s conference we are offering a $250 Coeur d’Alene Resort gift certificate (Restrictions Apply. See Website for Details.) ***

Conference Exhibitor Registration: <Openings in December>

If you are an exhibitor and have someone within your organization performing the registration process, please be aware that they will need to set up an account. However, they will have to make sure to register the actual attendees who will be attending the conference and not themselves.

Exhibitor Fees:
Exhibitor/Vendor registration (2 day or 3 full days) $650
Extra Attache for exhibitor/Innkeeper $125
Sponsored Break $350

*** We also have additional upgrade, advertisement, and donation opportunities. See www.intermountaincon.org/exhibitor_packet.pdf for details! ***
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In addition to the paid sponsors listed on this page, WAURISA acknowledges support from the following agencies that provide chapter board members:

- City of Auburn
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- CH2M Hill
- ESRI
- King County GIS Center
- Lakehaven Utility District
- Peninsula Light Company
- Douglas County
- Wendt GIS
**THE SUMMIT - EDITORIAL**

**GIS FOR THE NATION – YES WE CAN**

The economic news facing Washington is grim. Starting in the mortgage industry, the economic meltdown has spread to banks, the real estate market, retail, construction, and of course the stock market. Washington seemed insulated from the crisis initially (other than the collapse of Washington Mutual), but recent weeks have seen layoffs announced by Weyerhaeuser, Boeing, Starbucks, and Microsoft. The Seattle PI is faced with closure because of declining ad revenue….and the Sunday Seattle Times ‘Help Wanted’ section has declined to just one page!

Expectations are that the new President and Congress will act to stop the financial decline and stimulate an economic revival. Various ‘stimulus’ proposals are working their way through Washington, D.C. $750 billion price tags last November have been overtaken by potential costs in excess of $2 trillion. What will this money buy? Help for banks to start lending again and to prime the mortgage industry. Hundreds of billions for infrastructure projects – fixing roads, bridges, and expanding transit. Even money for the U.S. auto industry to avert bankruptcy. Well adversity sometimes provides opportunities - which in this case might benefit the world of GIS. In quick succession three proposals have been submitted to Congress to use economic stimulus funds to build a National GIS.

Jack Dangermond’s ‘Proposal for National Economic Recovery: Building a National GIS’ which was quickly endorsed by URISA, COGO, GIITA, AAG, NSGIC, and others. Then a grassroots group issued ‘A Concept for American Recovery and Reinvestment: NDSI 2.0’ followed by ‘Investment in the US National Spatial Data Infrastructure’ with support from Autodesk, Microsoft, Oracle, Google, and Intergraph (the opposite of ‘grassroots’). Each of these proposals call for broadly similar goals – invest just over $1 billion to complete national framework data, establish a single point of accountability within the Federal government for geospatial data, and establish clear committee oversight within Congress for national geospatial policy.

Won’t this cost money? Yes – lots of taxpayer money. Will it help stimulate the economy? Maybe – but no guarantee. Is it worth doing? History shows that many past investments by the Federal government have paid handsome dividends. Most of the railroads in the west were built with the aid of Federal land grants as were many state universities. The interstate highway system, locks and dams on major rivers, port improvements, and the air traffic control system were all started as Federal government investments to stimulate the economy. Read the proposals (page 7) and make your own decision.

A year ago the idea of building a GIS for the Nation would have seemed impossible. But now, maybe, just maybe - yes we can.

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**PUBLIC MAPS IN WASHINGTON**

A century ago King Street Station in Seattle was as much a transportation hub for Washington State as SeaTac International Airport is today. However, when passenger rail travel declined after World War Two, King Street Station fell into disrepair. Recent years have seen a revival of Amtrak though, with increased passenger rail travel north to BC, south to Oregon, and east to Chicago….all centered on King Street. In addition, Sounder commuter trains bring thousands of patrons to the old station every week day. In 2008 the City of Seattle took title took the station and began a major project to refurbish the building. In November 2008, this kiosk map was installed opposite the main entrance to the station to help orient travelers to Pioneer Square and downtown Seattle.

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**THE SUMMIT - LITERARY CORNER**

Notes from a Small Island….

‘I went over to the stone bench that had been thoughtfully conveyed to this lofty summit for the benefit of weary chaps like me - it really is extraordinary how often you encounter some kindly gesture like this in Britain - and took out my Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map of Purbeck. As a rule, I am not terribly comfortable with any map that doesn’t have a You-Are-Here arrow on it somewhere, but the Ordnance Survey maps are in a league of their own. Coming from a country where mapmakers tend to exclude any landscape feature smaller than, say, Pike’s Peak, I am constantly impressed by the richness of detail on the OS 1:25,000 series. They include every wrinkle and divot of the landscape, every barn, milestone, wind pump and tumulus. They distinguish between sand pits and gravel pits and between power lines strung from pylons and power lines strung from poles. This one even included the stone seat on which I sat now. It astounds me to be able to look at a map and know to the square metre where my buttocks are deployed.’

- Bill Bryson, 1992

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**The Summit** is published by WAURISA, The Washington State Chapter of the URISA. To encourage the discussion of issues and ideas of importance to the Washington GIS community we welcome letters to the editor and opinion essays. Letters to the editor should be a maximum of 100 words and essays should be limited to 500 words.

**Chief Editor:** Greg Babinski  
**Interview Editor:** Effie Moody  
**Interview Editor:** Michelle Lortz  
**Olympia Area Editor:** Whitney K. Bowerman  
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For subscriptions, content, comments, or suggestions, email:  
SummitGISNews@URISA.org
GIS USER GROUPS IN WASHINGTON

ACSM – Washington State Section
http://www.wss-acsm.org/

ASPRS Puget Sound Region
http://www.photogrammetry.com/ASPRS-PSR/

Central Puget Sound GIS User Group
Meetings the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at
Mercer Island City Hall. Contact Nora Gierloff at: ngierloff@ci.tukwila.wa.us

Central Washington GIS User Group
Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at Super China Buffet in East Wenatchee, WA at 12:00 noon.
For information contact Amanda Taub at: ataub@co.douglas.wa.us

King County GIS User Group
Meets 1st Wednesday every other month at 11:00 am at the KCGIS Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Seattle WA, Conf Room 7044/7045.

Northwest Washington GIS User Group
http://www.acadweb.wwu.edu/gis/nwGIS_mtg.htm

Spokane Regional GIS User Group
Contact: Dave Rideout, Spokane County 509-477-7251
drideout@spokanecounty.org.

Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)
http://wagic.wa.gov/

To have your GIS related group or event listed in future issues of The Summit, notify the editor at:
SummitGISNews@URISA.org.

To be added to The Summit mailing list, contact:
SummitGISNews@URISA.org

Back issues of The Summit are available at:
http://waurisa.org/thesummit/

Interested in volunteering your time to help WAURISA?
Contact Angela Johnson or any Board member listed above.