



Conference panel – Session 98, Defining Data Professionals

A Geospatial Industry Perspective on Becoming a Data Professional

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Summary

This panel contribution briefly reviews a perspective on data science from the perspective of both the system and science of geographic information, which are manifested in the GIS, remote sensing, and cartographic industries (aka the geospatial industry). This domain is concerned with the multidimensional structuring and scaling of geospatial data, as well as integrative and innovative approaches to analyzing, modeling, and disseminating geospatial data (both big and small) from selected places on land and at sea. Geographic information science has welcomed strong collaborations among computer scientists, information scientists, and other Earth scientists to solve complex scientific questions, and thus parallels the emergence and acceptance of "data science." As such, there are interesting developments to share in terms of how students are educated, trained and recruited as data professionals within the geospatial industry, including certification and ascribing to codes of ethics.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the Esri Careers and Esri Experience Teams for their inspiration and contribution.

Competing Interests

The author declares that she has no competing interest.

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Figure 1: The EarthCube Liaison Team’s “story map” of organizations external to but very relevant to the EarthCube initiative as possible informal or formal partners (<http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/ec-story>).

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.



Conference poster – Session 32, Enhancing data infrastructure services to sustain Earth Sciences researchers' needs for a robust science

An EarthCube Perspective on Data Infrastructure Services

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Summary

EarthCube is an initiative of the US National Science Foundation to develop and implement a new data and knowledge management system that will allow for a better understanding and prediction of the Earth system, from the sun to the center of the Earth. With more than 2,500 EarthCube contributors involved, the strategy of the initiative is to deploy distributed and loosely federated technologies using standard services that will enable remote access, visualization and interoperability of complex distributed resources (Arctur et al 2016; EarthCube Leadership Council 2016). As such, there exist the requisite challenges and barriers in using all available data for proper analysis and interpretation. But as an inherently transdisciplinary, community-led initiative, EarthCube has valuable real-world lessons and questions to contribute to the session including: (1) how best to develop strategies for sustained and adaptive determination of requirements to ensure that architectures, tools and services are responsive to evolving science needs (e.g., the catalog of use cases of Stocks et al. 2015 in climatology, aeolian processes, four-dimensional visualization, chemical properties of surface and groundwater, land use monitoring, deformation of active volcanoes and more); (2) how best to provide guidance to stakeholders on potential support modes for sustainment of EarthCube products and services (e.g., EarthCube Leadership Council 2016); and (3) examples frameworks and communication strategies to manage and maintain formal and informal relationships with collaborators, both internal and external to the EarthCube ecosystem (e.g., the use case of EarthCube's Community Inventory of EarthCube Resources for Geosciences Interoperability or CINERGI with its cross-disciplinary catalog of existing databases, services and data portals; Zaslavsky and CINERGI 2016).

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Reference

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Conference paper – Session 74, Mapping Population Distribution and Human Settlements: Pushing Boundaries and Expanding Applications

Mapping Population Distributions for GIS Users

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Summary

Accurate, up-to-date maps and geo-referenced data of human population distribution are essential for meeting United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals progress measures, and for real-time crisis mapping and response. To aid in these efforts, Esri has produced the World Population Estimate (WPE), an annually modelled dasymetric raster surface with an estimated count of people living within the area represented by each raster cell. An estimate of the footprint of where people live, in the form of a dasymetric probability surface, is the basis for the WPE. Overlaying polygons representing data from census areas or surveyed political units onto the footprint produces the distribution of the population. Esri uses the WPE to geo-reference estimates of demographic and economic information from micro to macro scale for determinations of societal characteristics and behaviours anywhere in the world. The latest edition of the WPE (Esri 2015a, 2015b; Frye 2016) derives statistical texture from 15-m-resolution Landsat 8 imagery to indicate the probability of human settlement. Other data such as road intersections, classified land cover data indicating built up areas or agriculture, and extreme climates increase the certainty of some locations while eliminating others, and census data are used, where available, to further calibrate the estimate. In some cases, census data also indicate where people do *not* live, including locations of airports, industrial complexes, and the like. The WPE includes a confidence surface, and a derived population density surface using units of persons per sq km to give demographers and statisticians a familiar benchmark. GIS users also can transform the density layer into other projected coordinate systems with minimal loss of data because the units are independent of the varying area of raster cells. A major result of this research is depicted in **Figure 1** and can be further explored interactively via Esri (2015c).

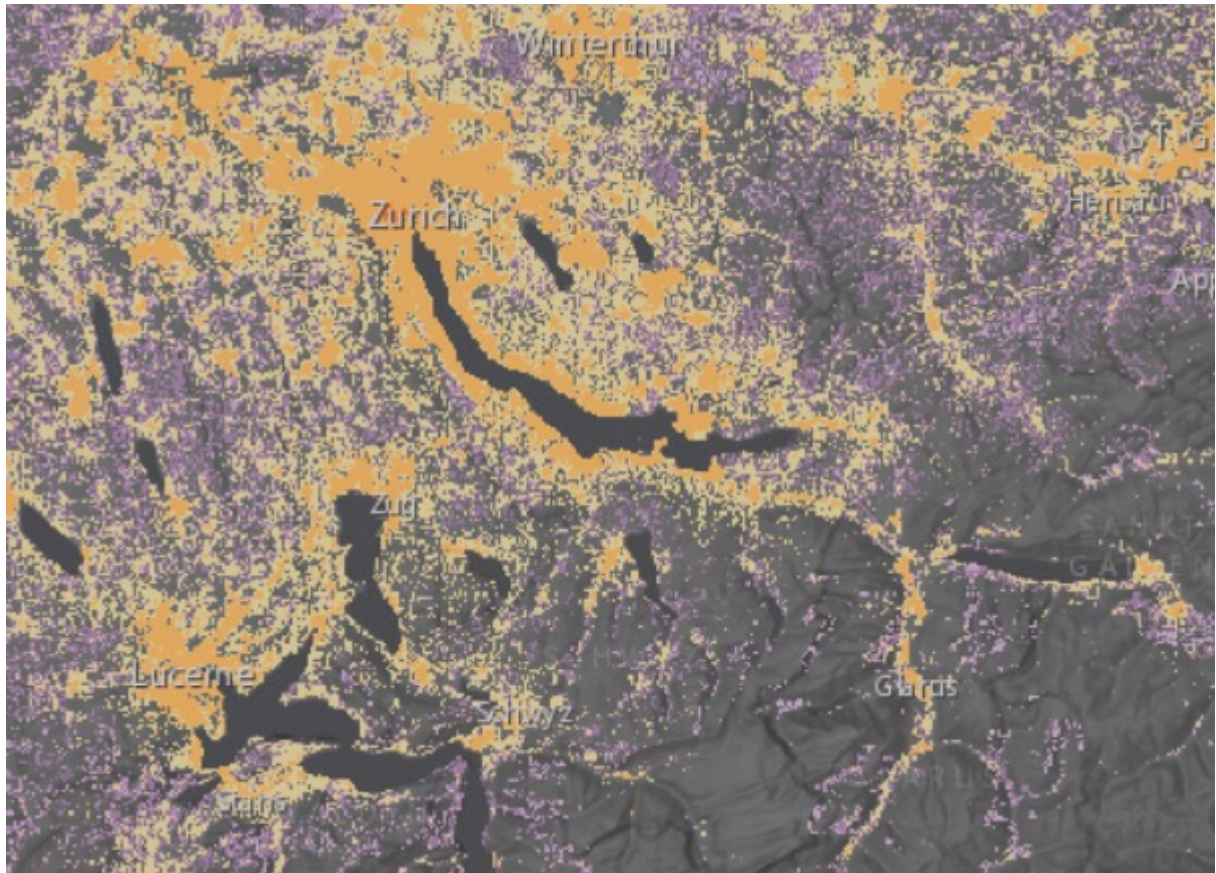


Figure 1: The population density in around Zurich, Switzerland in the context of the physical geography in the region such as alpine valleys, river valleys, and broad plains.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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