Integrating GIS and Spatial Analysis into the Undergraduate Planning Curriculum

Session Report

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
Kansas City, Missouri
October 27 and 28

One roundtable and two drop-in workshops at the annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) in Kansas City, Missouri on October 27 and 28 introduced teaching materials developed by the panelists and reviewed open source software appropriate for teaching spatial concepts to urban planning student. The roundtable consisted of a 1 ½ hour session in which four panelists made presentations, followed by discussion as follows:

Ayse Pamuk described an instructional module she is developing titled Mapping Global Cities: GIS Methods in Urban Analysis. This module is supported by an NSF Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement / Educational Materials Development (CCLI/EMD) grant and is scheduled for publication by ESRI Press in spring 2006. The module consists of text, exercise, and a data CD-ROM. It is appropriate for use in upper-division undergraduate courses on data-analysis and is intended to introduce spatial thinking and GIS to these courses. Pamuk was available for a drop-in lab immediately after the session and again the following morning to demonstrate her instructional module.

Teaching Module: Mapping Global Cities: GIS Methods in Urban Analysis

Brian Parr described ArcGIS and The Digital City—an ESRI Press book that he co-authored with William Huxhold and Eric Fowler in 2004. ArcGIS and The Digital City contains text and exercises to teach urban planning students how to use GIS for urban planning. Parr also described ESRI virtual campus, instructor-led training, and other resources for teaching spatial thinking and GIS that he is involved with at ESRI. Parr was available for a drop-in lab immediately after the session and again the following morning to demonstrate the Digital City exercises.

ESRI Virtual campus

Stuart Sweeney described CSISS and the SPACE workshops and made published material from CSISS available to conference attendees. He described two software products assisted by CSISS: GeoDa and FlowMapper. Sweeney was available for a drop-in lab immediately after the session and again the following morning to demonstrate GeoDa and FlowMapper.

Introducing GeoDa and FlowMapper

Richard LeGates described an instructional module he has developed titled Think Globally, Act Regionally. This module, supported by the same NSF CCLI/EMD grant described above, was published by ESRI Press in November 2005. The module consists of text, exercise, and a data CD-ROM with data sets. It is appropriate for use in upper division, undergraduate research methods courses and is intended to introduce spatial thinking and GIS to these courses. LeGates was available for a drop-in lab immediately after the session and again the following morning to demonstrate the Think Globally, Act Regionally module.

Session Introduction
Think Globally, Act Regionally instructional module