



ILLINOIS GIS NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS GIS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2015

GIS INITIATIVES BY THE ILLINOIS GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

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Overview of the Illinois Geographic Alliance

The Illinois Geographic Alliance (IGA) (<http://iga.illinoisstate.edu/>) is part of National Geographic's Network of Alliances for Geography Education across the United States, which is dedicated to promoting geographic literacy. Founded in the 1987 and currently housed at Illinois State University, the purpose of the IGA is to promote and enhance geographic knowledge in the K-12 schools and among the general populace of Illinois.

Increasingly, GIS has become instrumental in the mission of the IGA for promoting geographic education in the state. GIS provides a hands-on experience for K-12 students to explore their world, while building geographic literacy and spatial thinking skills at the same time. In addition, earlier exposure to GIS may be beneficial for increasing awareness of GIS by students prior to their college years. For these reasons, IGA has developed several recent initiatives designed to increase K-12 student exposure to GIS.

GIS Workshops for K-12 Teachers

IGA has developed various workshops for pre-service and in-service teachers to encourage the adoption of GIS in K-12 classrooms. Recently, the State of Illinois signed a contract with ESRI to provide ArcGIS licenses for schools throughout the state (<http://thinkgeospatial.education/gis-mapping->

[software-for-schools/esri-k-12-site-license/](http://thinkgeospatial.education/gis-mapping-software-for-schools/esri-k-12-site-license/)), which overcomes a previous challenge of accessing GIS software by teachers. Key towards integration of GIS into the classroom is to educate teachers about how GIS might be integrated into their lesson plans. IGA has sponsored GIS workshops and events, including the annual IGA AP Human Geography Conference for Illinois Teachers and the Illinois Geographical Society annual meeting, as a way to provide teacher training and support. Additional teacher workshops are in the plans for the near future.

Online Illinois Classroom Atlas Project

In 2012, the IGA partnered with the Institute for Geospatial Analysis and Mapping (GEOMAP) in the Department of Geography-Geology at Illinois State University to develop an interactive online atlas geared towards students in Illinois Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography classrooms. The project was funded from grants to the Illinois Geographic Alliance from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation.

A prototype Online Illinois Classroom Atlas (<http://iga.illinoisstate.edu/atlas/>), which was built using ESRI's Story Map application, was released during the summer of 2014 (Figure 1). Atlas chapters include the following topics: reference maps, physical geography, histori-

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ILGISA PRESIDENTS REPORT



When I was younger, change was something handed to me and I did the best I could to adjust as needed, sometimes struggling to find the “new normal”. Later in my life and career, when change was presented, I came to see the opportunities to learn, evolve, connect, and find better solutions than before. Change, and the opportunities that came with it, became not a frustrating process but one that energized and inspired. In my time serving on the ILGISA Board, I have seen first-hand how individuals and whole organizations alike have benefited by taking advantage of the opportunities within changing times, and ILGISA is no exception. ILGISA is now executing and implementing many of the changes outlined over the past two years. And we are able to now offer more chances to expand your knowledge base and interact with your professional peers than ever before.

To start off, we have revamped our Web Site (www.ilgisa.org) with a

brand new look and feel. In the future we will be expanding ways to build your knowledge base, share information, interact with your peers, and manage your membership as well.

There are four Regional Meeting planned for 2015 - the first of which was held in Carbondale, IL (a first for ILGISA) just last month. This event brought together dozens of professionals from a wide variety of GIS specializations. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet many individuals who attended, many of whom were attending their first ever ILGISA event. The Program Committee is also hard at work planning our Annual Conference, scheduled for September 15 – 17 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL. This promises to be one of our best yet with industry leading presentations, workshop sessions, and the return of our ESRI-led Instructor Training, and expanded events to network with your professional peers. There are already several Conference workshops being planned by the Education Committee, as well as other independent training activities for the upcoming few months to be announced soon.

Opportunities through change does not have to be scary or threatening, but rather can be valuable and productive. The new programs and ideas that were only an idea just two years ago are now coming to fruition. While our Board members are working hard to make these events a reality, none of this would be possible without the hard work of all our member volunteers, including you. As a purely volunteer, member-driven organization, I encourage you to be a part of the changes happening to ILGISA. Whether it is serving on a Committee, assisting in planning our Conference, participating in our surveys, there are a myriad ways you can offer your insight, effort and time in support of your organization. ILGISA is only as strong as the involvement of all our members. I look forward to seeing you at the Regional Meetings and at our Conference in September.

Respectfully,
Andrew Vitale
ILGISA President

EDITOR'S NOTE

To the ILGISA Community,



I would like to thank everyone who contributed articles for the Illinois GIS Notes spring edition. With the great help of Ms. Leanne Brehob-Riley and Mr. Jeff Palmer, we have received several articles in addition to recent news from the ILGISA president and committee chairs. It is always my pleasure to compile a variety

of GIS information and share them with follow ILGISA members. I have couple main goals I would like to accomplish this coming year as an editor of GIS Notes: creating useful articles for students and organizing archived newsletters onto the ILGISA website. I strongly believe that a semiannual newsletter containing both informal and technical articles from a variety of industries benefits all ILGISA members. I will continue searching for valuable information from all over the state and seek out the input from the GIS community. Once again, I would like to thank you for your support.

I always appreciate and welcome your suggestions and comments regarding the Illinois GIS Notes.

Sincerely,
Keisuke Nozaki

FREE GEOSPATIAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

By Jenni Dahl

jenni@thinkgeospatial.education

Illinois K-12 classrooms now have free access to ArcGIS for Desktop and ArcGIS Online for Organizations, the same powerful mapping and analysis tools used by many GIS professionals, colleges and universities and community leaders. In addition, educators have access to a free Esri web course, "Teaching with GIS: Introduction to Using GIS in the Classroom" to help them acquire the skills they need to successfully implement these resources in their classrooms.

ArcGIS for Desktop is available to K-12 educators through a statewide partnership agreement between Esri, the Illinois Virtual School and the Illinois State Board of Education. The Illinois Virtual School Esri K-12 site license web page has information for teachers who are interested in applying for a license for their classrooms.

ArcGIS Online for Organization accounts are now available to all K-12 teachers in the U.S. through the ConnectEd Esri initiative. Participating students and teachers may peruse the gallery of ready-to-use maps and story maps, create their own maps, collaborate on maps and take advantage of online lesson plans that support the curriculum. Information about how to get started is found at <http://connected.esri.com>.

The educational value of these resources cannot be overstated. ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS for Desktop open the door for students to explore, in-depth, our world, its people, history and the environment ways that were not possible before. AP Geography, earth science, science, history and math are examples of courses that would benefit from the

integration of GIS tools into the curriculum. These free resources empower K-12 students with valuable GIS/ geospatial knowledge and skills to help them succeed in college and careers and the tools they need to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Web Links

- The Illinois Virtual School, Esri K-12 Site License plus information about the Illinois Esri K-12 site license including a link to apply ConnectEd Esri:
<http://www.ilvirtual.org/partners/esri-site-license>
- Information about the ConnectEd Initiative and Esri, including videos, links to training, and a link to apply for an ArcGIS Organization account for schools
<http://connected.esri.com>
- Teaching with GIS: Introduction to Using GIS in the Classroom
<http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=catalog.webCourseDetail&courseid=2198>

Contact Jenni Dahl, jenni@thinkgeospatial.education, for more information

Jenni is a member of the Illinois State Esri K-12 Site License team, is an alum of Esri's Teachers Teaching Teachers GIS Institute (T3G) and is an Esri GeoMentor. She has been involved in K-12 geospatial education for 14 years. Her website is <http://thinkgeospatial.education>.



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— SAVE THE DATE — 2015 ILGISA CONFERENCE

September 14 – 16, 2015

Crowne Plaza Springfield
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Additional information coming soon!

FYI: NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD



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On February 6, 2015 the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)¹ released its long awaited report card, a qualitative evaluation of the status and condition of the US National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)² and its framework data layers. The scope of the report includes geo-work in 20 federal agencies, working to make Executive Order 12906³ a reality.

COGO is comprised of thirteen non-profit organizations with approximately 170,000 geospatial individuals. Organized years ago COGO works to fulfill NSDI's purpose to reduce duplication of effort, improve quality & reduce costs, give the public access to the data, increase benefits, and establish key partnerships.

This report card is constructed somewhat like the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)⁴ Report Card for America's Transportation Infrastructure⁵ and comes to nearly the same conclusions, in all levels of government: funding is needed, work is needed, time is of the essence and neither compel the general public to fund the future state.

Let me digress, whenever I come across the term "Report Card" my spine stiffens simply because I feel some responsibility for the results, either directly or indirectly. As a parent you know the feeling all to well. But I don't want you to concentrate on how we got here; I want you to take some responsibility for significantly improving our geospatial data infrastructure. And to do so, we all need to look beyond our work and to band together making ILGISA a fundamental part of the future. It is clear that "Top-Down" has not worked very well, so let's try "Bottom-Up."

Table One Summarizes the Data Grades.

Infrastructure Data	Grades	Comments
Cadastral	D+	At Risk
Geodetic Control	B+	Adequate for Now
Elevation	C+	Requires Attention
Hydrography	C	
Orthoimagery	C+	
Government Units	C	
Transportation	D	At Risk
Overall Data Grade	C	Requires Attention

As we all know, Data is only one part of the system.

Table Two Summarizes the System Grades.

Infrastructure System	Grade	Comments
Capacity	C	Requires Attention
Condition	D	At Risk
Funding	D	
Funding Need	D	
Operation & Maintenance	C	Requires Attention
Public Use	C	
Resilience	C	
Comprehensive Grade	C	Requires Attention

The report card⁶ is about 80 pages and I found it to be an interesting read. I would encourage you to download the report, read at least the summary and study any sections that apply directly to your work. Keep a copy, if for no other reason than to have access to common descriptions and definitions — text written for the general public.

The report is very frank in acknowledging the private sector's role and suggests that the solution has to be a partnership between all levels of government and the private sector.

So what should we do?

Not willing to accept "more of the same," I have developed three ideas, the first is global, the second is homegrown and the third is a restructure of the responsibilities. My thoughts follow; certainly you'll have your own and that makes for a debate and the debate moves us closer to a robust consistent NSDI.

Global: We are working up a comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union and what better way to cement the agreement than to adopt the EU's INSPIRE⁷ too. Think of the final trading partner's strength! Of course we would have to medicate our NIH⁸ syndrome into submission if not into extinction. And there is the fact that we didn't convert to metric in the 70's and remain one of 14 nations who still see things in feet. (see NIH footnote again)

Homegrown: With all of the worldwide noise, I can't believe that the general public will hear our cries and demand funding for this geo-work. The general public doesn't interface with the Federal Agencies, they look to their mobile devices for location-location-location and all of those devices are spawns of the private sector. Few, very few people know that their web-based mapping can be traced back to the innovations made at the Census Bureau some 4 decades ago.

What the public cares about is their safety, their services and their governments' fiscal responsibility.

In terms of their safety, what can all of us everywhere do?

Work with me here: we could use the attributes already developed by the American Civil Engineers Report Card on our transportation infrastructure, adding geo-coding and then presenting "what-ifs" to the public. For example, pretend that you live on the south side of the river in Peru Illinois and need to get to the hospital north of the river AND one of the bridges fails. How much longer would it take you to get to the hospital?

This type of scenario can be developed for each community statewide. Really all we need is the worse case scenario in each county. 102 worse cases will drive the point home; and our approach can be replicated in every state.

Then we can map out which structural need is being funded. This Front-Page Analysis should be very interesting, but I never said that and I was never here.

Restructure: Currently the health of the NSDI is divided among 20 federal agencies and I can't imagine putting 20 agencies in one room and coming up with anything except a long list of "why it can't work." So let's confirm the agency most qualified to handle each data theme and then let's give the system components to one federal agency like the NSA. We don't have to use a federal agency; we could use the private sector.

Let's end with a quotation from my favorite graphic designer Chip Kidd, "... the best solution can usually be found in the best definition of the problem itself."

Can you be part of the solution?

Can your organization be part of the solution?

Can ILGISA be part of the solution?

As before, I am very proud to know you and always remember: "That I have made mistakes so you don't have to."

— Jeff

Endnotes

- 1 <http://www.cogo.pro/>
- 2 Report Card citation: Bossler, Dr. John D., Dr. David J. Cowen, James E. Geringer, Susan Carson Lambert, John J. Moeller, Thomas D. Rust, Robert T. Welch. Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure - Compiled for the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations. February 6, 2015.
- 3 On April 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order (EO) 12906 that chartered the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to lead and coordinate the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).
- 4 <http://www.asce.org/>
- 5 <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>
- 6 http://www.cogo.pro/uploads/COGO-Report_Card_on_NSDI.pdf
- 7 The 28 countries of the European Union (EU) made cadastral parcels the foundation of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE).
- 8 NIH=not invented here

What Federal Agency developed the New Community TIGER Program?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| A. USPS | D. USGS |
| B. DOD | E. DOT |
| C. Census Bureau | F. None of the above |

E-mail your answer to askjeff@LTS2Enable.us

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE OBTAINED THEIR GISP CERTIFICATION

David Andrew Peters, *WinGIS*

Crystalyn Delacruz, *Village of Lisle*

Brad McVay, *Cook County, Dept. of Transportation and Highways*

Nancy Lisberg, *Illinois State Water Survey*

Andrew G Louchios, *ComEd*

Matthew Downing, *Property & Liability Resource Bureau*

Brad Kiep, *Integrays*

Constance Kilgore, *Baxter & Woodman Inc*

Gregory Roberts, *Cook County*

Richard Schultz, *GeoTech Center and Southern New Hampshire Univ.*

Sarah Stromberg, *WinGIS*

[More information see page 14](#)



Rich Schultz

Online Science Faculty and Program Manager at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) COCE

For anyone considering going for their GISP, the online way that GIS-CI has set up on their website is far easier than the archaic paper method. I did it in about 3 hours and was successful in attaining my GISP in December 2014. I would encourage all who are seeking their GISP to go the online route. Cheers

DEVELOPING MOBILE GIS APPLICATIONS – PATHWAYS TO GO MOBILE



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Introduction

Esri has shocked many of us by phasing out their support of Adobe's Flex and Microsoft's Silverlight API's¹. Instead, esri decided to promote web application development with a JavaScript API, which is supported on mobile devices.

According to International Data Corporation (IDC), 87% of connected device sales by 2017 will be tablet and smartphones.² So this paper discusses several ways to develop mobile GIS applications with pros and cons of each method as shown in table 1.

ArcGIS Runtime SDKs

Esri provides Software Development Kits (SDKs) which allow developers to build and deploy native apps for mobile platforms such as Android, iOS, .NET, and Windows Mobile. Even though apps are highly customizable, developers must have strong programming background and use supported Integrated Development Environments (IDEs). Clients also need to install apps on each mobile device and update if necessary.

ArcGIS Online

ArcGIS Online is a ready to use application developed by esri. While public account is free and for non-commercial use only, organizational account is subscription based, starting from \$2,500 per year. However, ArcGIS Desktop licenses on current maintenance are entitled to receive the organizational account with limited service credits.³ Please contact esri for more information.

The main advantage is that it would not take much time for developers to publish map applications. Since ArcGIS Online is developed with ArcGIS API for JavaScript, what clients need is only web browser such as Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and Mozilla Firefox (no plug-in is necessary). Creating web maps is straight-forward. Developers only need to add layers from web or local locations then select desired widgets such as print, measure, and bookmarks. In addition to sharing web maps, there are options to embed maps in the website or use configurable map templates provided by esri and contributors.

Table 1. Pathways to Go Mobile

	Esri				GitHub
	Runtime SDKs	ArcGIS Online	Web AppBuilder	JavaScript API	CMV
Ease of use	Hard	Easy	Easy	Hard	Moderate
Additional Costs	No	Yes (ask esri)	Yes (ask esri)	No	No
Learn Software Syntax	Yes (IDEs)	No	No	Yes (JavaScript)	No
Provided Tools	No (install IDE separately)	Yes	Yes	No (install text editor)	No (install text editor)
Limits	Programming	Require ArcGIS Online Account	Require ArcGIS Online Account	Programming	Open source
Customizable	Install apps High	Web browser Low	Web browser Medium	Web browser High	Web browser Medium

Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

This application was officially released with ArcGIS 10.3 in December, 2014. With the developer edition, developers may configure map applications without programming and apply custom widgets and personalized themes if necessary. It is based on ArcGIS API for JavaScript and a successor of ArcGIS Viewer for Flex or Silverlight. To use this application, developers must have an ArcGIS Online organizational account. Although this paper does not cover each step to build map applications, a key is selecting web maps and appropriate widgets. It also allows developers to preview map applications in the particular mobile device screen before publishing.

However, there are some known issues in Web AppBuilder. First, it is not possible to load map services directly from ArcGIS Server. A workaround is choosing web maps which contain map services from ArcGIS Server. Some developers found a way to modify a work around to resolve this issue, but it is not supported by esri. Second, some of the widgets tend to cover the entire screen when using small mobile devices. Esri provides a limited number of widgets, and custom widgets developed by contributors would play an important role for advanced functions.

ArcGIS API for JavaScript

This method provides more flexibility in developing map applications. Even though it requires programming, there are many samples and API reference provided by esri. ArcGIS Online subscription is not necessary to use the API, and it is relatively easy to load map services directly from ArcGIS Server.⁴ Needless to say, developers may need to spend lots of time coding and debugging map applications.

Configurable Map Viewer (CMV)

CMV is an open source mapping framework developed with JavaScript API. Developers must download the viewer from CMV website⁵ and edit configurable files with a text editor. Documentation explains how to configure each widget and apply custom widgets built by contributors. There are active discussion forums which would be helpful for beginners. Unlike Web AppBuilder, it is possible to load map services directly from ArcGIS Server. Detail functions will be discussed in the future Illinois GIS Notes.

Conclusions

Mobile technology has been changing rapidly, and few people predicted JavaScript API would overcome Flex and Silverlight APIs. Developers are now required to learn new syntax and rebuild custom widgets if necessary. Web AppBuilder facilitates creating map applications, but requires ArcGIS Online subscription. Not being able to load map services directly from ArcGIS Server creates a serious debate in the esri discussion forum. While ArcGIS Runtime SDKs require lots of time to develop native apps, some developers may choose ArcGIS API for JavaScript or CMV which have more flexibility in building map applications.

Mobile pathways are still ongoing, and we always need to be on the cutting edge of technology.

Endnotes

- <http://blogs.esri.com/esri/arcgis/2014/02/21/esris-roadmap-for-web-developers/>
- <http://www.forbes.com/sites/louiscolumnbus/2013/01/17/2013-roundup-of-mobility-forecasts-and-market-estimates/>
- <http://www.esri.com/software/maintenance/benefits/agol-entitlements>
- More information about ArcGIS API for JavaScript was discussed in Illinois GIS Notes Fall 2014 (page 4-6)
- <https://github.com/cmv/cmv-app>



**Interested in submitting
an article for the Fall
GIS Notes?**

**Submit your article to
contact@ilgisa.org
by August 3rd, 2015!**

USGS CORNER

NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY AND BENEFITS STUDY

Why The Nation Needs a National Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study

Shelley L. Silch, National Map Liaison for Illinois and Missouri
Chief, DIGITS Section, Illinois Water Science Center

Water is our most precious natural resource and is increasingly stressed by the demands our society places on it. Adequate water supplies are an essential element in human survival, ecosystem health, energy production, and economic sustainability.

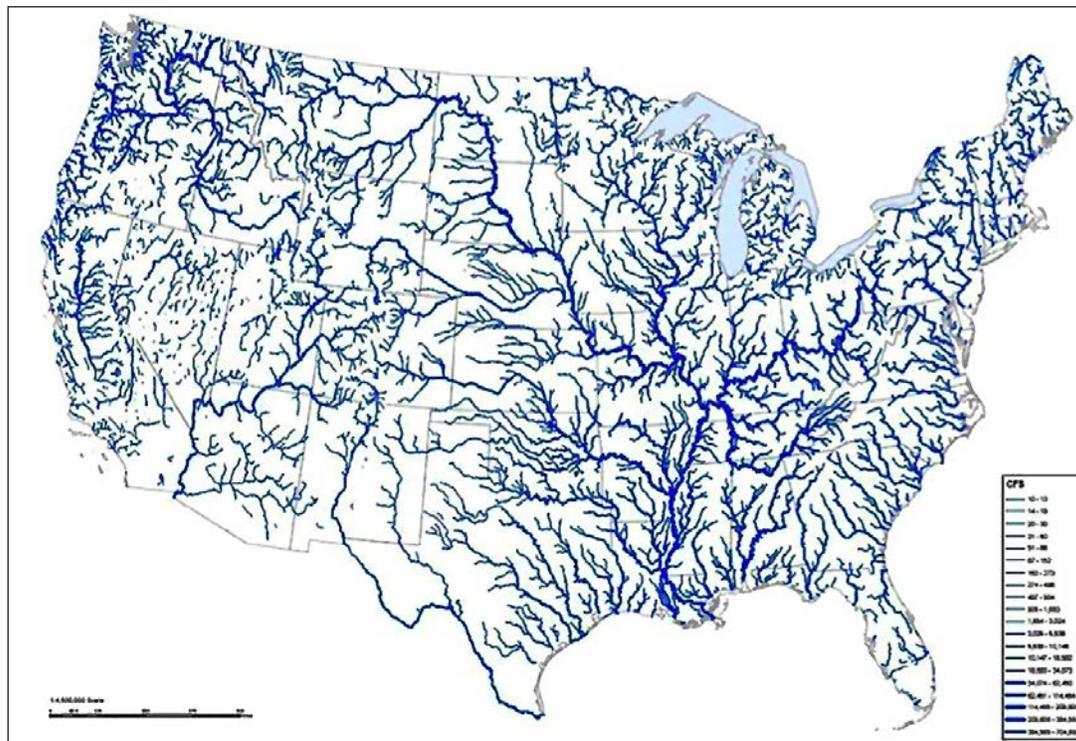
Hydrographic data provide the basic geographic data framework to trace the path of a raindrop from any point on the landscape to the ocean. This network framework allows scientists and managers to understand transport of water, nutrients, pollutants, sediment, and aquatic organisms across the landscape.

USGS hydrographic data have traditionally focused on geospatial representations of inland surface water features, such as streams and water bodies, derived from topographic maps originally produced decades ago. Updating the geometry to

reflect changes on the landscape and improving the attribute content could greatly assist in responsible management of our water resources. *This study seeks to understand and document those required improvements and the associated benefits.*

High quality hydrographic data are critical to a broad range of government and private sector applications such as resource management, infrastructure planning, environmental monitoring, fisheries management, and disaster mitigation. Across much of the Nation, professionals in wide ranging disciplines would benefit from current, accurate data to perform their missions.

As the OMB Circular A-16 theme lead for inland waters, *the U.S. Geological Survey is initiating a requirements assessment to understand business needs and benefits, for im-*



Today, Federal agencies, states, counties, and businesses rely on hydrographic data created from maps that are on average, more than 30 years old.

proved water data. Multiple scenarios will be evaluated to determine probable cost and benefits for the next generation program to meet priority Federal, state, tribal and other needs. The assessment is inclusive with respect to public and private input as no one entity can speak to all of the requirements supported by hydrography data. The Assessment will help discover the economies of scale, potential multiple data uses, and universal business requirements that can be met through a more comprehensive national strategy for improving hydrographic data in the United States and its territories, including coastlines.

The **first phase** of the Assessment is to comprehensively document and validate Federal, state, tribal, and other national needs for hydrographic data. These needs, as well as benefit information, will be documented for each participating organization. A **two-step** information collection process will include an online questionnaire followed by workshops and interviews to refine and consolidate agency responses. *Information collection will take place during the early 2015 and the final report will be completed in early 2016.*

Follow on Assessment Tasks

- Analyze the business use and benefits information to develop proposed standardized national dataset options that will address key business uses
- Evaluate emerging technology trends and limitations to provide a high-level technical approach and probable costs for implementing a national program over a 4-7 year timeframe.
- Evaluate and compare alternative program scenarios. Consideration will be given to benefits, costs, risks, and implementation complexity.

WHY?

Without high quality hydrographic data, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) could not have generated accurate time of travel estimates in response to the recent Charleston, West Virginia chemical spill.

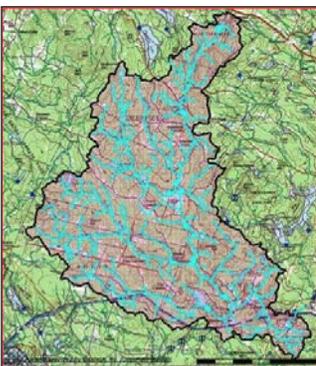
For more information contact:

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Facebook: USGS Mapping News
Twitter: USGS Mapping News
The National Map
 Illinois Water Science

WHY?

Without high quality hydrographic data fisheries managers in the Great Lakes would not be able to quickly understand the impacts of a proposed dam removal on the range of invasive sea lampreys



West Virginia

Many applications would benefit from improved national hydrographic data including:

- Water rights management
- Flood forecasting
- Protection of drinking water supplies
- Accounting of water supply and use
- Floodplain determination for insurance rate calculations
- Understanding of riparian buffer effectiveness
- Fisheries management



GISCI ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO THE GISP CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Des Plaines, IL (February 16, 2015)

Changes to GISCI's GISP Certification are on the way!

The GISCI Board is pleased to announce the long-anticipated changes to the GISP certification process that were decided during the first meeting of 2015. These changes affect both current and future GISP certification holders and were made in order to increase the value, recognition and long term viability of the GISP certification and the GISCI organization.

Changes for Future GISP Applicants

Effective July 1, 2015, all professionals applying for their initial GISP certification will be required to take and pass the GISCI Geospatial Core Technical Knowledge Exam, now being developed, in addition to meeting the current standards for certification via a portfolio based review based on ethics agreement, education, experience, and professional contributions.

After July 1, 2015, anyone can start the application process at any time, either via the exam or portfolio review.

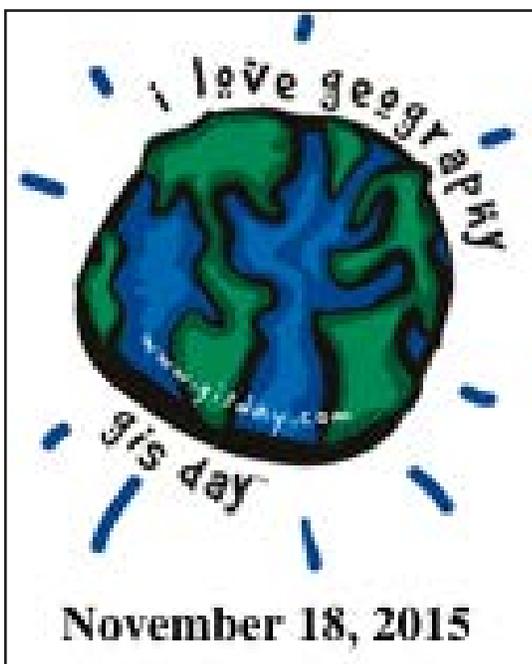
In response to requests from GISPs and the geospatial community, GISCI will offer the GISCI Geospatial Core Technical Knowledge Exam to individuals independent of the application for the portfolio review process. This means that GISP applicants after July 1, 2015 can start the certification process by completing an application and taking the examination any time prior to attaining the professional experience required for the professional portfolio. All applicants will be required to fulfill all certification process requirements within 6 years from the date of their initial application to be awarded a GISP certification. A key benefit of this change in policy is that students and others new to geospatial professions will have the opportunity to begin the certification process and take the exam whenever they believe they are prepared, rather than having to wait until they have completed all of the requirements of the peer reviewed portfolio

After July 1, 2015 the certification process will include a \$ 100 application fee, a \$ 250 exam fee, and a \$ 100 portfolio review fee. Upon completion of the certification process, an individual will be certified for a 3 year period. Annual renewal fees of \$ 95 are due on the anniversary of initial certification and will be required to be paid in full prior to recertification. Recertification of the GISP will be required at the end of the 3 year period with a procedure similar to the current review process where submission of information on completed continuing education and service to the profession is required.

Until July 1, 2015, GISCI will continue to accept GISP applications under its current process and fee structure.

Changes for Current GISP Professionals

All current professionals holding GISP certification with a recertification date after July 1, 2015 will recertify for a 3 year period, and will pay an annual renewal fee of \$95 for each of the three years of the new recertification period. The portfolio points for continuing education and service to the profession required for the 3-year recertification will be reduced proportionately from the current 5 year requirements.



All professionals certified or recertified before July 1, 2015 will remain certified under the current 5 year recertification policy and fees until the next certification expiration date and then will begin the new 3-year renewal and recertification process.

This will provide GISPs with certification expiration dates prior to July 1, 2015 the opportunity to recertify under the current policies for an additional 5 years. A table summarizing changes is shown on the below:

GISP Status	Fee(s)	Renewal Period
Current GISP with expiration prior to July 1, 2015 and completes recertification before July 1, 2015	\$115	5 Years
Current GISP with expiration date prior to July 1, 2015 recertifies after grace period*	\$450	3 Years
Current GISP with expiration date after July 1, 2015	\$95/yr	3 Years
New GISP application prior to July 1, 2015	\$250	5 Years
New GISP application after July 1, 2015 (application fee + portfolio review + exam fee)	\$450	3 Years

*GISCI currently offers a 1 year grace period for recertification after expiration. Any GISP that fails to reinstate their credential within the grace period will be required to reapply for certification under the standards in place at the time of recertification.

About GISCI

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization, established in 2004, to manage and operate the premier professional certification program for the GIS Profession and to promote ethical conduct among GISPs. GISCI offers participants from the first years on the job until retirement, a positive method of developing value for professionals and employers in the GIS profession. GISCI has certified almost 7,000 GISPs, worldwide

Its member organizations include the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Geospatial Information & Technology

Association (GITA), National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), and the Geographic Land and Information Society (GLIS).

[Bill Hodge GISP, Executive Director GISCI](#)
 GIS Certification Institute (GISCI)
 701 Lee St, Ste. 680
 Des Plaines IL 60016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ILGISA EVENTS

ILGISA Annual Conference
September 14 - 16, 2015
Crowne Plaza Springfield
Springfield, IL

The Program Committee is hard at work planning another exciting annual conference this fall in Springfield, Illinois. Whether you take Route 66 or the train to get there, join your peers for 3 days of technical sessions, dynamic exhibits, and workshops on trending GIS topics.

Submit your abstract for a presentation or workshop now! Deadline for Call for Content is April 30th.

<http://tinyurl.com/ILGISAConference-CallforContent>

ILGISA Regional Meetings

Regional meetings are one-day networking events that connect ILGISA members and prospective members around the state. Stay in touch and up to speed with the latest GIS news at one of these upcoming ILGISA Regional Meetings....

Monday, April 20, 2015

Chicago, IL

DePaul University - DePaul Center
 1 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

Agenda and Registration online now -

<http://tinyurl.com/ILGISA-Chicago-Regional-Mtg>

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Macomb, IL

Western Illinois University – Union Building
 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455

Agenda and Registration online now –

<http://tinyurl.com/Macomb-Reg-Meet>

Monday, June 8, 2015

Wheaton, IL

DuPage County Administration Building
 421 N. County Farm Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187

NOTE: On June 9 & 10, ESRI Instructor-Led Training will be offered for GIS Pro.

To submit a presentation abstract for a regional meeting, please complete the Regional Meeting Call for Content form online at: <http://tinyurl.com/ILGISAREg-MtgCallforContent>.

University of Illinois/ILGISA GIS Day Event

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

iHotel and Conference Center
 Champaign, IL

For more information visit <http://gisday.illinois.edu/>

OTHER EVENTS

GIS-T Symposium
April 19 – 22, 2015
Des Moines, IA

The GIS-T Symposium is a chance for persons in government and private industry who are interested in the use of GIS for transportation purposes to get together and share experiences, see state-of-art software, and learn more about this field. The Symposium annually attracts over 400 Symposium registrants in addition to the 30 exhibitors in the technology hall.

More information at <http://www.gis-t.org/>

AAG Annual Meeting
April 21 – 25, 2015
Hyatt Regency
Chicago, IL

At the AAG Annual Meeting you will be joined by fellow geographers, GIS specialists, environmental scientists, and other leaders for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. The meeting will be held from April 21 - 25, 2015, and will feature over 4,500 presentations, posters, workshops, and field trips by leading scholars, experts, and researchers. The AAG annual meeting has been held every year since the association's founding in 1904.

Esri Southeast User Conference
May 4 – 6, 2015
Music City Center
Nashville, TN

Esri regional users conferences give GIS professionals and managers the chance to unlock the power of "where" and learn how to make the most of ArcGIS and partner solutions.

More information at <http://www.esri.com/events/southeast>

Biennial Magic 2016 Conference
April 24 - 26, 2016
Overland Park Convention Center
Overland Park, KS

More information at <http://www.magicgis.org/>

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



By Ryan Meekma (Chair)

The Membership Committee has 5 initiatives for 2015. But before I get into those nitty-gritty details you may be curious what our membership numbers look like for the last few years. As of December 31, 2014 we had 514 active members, 39 student members, and 13 Lifetime members. For 2013 there were 554 active members, 41 student members, and 12 Lifetime members. In 2012; 559 active members, 33 student members, and 12 Lifetime members. In 2011; 527 active members, 42 student members, and 10 Lifetime members. Thank you to all of the ILGISA members out there! Without your continued membership and support, we would not be able to offer the services that we have today.

The first initiative is the annual Map Competition. The theme of this year's competition is "Geospatial Hobby Exploration". We would like to encourage members to go with the theme and have some fun with it. Be creative and put a geospatial twist on a personal or professional hobby. Participants will be scored on cartographic quality, analytical techniques, and overall clarity. Watch your inbox for competition details!

We are also developing some new membership categories. The first is an "Organizational Membership". This will allow an employer to purchase memberships and assign them to individuals within their organization. Based on member feedback, this should allow the invoicing process to work more smoothly for accounting purposes.

The second membership category does not have an official name yet. Some suggested names are Partner, Vendor,

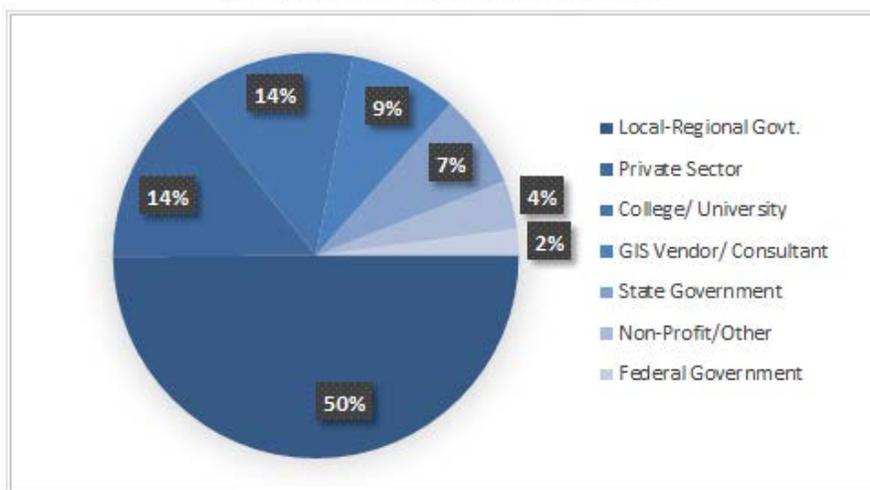
Workgroup, Enterprise, Corporate, or Exhibitor Membership. This will be an annual subscription that provides sponsorships at various levels. The Membership Committee is exploring a matrix of different benefits at each level and identifying some items that will provide an added value to businesses that work with ILGISA. For example, one membership tier could provide a booth at the annual ILGISA conference, advertising banner on the ILGISA web-site, available space on the GIS Notes Publication for a logo, Regional Training Event sponsorship, Webinar sponsorship, or perhaps a logo could appear on weekly ILGISA email updates. Please contact me if you have any thoughts or suggestions.

Initiative number four is aimed at developing a formal "Liaison Position" from the Vendor Involvement Program that will work with the Board of Directors at meetings, teleconferences, and education events.

Initiative number five sets goals for laying out a foundation for "ILGISA Regional Chapters" across the State of Illinois. For now this is only a vision, but with increased support from ILGISA Members across the state, we can identify what would be most beneficial for all of us. What are your local training and educational needs? Where are dense clusters of ILGISA members located across the state? Why are there some geographic areas of the state that don't have any ILGISA members? Do you want to get to know your local members at some informal monthly meet ups? These are some of the questions that our committee has been asking. Hopefully you, the reader, can help us answer these questions.

Please contact me (rmeekma@ilgisa.org) if you are interested in any of these initiatives and would like to join the Membership Committee.

ILGISA Members by industry sector



OUTREACH COMMITTEE



By Leanne Brehob-Riley (Chair)

The Outreach Committee is a new committee in 2015, taking the place of what was the Website and Publication Committees. The charge of the Outreach Committee is to facilitate and communicate the activities of ILGISA and the geospatial community to its membership, as well as promote ILGISA and its benefits to non-members.

In 2015, ILGISA launched its new website – www.ilgisa.org. The new website is built upon configurable association management software that provides much needed flexibility to allow ILGISA

to operate more efficiently and offer greater benefits to its members. The Outreach Committee will continue to expand the functionality, features, and resources offered through the website. Specifically, we are working to streamline registration processes through the use of database bound forms and improve membership resources through the development and integration of the ILGISA Professional Network (IPN). The IPN is a volunteer assistance program that is designed to connect ILGISA geospatial professionals through peer-to-peer interactions and discussion forums. We are also planning to incorporate interactive maps to spatially convey ILGISA membership statistics

and other information that is beneficial to the members.

The Outreach Committee will continue to publish GIS Notes and utilize social media outlets to circulate information about upcoming ILGISA training, initiatives, regional meetings, and the annual conference. ILGISA would like to continue to expand its social media presence. To that end, the Outreach Committee will be working on the development of a social media plan and looking at methods to automate posts.

Should you have any suggestions for the Outreach Committee, please contact me at lbrehob-riley@ilgisa.org.

2015 ILGISA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**“GIS...
ON THE MOVE!”**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL
SEPTEMBER 14–16, 2015**

SEE YOU THERE!

CARBONDALE REGIONAL MEETING RECAP

ILGISA hosted the first regional meeting of 2015 in Carbondale on February 19, 2015.

The weather was a little cold but, we had plenty of hot topics to talk about!

Over 35 GIS professionals, professors and students from southern Illinois attended the ILGISA Carbondale Regional Meeting.

Several SIU departments are using GIS tools in their research and recent graduates and professionals shared career advice with the audience. We are delighted to report that the feedback from this event has been very positive! Thank you to all of those individuals who attended and presented! This event would not have been possible without your support.



GIS INITIATIVES continued from page 1

cal geography, population, cultural patterns and processes, political organization of space, agricultural and rural land use, industrialization and economic development, and cities and urban land use. While the atlas content is structured to match those of the required curriculum for AP Human Geography courses, the atlas is applicable for use by middle/junior high school students, high school students, and college students in a variety of geography and non-geography based courses. The Online Illinois Classroom Atlas is free to use.

In the fall of 2014, a group of 21 high school geography teachers, including many who teach AP Human Geography, from throughout Illinois participated in a research survey to assess the preliminary version of the atlas and provide information on classroom use and suggestions for overall improvement. Overall, feedback from this group of teachers was overwhelmingly positive, as have been comments received during workshop sessions and conference presentations focused on the atlas throughout the last few years.

At present, work is focused on adding additional interactive maps based on teacher suggestions and developing short video tutorials and quick guides for teachers and students.

Support GIS Activities in Your Local Schools

As the IGA continues to promote geographic literacy through the use of GIS in the K-12 schools, we invite your help and participation. Encourage your local schools to take advantage of the free access to ESRI software. Share local GIS datasets from your organization with teachers so students can design GIS projects in their own backyards. Volunteer to give presentations for career day events at schools to provide exposure to GIS career opportunities. Together, we can create a more geographically literate society, and inspire a new generation of GIS professionals in the state.

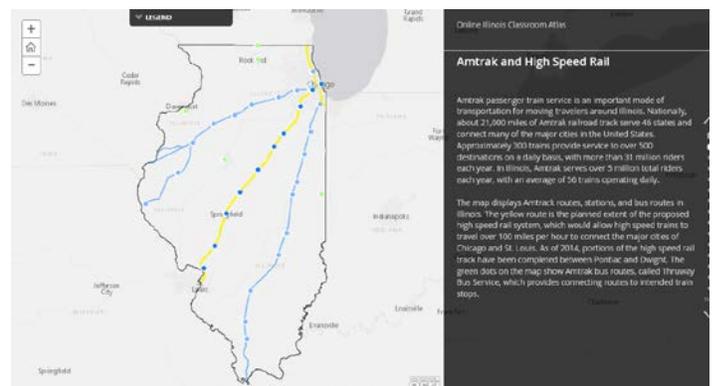


Figure 1. Screenshot from the Online Illinois Classroom Atlas showing Amtrak service connecting Illinois cities.

BECOME A MEMBER OF ILGISA

Become an ILGISA member to network with colleagues and participate in educational opportunities designed to meet the needs of an organization's decision makers, geospatial users, and advanced geospatial practitioners

Apply online to become an [ILGISA Member](#)

OR

Apply by mail using the [ILGISA Membership Application](#) (also found on the right side of this page)

Who should join?

ILGISA membership is for anyone who uses, acquires, maintains, analyzes or distributes spatial "map" data, is interested in geospatial technologies, plays an active role in the Illinois geospatial community, or is pursuing a geospatial career.

ILGISA strives to offer a wide-variety of high-quality, low-cost programs that educate and inform our members. ILGISA programs include an annual conference, regional meetings, training events, and webinars that address the ever-evolving geospatial technologies, applications and standards.

Member Benefits

- Enjoy reduced rates for ILGISA conferences and workshops.
- Receive *GIS Notes*, a biannual newsletter showcasing activities of the Illinois GIS community.
- Access to the annual membership directory and other resources via the ILGISA Member Only forum.
- Receive the weekly newsletter that highlights upcoming GIS educational events within Illinois.
- Build your knowledge-base through GISP-certified professional development opportunities.
- Network with GIS professionals in and throughout Illinois and the Midwest.
- Interact with the Illinois GIS community through the ILGISA LinkedIn group and via Twitter.
- Serve on ILGISA committees with other GIS community leaders; promote GIS technologies within Illinois.

For more information go to www.ilgisa.org



Illinois GIS Association Membership

Please complete the form below and return to:

Illinois GIS Association

800 Roosevelt Road
Building C Suite 312
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Categories

The membership year is a calendar year; membership expires on December 31. Dues statements will be sent to current members at least three months in advance. Active Members' renewal dues are to be paid prior to March 31 of that year or they will be considered lapsed.

Active Membership - \$50

Available to professionals who use GIS technologies. Special member rates are available for all conferences and workshops.

Lapsed Membership (renewal after March 31 of that year) - \$75

Lapsed members will have to pay the Lapsed Member rate of \$75 to re-instate the membership. Once a membership is re-instated, the member is eligible for all membership benefits.

Student Membership - \$10

Available to any full-time student enrolled in a post-secondary institution and interested in GIS. A letter on institution letterhead from a department chair verifying student status is required with the application.

Please make check payable to ILGISA

Illinois GIS Association - 800 Roosevelt Road, Building C Suite 312 - Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
Phone: 630-942-6584 <http://www.ilgisa.org> or contact@ilgisa.org
FEIN - 364014811