DAILY NEWS
25th International Cartographic Conference

8 July 2011

"Coup de coeur"

Try the projection blender! Bernhard Jenny from Zurich's Institute of Cartography yesterday presented **Flex Projector**, which is interactive software for projection blending. Thanks to its graphical interface, complete neophytes can create new world projections. Sliders help control the shape and characteristics of the projection by visually adjusting parallels and meridians. Users can evaluate what they have created and apply it to their data. Although their creations cannot be directly used in GIS packages, it is a good way to raise awareness on projection issues, too often ignored by cartographers!

Do not miss

The general assembly (for national representatives)
8:30-12 room 251

Closing ceremony
3:00-4:30 room 251

- The new ICA EC, new commissions
- ICC2015
- ICA awards: best maps, etc.
- Presentation of ICC2013

Map design on the Internet: a broad perspective

The proliferation of maps on the Internet raises many questions and GI specialists have their role to play. Some of the design issues were addressed in yesterday's sessions.
Anyone can access very powerful mapping packages on the Web nowadays. The cartographic dashboard of the statistical institute in Quebec is a fine example of what commercial companies are able to produce. The user-friendly interface based on CartoVista (published by DBX Geomatics) helps users explore official statistics and interact with maps, tables, histograms and graphs of all sorts.
But, at a time when almost anyone can create or manipulate a map, we sometimes end up facing horrible images: a rapid visit of various geoportals or websites can sometimes be as frightening as getting lost in a haunted house. Stacks of overlapping geometries, zooms on nothing, unreadable labels, hidden symbols… in order to avoid "geo-gibberish", researchers are working on tools that would replace the missing cartographer. Transposing optimization techniques to the Web environment is one of the solutions. Generalization, colors and outline enhancement, automatic labels and symbol placement, layer optimization… are central to the work at IGN-France's research laboratories and Sweden's Lund University. The latter is developing a *cartographically enhanced* geoportal that can enrich WFS services. So far, the prototype adjusts the hierarchy of layers, de-emphasizes data in the background by means of color de-saturation, optimizes symbol placements and can change symbolization (e.g. turning an overlapping plain green polygon into an outlined polygon filled with a sparse but optimized set of icons). Julien Gaffuri, from the Joint Research Center in Ispra (Italy), summarized the dream of researchers in that area: "a web client that will be able to adapt the cartographic representation to the scale automatically". But where should the various algorithms be implemented? On the raw data coming from various data producers? On the client side, putting performance at risk? How can Web designers use them? Specific cartographic design issues have consequences on formats, economics and processing techniques. Much work still has to be done, but GIS experts will need to work hand in hand more and more often with experts from other disciplines: knowledge engineers and sociologists for example, since, as Mike Peterson from the University of Nebraska noted: "The World Wide Web has introduced a new medium for cartography, but it dramatically changes how maps are used" and this has to be analyzed thoroughly.

Françoise de Blomac

Breaking news

Lots of sessions today from 8:30 to 3:00 (web services, generalisation, sustainable development, social network, history)

New EC meeting 12:30-1:30 room 203
New chairs meeting 1:30-2:30 room 251
Map exhibitions run up to 4:30

The ICC2011 warmly thanks you for having participated in such large numbers

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