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THE GEOSPATIAL WEB

How Geo-Browsers, Social Software and the Web 2.0 are Shaping the Network Society

HTTP://GEOWEB.KNOW-CENTER.AT/

By integrating cartographic data with geo-tagged knowledge repositories, the emerging Geospatial Web revolutionizes the production, distribution and consumption of media products. International media have recognized the potential of geo-browsers such as NASA World Wind and Google Earth, for example when Web and television coverage on hurricane "Katrina" used public online services to illustrate the scale of destruction. Yet these early applications only hint at the true potential of geo-browsing technology for accessing electronic resources, and to build and maintain virtual communities. The scale-independent spherical globes of geo-browsers are an ideal platform to integrate (i) cartographic data such as topographic maps and street directories, (ii) geo-tagged knowledge repositories aggregated from public online sources or corporate Intranets, and (iii) environmental indicators such as emission levels, ozone concentrations, and biodiversity density.

This edited volume emphasizes the role of contextual knowledge in shaping the emerging network society. It investigates the impact of geospatial technology on content production environments, with an emphasis on hybrid approaches that combine the advantages of individual and collaborative content production – e.g. integrating 'edited' material from traditional encyclopedias and news media with 'evolving' content from Wiki applications. Such collaborative environments can be enriched by automated aggregators for Web content and news feeds in RSS, RDF, or Atom formats. Annotating content from these heterogeneous sources creates complex knowledge repositories spanning multiple dimensions (space, time, semantics, etc.). The size and complexity of these repositories calls for new interface metaphors to increase their accessibility and transparency.

The Geospatial Web will have a profound impact on managing knowledge and structuring workflows within and across organizations, and on the interactions between an organization and its target audience. Geospatial collaborative environments also catalyze virtual communities by matching people of similar interests, browsing behavior, or geographic location.

HOW TO ORDER

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Table of contents and sample chapter:
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