Notes from Geospatial/GIS Brown Bag Meeting

September 23, 2020

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;

Via Zoom: Advyth Ramachandran, Canserina Kurnia, Emily Esposito, Gideon Kinzie Hawver, Hana Kang, Jonathan Young, Julio Orellana, Karla Carillo, Katheryn Rodriguez, Lizbeth Jardon, Maxine Wu, Mike Cohen, Orchida Fayez, Rachel Starry, Rey Castillo, Sara Bruene, Shanon Langlie, Stephanie Estrada, Steve Ries

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available here. The access password to view is   %p8abu&3

Esri has been hosting monthly **Lunchtime Chats on GIS Education** since June. Recordings and resources are made available after each one. The next one, on October 6 at 9:00 am, will focus on the Living Atlas of the World.

The **ACM SIGSPATIAL 2020** conference will be virtual November 3-6.

This year, the 10 UC campuses are collaborating on **UC-wide GIS Week** to be held November 17-19. The call for presenters is out, and some UCR folks have already applied. Anyone who would like to present a talk, lightning talk, or participate in a panel, or submit a poster is encouraged to apply by October 13. Pre-recorded workshops are also being accepted. Career talks and a mapathon are also potential offerings.

Jonathan shared that the   **R'Geospatial Club** hopes to offer the option for club members to prep for the basic GIS certification test. Any students who are interested in joining the club are welcome to contact him at jyoun049@ucr.edu.

Janet shared the **results of the survey** recently sent out to UCR affiliates, regarding what they'd like to see covered in the meetups. Among the responses that differed from what we currently do:
- One respondent would like to have the opportunity to practice various mapping tasks.
  - Janet mentioned the Maptime organization, which has local chapters where mappers of all skill levels can get practice and advice. Janet showed the site for the very active MaptimeDavis chapter. An attempt was made five or six years ago to launch MaptimeIE, based in Riverside, but it doesn't look to be active. Is anyone interested in a relaunch?
- Another respondent was curious about interacting with groups similar to ours at other UC campuses.
  - Janet said she had compared notes with the leader of Pulse of GIS at UCSD, which met four times last academic year (before the shutdown).
  - Janet mentioned our meetups at a UC GIS Leadership meeting. Other campuses were interested in hearing more.

- On the hub for UC GIS (in soft-launch phase), each campus gets a profile page. Janet will create a draft for what could be included on the UCR profile (including our meetups), and will circulate the draft for comments.
- Janet also shared the March 2020 survey results for the same question about topics for our meetups. At that point, several respondents were interested in learning about tools.
- We'll try to keep all of these ideas in mind as meetups continue.

Our meetings will now be known as "meetups." Per the survey results, the **meetups for Fall 2020** will be held on Tuesdays: October 20, November 10, and December 15.

Janet is giving **two workshops** this quarter: Introduction to QGIS at 2:00 pm on October 29 and Introduction to ArcGIS Online at 2:00 pm on November 12.

First-time Attendees

First-time attendees were asked to put their information in the chat.

Hanna Kang is interested in mapping healthy outcomes in California.

Julio Orellana is an incoming 4th year PhD student in Ethnic Studies who is interested in GIS as a potential method to use in his dissertation.

Stephanie Estrada is working with Karla Carillo and is interested in incorporating interactive maps in a story map.

For the other first-time attendees: welcome, and we hope you'll return in the future!

Presentation

Sara Bruene is a second-year PhD candidate in Sociology who is new to GIS. Sara presented on research she's doing for her Masters thesis on food deserts (low income areas with low access to food) in California, and whether grocery delivery services (GDS) might meet some of the need in these areas.

Sara began by discussing various definitions of food deserts, and presented some maps from the USDA Food Access Research Atlas. She also gave the historic background for why supermarkets are scarce in low-income urban areas, mentioned the idea of "food swamps" (food is available but is mostly packaged and/or of limited nutritional value) and touched on the situation regarding convenience stores in these areas. Potential solutions such as farmers markets face several obstacles.

Data on service areas has been collected by ZIP code for four of the five large GDS; her team of RAs was able to enter each ZIP code for California in the providers' websites. However, the Walmart site will only accept valid addresses including ZIP code. Sara's main question to the group was about the most efficient way to acquire one valid address for each ZIP code in California.

Using ArcGIS Pro, she'll be mapping GDS service areas and compare them with USDA food deserts. She'll also bring in socioeconomic and population density layers. She'll then look at how underserved or overserved each area is.

After Sara's presentation, in the discussion regarding valid addresses, Mike suggested using a ZIP code overlay on Google Maps and clicking on a random building within each ZIP code to harvest a valid address. Janet mentioned a source she'd shared with Sara that included valid addresses for a large percentage of CA. Accessing the data from that source proved to be a challenge. Mike also brought up the possibility of downloading parcel data (containing ZIP codes) from county websites.