

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

January 20, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;
Via Zoom: Chandra Reynolds, Elizabeth Perez, Gideon Kinzie Hawver (co-host), Jonathan Young, Katheryn Rodriguez, Kevin Comerford, Marci Malinowycz, Mariana Reyes, Maxine Wu, Mike Cohen, Muhammad Mahadi Isa, Rey Castillo, Salvador Olguin, Shanon Langlie

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The access passcode to view is @rh+sS5I

The library is offering three GIS-related **workshops** this quarter. All are one hour long and all start at 2:00 pm PST.

- [GIS Basics](#) - January 21
- [Introduction to ArcGIS Pro](#) - February 3 (there may be an opportunity at some point after the workshop to practice the demonstrated procedures in a virtual classroom!)
- [Working with GIS Data](#) - February 8 (part of [UC Love Data Week](#))

In an email to the Geospatial listserv, Elia Scudiero (elia.scudiero@ucr.edu) shared the following regarding a **license for Planet imagery**:

I am happy to announce that we recently purchased a Campus License (active through Nov 2025) for Planet Labs Inc. (<https://www.planet.com/>) satellite imagery.

The Campus License includes access to the PlanetScope and RapidEye Imagery (resolution 3.7 to 5 m, daily frequency, available since 2009).

Access to the Planet Labs' data is provided by the project "[Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Water, Nutrient, Salinity, And Pest Management in The Western U.S.](#)" (NIFA-AFRI Sustainable Agricultural Systems Grant Number: 2020-69012-31914).

Faculty, academic researchers, staff, postdocs, and students are welcome to use the Planet Labs data for research and education.

An active [@UCR.EDU](#) is needed.

Please notify me if you are using Planet imagery in any publication to assure that the funding source is acknowledged properly.

ASK FOR AN USER ACCOUNT HERE: <https://forms.gle/pZke6WvzHjYZWZ6u8>

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

The David Rumsey Map Center at Stanford is hosting a virtual presentation on Friday, January 22 at 2:45 pm on [Time in Maps](#).

Esri is continuing its monthly [GIS in Education](#) chats. The presentation on January 5 was about the new Map Viewer in ArcGIS Online; the session on February 2 at 9:00 will cover the new all-in-one ArcGIS Field Maps app. Links to recordings and resources are made available.

The [GIS @ UCR Virtual Panel](#) originally scheduled for this afternoon has been postponed to February 24. This will be the first in what's hoped to be a series of events connecting UCR students who are interested in GIS with Esri staff who are UCR alumni, parents, or friends.

The **R'Geospatial Club** holds general and educational meetings from week to week. All students at the graduate or undergraduate level are welcome to join.

First-time Attendees

First-time attendees were invited to introduce themselves vocally or in the chat.

Muhammad Mahadi Isa is a GIS Analyst from Kano Geographic information system in Nigeria (where the local time was 9:20 pm!) He is using GIS for capturing data and mapping. He would like to learn more about QGIS and ArcGIS.

Mariana Reyes is a 4th year geology major interested in learning more about GIS/ArcGIS/Geospatial after taking a remote sensing class. She will also be taking a GIS course next quarter and would like to understand it a bit before taking the course.

Kevin Comerford is the Associate University Librarian for Digital Libraries at UCR. He is interested in hearing what everyone's research needs are regarding GIS, and how the library can best support students learning GIS.

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

Discussion

Since we weren't able to have a presentation this month, we had an exchange of information (much of it in the chat) centered on these prompts:

Share interesting maps

Shanon shared two links:

- the Cornell Ornithology Lab's [eBird](#) site (of interest as more people are learning about birding during the pandemic)
 - Janet mentioned that eBird data are among the datasets downloadable from [UCR STAR](#)

- the PBS series [When Disaster Strikes](#) looks at the mechanics of disaster relief, which often includes the use of GIS.

(Someone shared a link for the inauguration parade route, but unfortunately it covered the 2017 event instead of the current one.)

What are you doing with GIS these days?

Mike, a GIS consultant, shared the link to the [Along the Chaparral](#) web map app for Riverside National Cemetery that he has been working on with several collaborators at UCR. (Look for the “Enter Site” button at bottom right of the landing page!)

Katheryn, the program manager of the Community Engagement Core at the Center for Health Disparities Research, shared links for the story maps they have been creating.

A series on the R01 Project: Childhood Asthma and the Salton Sea:

Story Map 1: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b0eafb481a3a48c7943fa4164ebfaadf>

Story Map 2: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d93d73ca89a84023aa09d0a38202daaf>

Another series on the R01 Project: Grow Well: Addressing early childhood obesity in low-income families:

Part 1: <https://arcg.is/1nOCzf>

Part 2: <https://arcg.is/05amqL>

What GIS-related learning objectives do you have?

Mike is learning Python Scripting for ArcGIS Pro from a great new book by Paul A. Zandbergen.

Janet is learning about how R is used to create maps. She is mostly using a [set of tutorials](#) from 2017-18 created by Jesse Sadler. She hit a roadblock at the geocoding step because Google now requires the user to obtain an API key, for which a credit card number must be supplied. Her colleague suggested finding instructions for using OpenStreetMap or [Stamen](#) maps for geocoding in R.

^^^

Other discussion topics:

- Riverside and San Bernardino counties being assessed by FEMA as among the [ten riskiest places to live](#) in the United States.
- A UC-wide geospatial community started to form around the first UC GIS Week in November. Janet shared that conversations are occurring regarding scheduling monthly presentations. A [UC GIS Hub](#) has been created as a resource to find contacts at other campuses and learn about how the campuses are using GIS.
- Academic library websites are a great place for beginners to look for GIS tutorials and other information - librarians are good at explaining things clearly!

These links to UCR Library resources for learning more about GIS were shared in the chat:

Guide to Maps and GIS:

<https://library.ucr.edu/research-services/how-do-i-find/how-do-i-find-maps-gis>

YouTube channel (for watching previously recorded workshops on GIS and other topics): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHIILDcgNfLK-IpVFFNamLw>
Library website (for upcoming events): <https://library.ucr.edu/>