

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

March 17, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;

Via Zoom: Chandra Reynolds, Gerald Winkel, Janine Almanzor, Jonathan Young, Joseph (Jay) Spencer, Luciane Musa, Marilyn Grell-Brisk, Megan Webb, Mike Cohen, Paul G, Phillip Boan, Shanon Langlie, Steve Ries, Yuhua Situ

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The access passcode to view is x0!gV@Xd

UC GIS will host a [Spring meetup](#) from 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Thursday, April 1. There will be three short talks, breakout rooms corresponding to each presentation, and a discussion with all attendees at the end.

The next [GIS in Higher Education Chat](#) on April 6 at 9:00 a.m. will focus on Mapping Unstructured Data with [Locate XT](#). This tool extracts place information from a paragraph (for example) and plots corresponding points on a map. Recordings and resources from previous presentations can be found on the site.

Two **geospatial workshops** are being offered by UCR Library in Spring 2021: [Comparing PolicyMap and Social Explorer](#) on April 21, and [Introduction to Story Maps](#) on May 11. Both will start at 2:00 pm.

Geospatial/GIS meetups for Spring 2021 will be held on the following Tuesdays: April 20, May 18, and June 15. We have presenters lined up for April and May; anyone wanting to present in June should reach out to Janet.

Jay shared that the **World Bank** is hosting a series of learning events, now through the first week of April. Information can be found [here](#).

First-time Attendees

Marilyn, Megan, Paul and Yuhua: thanks for joining us, and we hope you'll return in the future!

Presentation

GIS consultant Mike Cohen has devised a field app for the UCR Botanic Gardens staff to report observed problems (such as broken signage, downed limbs, graffiti, and malfunctioning restrooms) in the Gardens.

Mike built the app using Esri's Survey123, which allows for tracking the problem through to its resolution. The user interface performs well on mobile devices, and the administrative back-end runs on a laptop or desktop for managers to view discrete entries or data summaries. Mike gave a live demonstration of the features visible to Botanic Gardens managers from within Survey123, on the following tabs: Overview, Design, Collaborate, Analyze, Data, Settings, and sharing options. For more than one person to have edit capabilities, an ArcGIS Online administrator needs to create a shared update group that will include relevant members and the app.

The survey allows staff and volunteers to take photos of the problems they encounter and provide other relevant information. A point feature relating to the photo site is added to an image-based map of the Gardens automatically.

The Problem Manager app also incorporates Gmail and [Integromat](#); the latter allows apps to be connected and automated workflows to be triggered by certain actions (such as a new survey response triggering an email to the appropriate manager). [Webhooks](#) in Survey123 allow apps to interact with each other; for instance, the Survey123 app for the Problem Manager has a webhook for Integromat. Mike also demonstrated the Integromat interface for this project.

In the future, the Botanic Gardens will look at porting the current app to Esri's newly-rolled-out [ArcGIS Field Maps](#).

Q&A included whether there's an intention for the public to ever use the app to report problems (not at this time), and how emergencies are handled (all emails go to Janine, the curator, who decides how the situations will be handled. Most true emergencies are reported by walkie-talkie rather than through the survey).

Here's a [link to the slides](#) Mike shared; the link will expire on March 26.