

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

June 9, 2022

Rivera Library, Room 140, and via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;
In Rivera Library: David Biggs, Gopal Mahajan, Jonathan Young, Mike Cohen
Via Zoom: Andrew Haglund, Gerald Winkel, Geraldo Tomas Neves, Jay Spencer, Luciane Musa, Michael D'Amato, Nse-Abasi Ayara

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The passcode to view is 2mV^!@44

The [Education Summit](#) at the Esri User Conference will be held July 9-12 at the San Diego Convention Center. The [User Conference](#) itself will be held from July 11-15 at the Convention Center. It's also possible to [register](#) to attend a subset of conference sessions virtually (choose the Complimentary option in the registration interface). One free pass to attend in person may still be available for a UCR affiliate.

Andrew shared that students can register for the full User Conference for \$125. There might be an option for students to attend one day of the conference for free.

When Janet met with Michelle Ybarra, the **ArcGIS Site License Administrator** in ITS a few weeks ago, we changed the header image for UCR's ArcGIS Online organization. We plan to meet a few times a year from now on. Michelle shared that the Esri contract has been extended to June 10, 2023. She also would welcome hearing about any suggestions or user challenges, such as problems using ArcGIS Pro in Apporto.

Meetups during the summer will be held on August 11 and September 15. Both are Thursdays. Presenters or suggestions for discussion topics are welcome!

Janet will offer an **Introduction to QGIS workshop** on Thursday, August 25 from 2:00-3:00 pm.

In "GIS at UCR" news:

- UCR Extension won't resume offering GIS classes in the foreseeable future.
- Serge Rey, Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Center for Geospatial Sciences, is leaving UCR to take a position at [San Diego State University](#).

First-time Attendees

Geraldo Tomas Neves, Gopal Mahajan, Michael D'Amato, and Nse-Abasi Ayara were all first-time attendees.

Welcome, and we hope to see you again!

Presentation

Janet demonstrated three free tools for making simple maps. No GIS knowledge is required.

[Scribble Maps](#) has a free version that allows you to create up to five shareable web maps. Users can choose from among several basemap options, including toggling various layers on Google Maps. Scribble Maps offers an impressive array of marker (point) symbology. Users can draw, edit, and split drafted lines and polygons, and can add text labels. A linear measuring tool is provided. The User Manual is thorough and easy to understand.

The free version has limited options for export and other functions. If you click an icon for a feature that isn't available in the free version, a prompt appears for upgrading to Pro Basic. To access the more advanced capabilities found in Pro Basic, consider setting up a free 3-day trial.

[Simple Mappr](#) is suited for creating regional or global point maps for publications and presentations. It has several layers and labels that can be toggled on or off to customize a basemap, and eleven choices for projection.

Points can be added to the map by inputting or uploading a text or csv file of latitude / longitude coordinates. Lines or polygons are added by inputting [well-known text](#) (WKT), which consists of coordinate pairs for each vertex in the feature. (Fortunately there are WKT generator tools!) On the Regions tab, the user can specify countries to outline by typing their name. A different format is used to generate provinces. Symbology choices are limited.

A URL can be generated to embed a saved map. Six formats are available for download.

[National Geographic MapMaker](#) is fundamentally a tool for teachers that provides several data layers, with topics including history, climate, seismology and sustainability. Seven basemap options are found under "Map Settings." Users can add points, lines, and polygons on maps to share or export. Symbology choices are fairly limited. A linear measuring tool is included.

Users can create a link that will enable them to return to the map, but must have a National Geographic account to save and share the map.

Janet noted that [Google My Maps](#) is another simple mapping tool to consider. However, access to My Maps is not available in UCR Google accounts.

Comparisons of these tools and others can be found in the [UCR Library geospatial tool guide](#).

Discussion

David asked about the rules regarding the rights and permissions for using a map created by one of these tools in a publication. Janet said she'd have to investigate.

Mike shared that he recently created a look-up map in ArcGIS Online for the Herbarium in which the layers included county boundaries and USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps.

Map sharing

Janet shared the following:

Regarding geographic place names in the United States:

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/search/names>

https://www.usgs.gov/search?keywords=Derogatory%20Geographic%20Names&f%5B0%5D=usgs_facet%3Ascience_faqs:

US projected abortion deserts:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/05/abortion-deserts-clinics-access-closed-map>