Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup
April 11, 2023

Rivera Library, Room 140 and Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;

In person: Isaiah Kim, Siddharth Kishore
Via Zoom: Devan Velji, Jimmy Calanchini, Lynda Vernia, Mary A, Mike Cohen, Sandra Do, Steve Ries, Zhiyi Wang

<u>Announcements</u>

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](). The passcode to view is BcR@i4!a

The **[Geospatial/GIS Quarterly]()** has been updated for Spring quarter.

The **[Esri Imagery and Remote Sensing Educators Summit]()** is a free virtual event being held on April 19.

Get to know other geography-minded folks in the Inland Empire by attending the **CalURISA Mappy Hour** on April 20 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Riverside Food Lab, located at 3605 Market St in downtown Riverside.

Janet is offering an **[Introduction to Google Earth]()** workshop on Tuesday, May 16 at 2:00 pm.

The **[STAR Lab]()** in Room 147, Orbach Science Library is now available in a soft launch for your use. Book a 1.75 hour session at one of the four high-performance computers. Available software includes ArcGIS Pro, Google Earth Pro, and QGIS.

Mike requested that anyone who has drone experience and would like to help the **Botanic Gardens** acquire imagery of their 40-acre site, please email him at nvmike@outlook.com .

<u>Presentation</u>

Janet shared several **Online Sources for Maps and Data**. All but one can be found in the library's [Maps and GIS]() research guide.

Local
In addition to geoportals maintained by county and city governments, these two sources are also worth knowing about.
- **SAWPA** - Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. The [GIS Tools page]() leads to a data viewer, options to download data, and static maps.
- **SCAG** - Southern California Association of Governments. [SCAG's GIS Open Data Portal]() provides many categories of data for the Southern California region.

General
- **California State Geoportal** - If finding data here is a bit challenging, know that many state agencies have their own sites for providing access to geospatial data.
- **GeoPlatform.gov** - Discover data across 18 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) themes.

Environmental
- **Data Basin** - Data Basin is a platform created by the Conservation Biology Institute that provides over 22,000 datasets at regional to global scales for visualization or download.
- **Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC)** - A Data Center in NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System, SEDAC supports the integration of socioeconomic and earth science data. A good source for raster data.

Social Sciences
- **LandScan** - This resource, which provides raster-based population data for the world, is one of the databases provided by UCR Library. UCR affiliates can access LandScan on campus or once connected to the campus VPN. Populations can be derived for custom areas.
- **National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS)** - A part of IPUMS, NHGIS is a platform for downloading US Census data tables and mapping files.

Scanned maps
- **Library of Congress General Maps (digital collection)** - The collection includes close to 6700 maps. The user can filter by date range, location, subject, language and more.
- **Old Maps Online** - "... a gateway to historical maps in libraries around the world." Maps can be exported; some can be viewed in a georeferencer.

Shared links

Mike shared these links:

- San Bernardino LAFCO GIS Portal: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/9f95490e03de471da538098bad6e073d
- San Bernardino County GIS: https://gis.sbcounty.gov/

Discussion

Siddarth asked whether the LandScan population data would correlate well with US Census data. Janet replied that because the methodologies are different and LandScan is more granular, the derived population counts for an area are likely to be different. In the US it might be wiser to stick with data from the Census, for consistent comparability with other US-based research. LandScan might be most helpful for areas of the world lacking reliable Census data.

Siddarth also asked about sources for California climate data. Janet didn't have one readily at hand, but suggested doing an internet search using an agency name and "GIS" as the search term. In this case, we found weather.gov/gis, the GIS Portal for the National Weather Service.

Mike subscribes to the weather feed from the NWS and finds it very valuable.

Janet mentioned that another general, reliable data source, especially for users of Esri products, is their [Living Atlas of the World](#).

In the chat, **Lynda** mentioned that "Dr. Adelusi-Adeluyi has been teaching a series of workshops in the history department about using StoryMapping."

Isaiah says he plans to use GIS to assist in campaigning for public office.