

Data and GIS Users Discussion Forum
Summary of Discussion
October 31, 2005

The meeting began shortly after noon in 150 Hodges Library with 10 attendees:

UT Libraries: Eleanor Read, Moderator (Hodges), Jane Row (Hodges), Janette Prescod (Hodges), Sandy Leach (AgVet), Eric Arnold (Map)

Faculty: Joanne Logan (BEES), Tim Prather (BEES)

Staff: Bob Muenchen (Statistical Consulting Center), Brandon League (JIEE/NBII-SAIN), Wolf Naegeli (EERC/SAMAB)

Ellie Read opened the discussion by welcoming the attendees and explaining why the library periodically gathers together data and GIS users, support staff, and other interested parties for an informal discussion. This is a time for us to talk about needs, concerns, questions, services, and resources, with regard to secondary data and/or GIS research at UT.

After introductions Ellie Read made several announcements:

- We have two new databases with international data: United Nations Common Database (more than 300 statistical series from more than 30 UN sources) and International Statistical Yearbook (economic, financial, social, and demographic statistics from Eurostat, OECD, IMF, UNIDO, and three German agencies).
- Our Map/GIS Librarian, Travis Dolence, left the UT Libraries this summer, so we are currently without a Map/GIS librarian. Eric Arnold has been handling day-to-day operations of the library.
- The Commons opened on the second floor of Hodges Library fall semester. It is a joint effort between the Libraries and OIT and is a computer lab with additional services (e.g., OIT help desk, reference help, loaner laptop check-out, statistical consulting, and extended hours).

Bob Muenchen, Manager of the Statistical Consulting Center made several announcements:

- Version 8 of LabVIEW is out now. It is centrally funded and integrates MatLab.
- The SCC is looking into ImageJ, and image analysis software, to see if they would be able to support it for campus use.
- SPSS version 14 has just arrived. The SCC expects to roll it out at the end of the semester. It has a new graphical language and allows the user to look at multiple datasets at one time.

The rest of the session was a lively discussion on a variety of topics, including UT's international and intercultural awareness initiatives; handling international country boundaries in GIS applications since country names and boundaries change over time; world climate data, local GIS certification programs, and finding a better way to manage GIS and map data for the state of Tennessee.

The next meeting will likely be in fall 2006.