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CARTOGRAPHY CROSSING BORDERS

Section 6 : Thematic Cartography: Desktop Technologies for Designs Compilation and Production

Abstract:

Production of High Quality Maps from GIS Packages on a Desk-Top Publishing Package

Most GIS packages do not address the need for good cartographic output. This paper aims at describing a method developed in the Cartographic Unit, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg to provide good quality thematic maps in publication ready format. The method developed is capable of importing data from several GIS packages (via a file converting package if necessary) efficiently into CorelDraw. Cartographic dressing-up is then undertaken on these maps.

The Cartographic Unit is often called upon to produce a family of maps sharing a common base but indicating different thematic themes. Maps share a common base and have various themes on different levels of the same file. Accurate colour separations can be obtained for each theme at high resolutions (3600dpi) on film for publication as well as 35mm slides, colour prints and overhead transparencies.

The result of this PC-computer based method is efficient production of high quality maps in a very short time. With a shortage of staff, urgent deadlines can be met, production output increased while at the same time generating large savings in labour costs. Cartographic accuracy is maintained throughout the process.

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