

THE METHODOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES OF USING WEBSERVER IN TEACHING GIS

PÓDÖR A.

University of West Hungary Faculty of Geoinformatics, SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR, HUNGARY

The paper presents a project based method in teaching geoinformatics with the integration of web server. As the GIS shows a rapid progress, it is very difficult to keep up with the improvements from year to year. In order to prepare the students for enhancing their competitiveness in the labour market it is necessary to implement various web mapping solutions in education. Therefore GIS course was reformed at the University of West Hungary to integrated new types of learning method. In the paper the author discusses some different learning techniques. These learning techniques went through basic changes in the past century and computer science had a significant role in alteration of learning theories. The author outlines how geoinformatics course work was designed at the University of West Hungary to integrate some of these methods and gives example how GIS web server solutions proved to be a good methodological tool in the hand of teachers. The paper explains how collaborative and independent learning methods could be introduced in GIS classes.

The paper shows some practical example of a subject that models the workflow from data acquisition through to data publication. Examples demonstrate that the teacher acts as a mentor during the classes to help the students in acquire knowledge in a way which best suits them, they share their knowledge, their experiences with each other and they learn to cooperate. Moreover, the quality and the accuracy of their work is improving during the semester, because the success of the “project” is dependent on the collective work of each student. Each year a relatively simple project is created by the teacher. The project must be simple enough to be able to fulfil the requirements of the teaching plan. The teaching plan requires that the students need to gather some data, process, analyze and publish them. Last year the selective waste deposits of the town Székesfehérvár was surveyed and published. This project was shown in the paper as a good example.

This project based learning method with GIS web server can give an opportunity to the teacher and the students to establish a relationship with the business community. Furthermore it can give a chance for the best students to create some outstanding publishing service. On the other hand the teacher gains methodological experiences which can be integrated into the teaching plan of the following semesters.