

EXPECTATIONS ON GEO-PROCESS MANAGEMENT

JOBST M.

Vienna University of Technology, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The variety of map production processes has changed with digitalization and grows with evolving network technologies. This comes along with flexible map production, easier map dissemination, map-user integration and “modulisation” of functionalities and data. On the one hand the diversity of map-products increases and on the other hand the map-production sequences and geospatial business models (that make use of these map-products) are more flexible than ever. These circumstances lead to the need of extended management methods that allow for process benchmarking and -improvement within the geospatial domain.

Main drivers for flexibility in map production are Service Oriented Architectures. A map producer does not need to keep and maintain all geospatial data (geospatial data warehouse), but combine, homogenize and generalize these geospatial templates that exist anywhere in the network (generally the Internet). In doing so, even functionalities for needed actions will be provided via the network. One can imagine how the availability of these modules (services) will influence production sequences (processes) and their variety. Furthermore each step of combination, homogenization and generalization may provide further cartographic products that may be useful in additional (accidental) business models. In order to make steering and exploiting of these processes possible, appropriate management methods are needed.

From a distance point of view management methods in the cartographic domain obviously base on production-, IT- and business process design. Production-process management improves and controls the necessary chaining of steps/activities to achieve determined requirements of products. IT-process management measures, reports and improves the effectiveness of process chains and their flow of instances in the information technology domain. Business process management is a management approach focused on aligning all aspects of an organization with the wants and needs of its clients. It is a holistic management approach that promotes business effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology. The importance of several process management methodologies within the cartographic domain leads to one urgent question: are there unique features or characteristics for the geospatial domain that require specific/adapted methods for geo-process models and their process-management methodology?

This contribution bases on the thesis that specific characteristics for geo-process models and -management exist and have to be adapted to geo-SOA characteristics. Therefore aspects of process management including technical-, operational-, organisational- and legal perspectives and the basic principle of process management will be discussed. A further step brings up main methods for process measurement that will be used to define geo-specific considerations. This initial definition shows a growing necessity to expand existing process management methodology according to main geospatial characteristics.