



ICA Commission on Map Generalisation & Multiple Representation

Importance of this work

Map generalisation is a data modelling task. It lies at the core of Geography. Viewing the world at different scales reveals fundamentally different patterns and relationships between different entities. There is no single optimal scale of observation. It is multiple scale views of the world that enable us to discern its complexities and interdependencies.

Map generalisation is far more than 'pretty pictures'. It underpins exploratory spatial analysis and query. Interpretation requires a context; map generalisation forces us to model the semantic, and to make explicit the multi scale relationships that exist between geographic entities. In this sense, its ambitions are precisely shared with those of traditional cartography.

Remit

- To foster research and practical experience in multi-scale issues and automated map generalisation to form a network and focal point for researchers practitioners and other related organisations
- To broaden membership and outreach through conference activities, tutorials and annual workshops
- To maintain a World Wide Web site for electronic dissemination of research
- To facilitate publication of research endeavours through special issues and edited books

Map Generalisation

Map generalisation is concerned with automatic rendering of geographic information at different levels of detail. The ambition is to be able to store a representation of the world at the finest scale and apply a set of algorithms in order to derive thematic maps at many different scales.

At coarse scales we may wish to view the world synoptically – the urban and rural landscapes. At a fine scale, we may wish to show individual houses and pavements. The challenge is in the aggregation of this fine scale information in order to convey the conceptually different geographies of the world.

Resources

Website of publications, contact lists, past tutorials and workshop papers, as well as planned events

<http://ica.ign.fr/>

Generalisation of Geographic Information: Cartographic Modelling and Applications William Mackaness Anne Ruas & L. Tiina Sarjakoski



Outreach

Day Long Tutorials: State of the Art in Map Generalisation & Multiple Representation (held just prior to all ICC meetings)

Annual 2 Day Workshops in collaboration with various organisations, and prior to conferences, including all ICC meetings.
http://aci.ign.fr/2011_Paris/workshop_program.php