Proposal for a Canadian Historical GIS Network

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Abstract

Historical GIS Projects are gaining in popularity across Canada. Later this year a book will be published by the University of Calgary Press featuring fourteen such projects spanning the entire country. With this increase in use in historical geospatial data, comes the impetus to ensure that nobody is reinventing the wheel, or better yet re-digitizing the wheel. Historical census polygons, historical urban street and building data, historical national infrastructure data such as the building of the railway and the highway networks, historical topographic map layers - these are data layers that have been created and recreated by numerous projects. They should not have to be re-created anew every time researchers in a different part of the country start an historical study. Without a set of standards and protocols for creating, sharing, distributing, crediting, and archiving these data however, it is difficult to rationalize this process. We look at some examples which may be useful models for such a system, and hope to inspire debate on potential methods for development and funding.

Intro

One of the challenges associated with this presentation is a basic one... what to call it... We still haven't decided on the appropriate name for this idea... Canadian Historical GIS System? Or Network? Or Infrastructure? Whatever we call it, we are talking about the creation of basic resources, an enabling infrastructure, to allow and empower people to do Historical GIS in Canada.

Considering this is a cartographers and map librarians conference we have seen a https://example.com/huge proportion of presentations this week using Historical GIS - just look at the program - Morgan Hite, Rebecca Bartlett, David Malaher and Andreas Korsos, Frank Tough, Kisha Supernant, and others - clearly there is a lot of work being done using HGIS in Canada, even within this small group.



Wouldn't it be great if, as a group, we could help provide these and many other researchers with the basic resources to help them do this work more easily, efficiently? And if these researchers, after creating new resources - digitizing historical road networks, georeferencing old maps - could contribute them back to the community for others to use in the future? That's the idea.







HGIS is

"...new knowledge and new scholarship about the geographies of the past."

Ian Gregory, 2008



HGIS is

GIS resources designed for doing history

Time, space, data, documentation, visualization



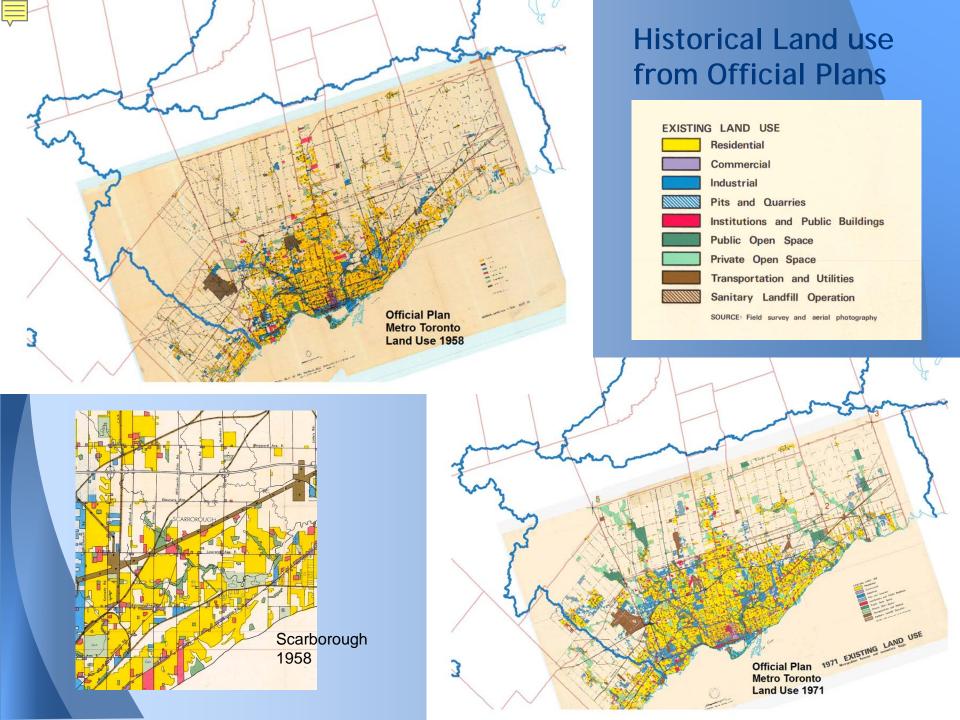


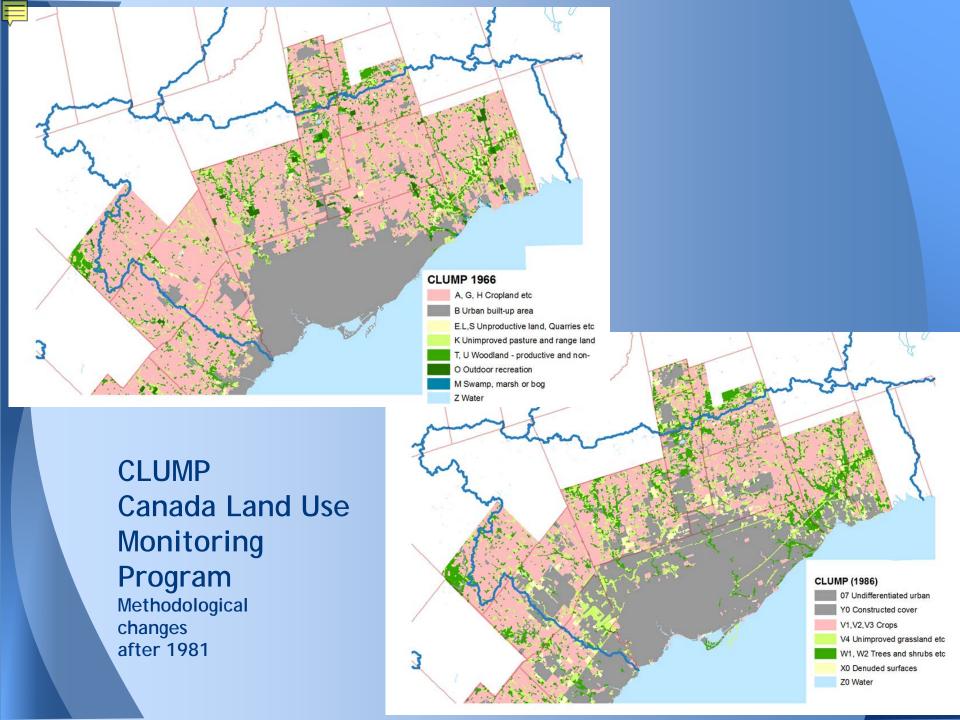
Historical GIS question?

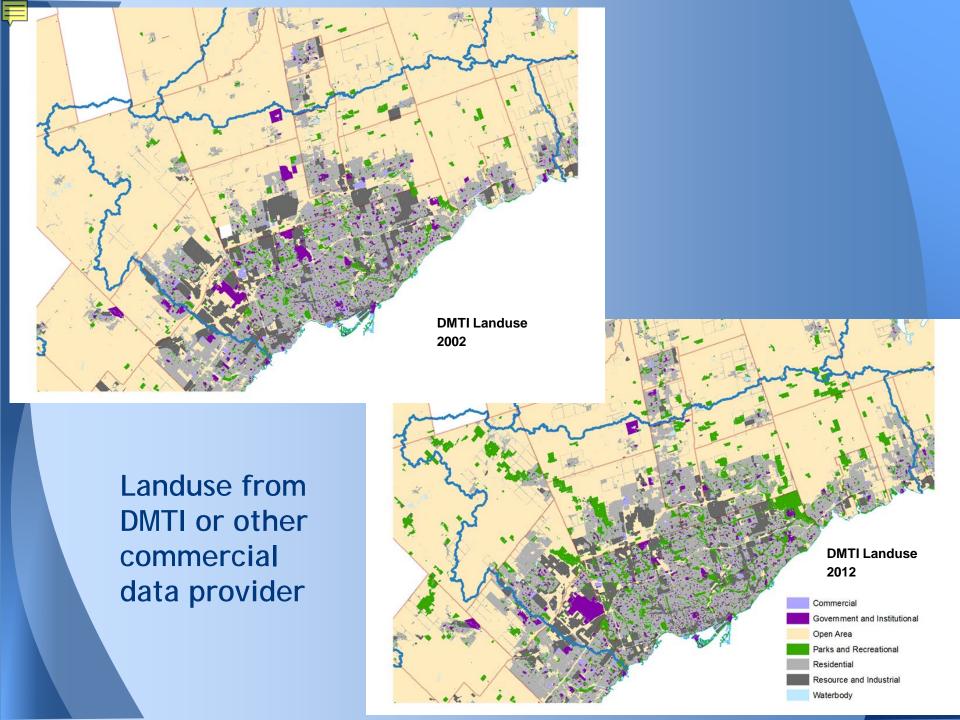
[someone]... suggested you may have datasets for the Greater Toronto area relevant to research I am undertaking on hydrologic response to land use change and associated aquatic biodiversity decline. I am interested in GIS files that provide current and historic land use information in the Humber and Don watersheds...



Data on road density or land use change (e.g. proportions of forested, wetland, agricultural, residential, industrial, etc) would be very relevant. I am working with a hydrologic-climatic dataset that spans from mid-century to the present. So land use or road density information dating from the 1950's to the current day is of interest.



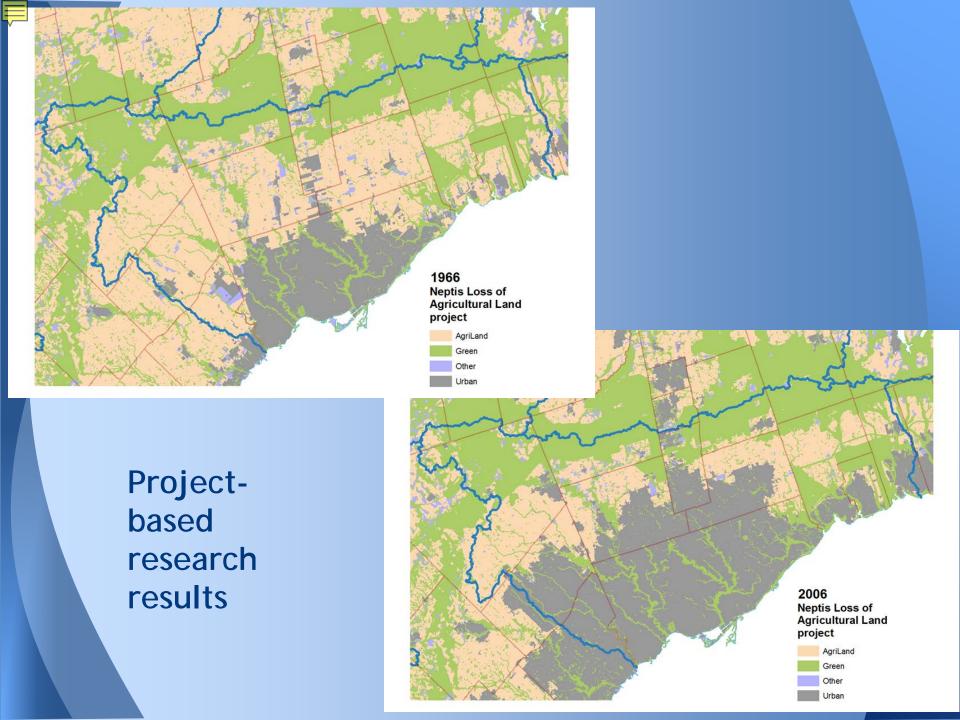






Remote sensed imagery and analysis







CUrLUS Canadian Urban Land Use Survey

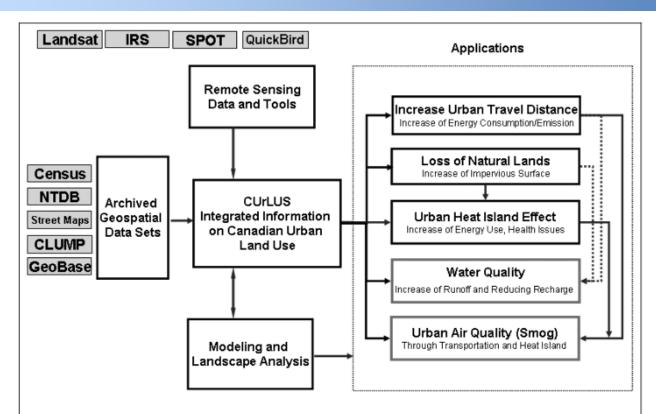
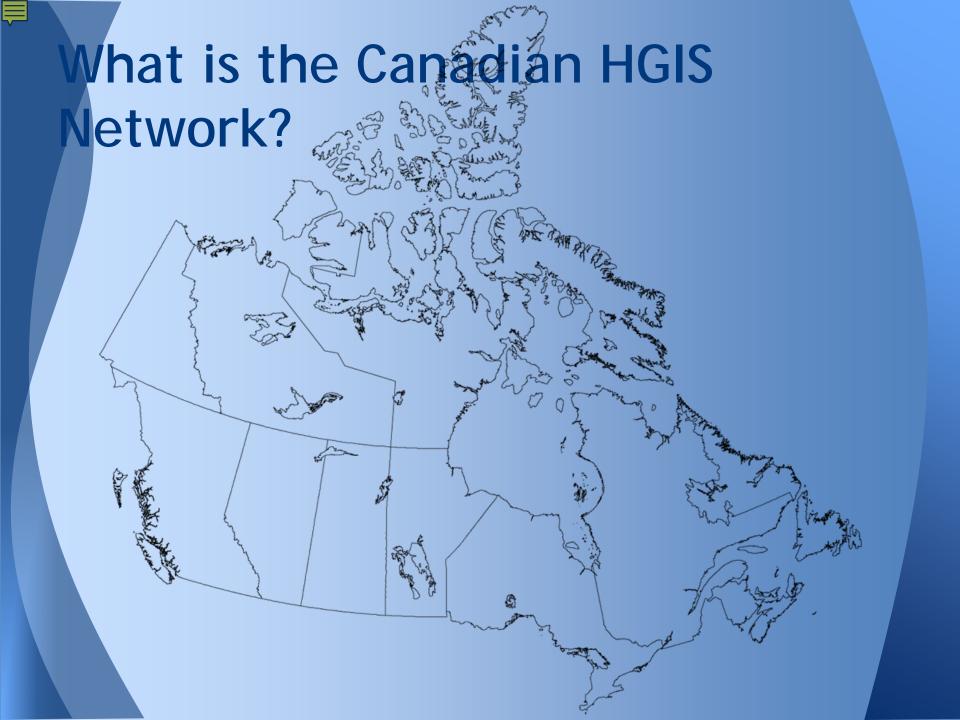


Figure 1. Schematic diagram illustrating the conceptual framework of CUrLUS, encompassing both an information source on urban form and a suite of analysis tools to address a broad spectrum of sustainability issues.

Concepts and application of the Canadian Urban Land Use Survey Can. J. Remote Sensing, Vol. 36, No. 3, pp. 224-235, 2010 Y. Zhang, B. Guindon, K. Sun CCRS/NRCan





Goals of a Canadian Historical GIS Network?

- enable research and communication (between researchers and public)
- share resources
- avoid duplication / "re-digitizing the wheel"

oals of a Canadian Historical GIS

etwork

Don Valley Historical Mapping Project Background

Points of Interest

Toronto's Don River Valley is arguably the city's mos feature. As a provider of water, power, sustenance. transportation, it has played an important role in the development. The river valley has changed dramatic European settlement, particularly during the late nine twentieth century, when the Lower Don River was stra channelized and the huge marsh at its mouth drained Lower Valley forms the foundation for one of the mos areas in Canada, outlining as it does the eastern poi downtown core and radiating residential areas.

This project documents historical changes in the land Valley. Drawing from the wide range of geographica for the Don River watershed (and the Lower Don in p historical maps, geological maps, fire insurance plar and city directories, the project uses Geographic Info software to place, compile, synthesize and intermake it more accessible as geospati



IBKAN.

Environmental Central Ontario

vernment Publications

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GIS Software

Guides

Statistical Data

Regional Environmental History Atla

Home > Madgic > Reha

The focus of this project is on South-Central Ontario: de the south to Haliburton in the north, and from Oshawa ir

The atlas will serve as a discovery tool for historical and data, photographs, text and other attribute in

encompassing several counties and the Trent River wate University, the home of the project. The region also enc environmental history, including the expansion of agricult and cultural features such as watercourses, railways, ar land uses and economic activities, including resource ext conservation (including reforestation), industrialization, a context of diverse array of landscapes , from fertile field Shield country. The region is small enough to support the comprehensive collection of knowledge of its environmer

> kinds of resources for a broad group of researchers incl cource is access to existing information abo of this knowledge. For example,

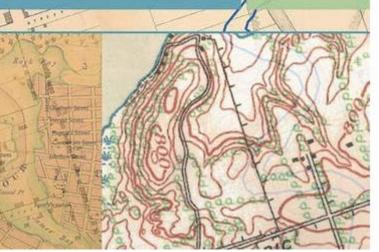


A few of our recent historical GIS projects are described below. Contact Dr. Gilliland if you would like to learn more about how yo might work with us.

FIRE AND LIRBAN MORPHOGENESIS The built environment of a city is extremely durable and lasting; however, a single

Historical **GIS Research** in Canada

JENNIFER BONNELL MARCEL FORTIN



this project we shall compile and create

Resources

search Infrastructure e recherche sur le Canada au 20e siècle

textual Data, Geography, Recensement du Canada, Sources contextuelles and Cadre géograp

Welcome to the User Guide

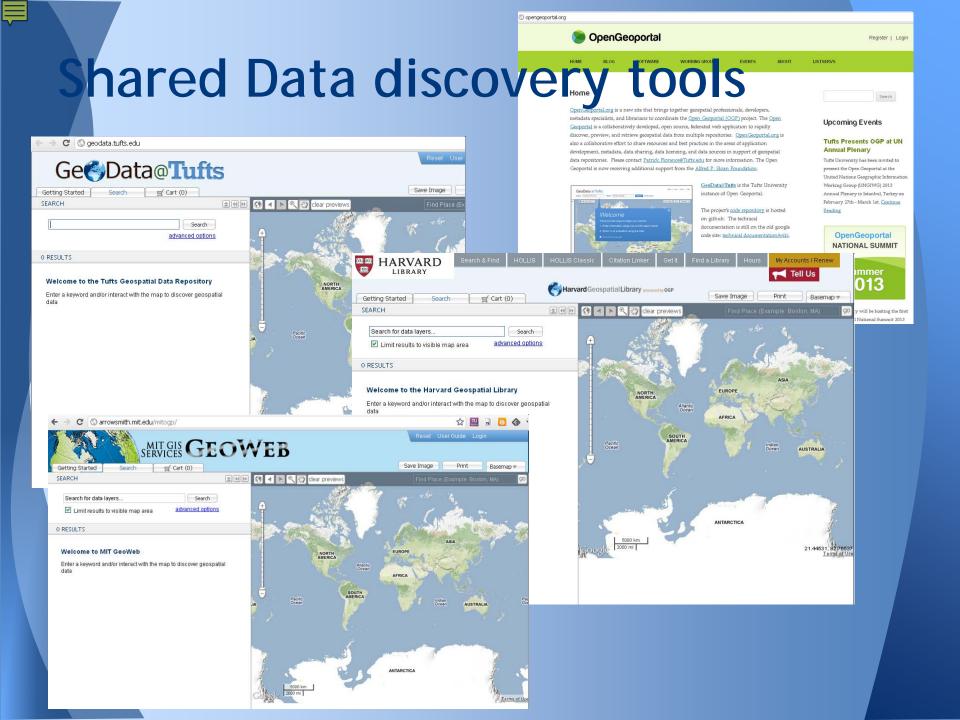
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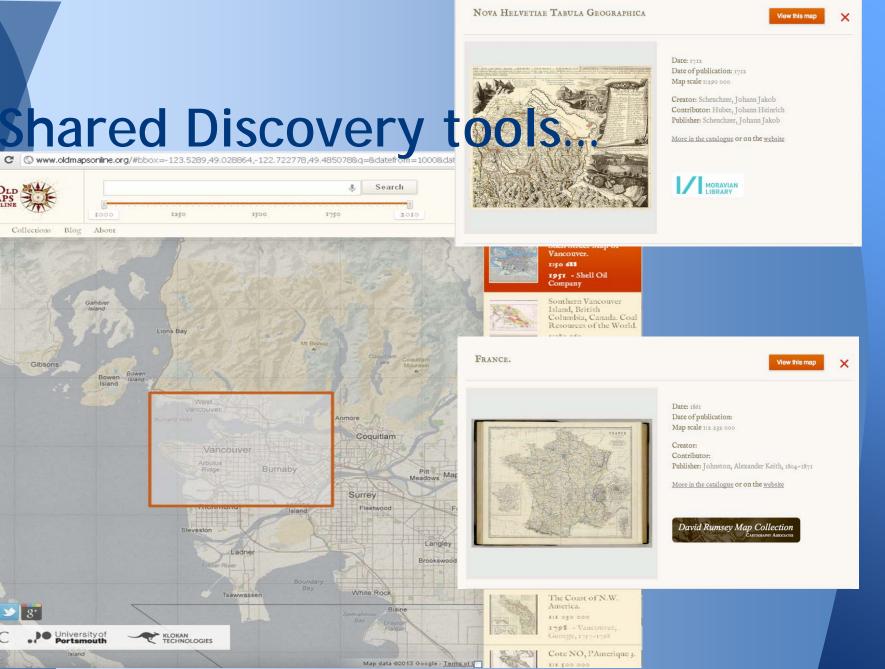
nowledgments

The CCRI represents an infrastructure that facilitates research on the transformation of Canadia' society in the twentieth century. The CCRI's mandate is to provide researchers with a body of da and information that can be used to acquire a better understanding of how modern-day Canada h developed. The CCRI is composed of microdata, namely, data created from Canadian census enumerations between 1911 to 1951, a geographical framework constructed to enable the location selection, aggregation, and analysis of census data, and contextual data, namely the textual data used to situate the census in time and to enhance appropriate analysis of the data.

Organization of the User's Guide

- 1) 1911 Census located on the left of this web page provides researchers with the 1911 database. 1911 codes, 1911 data entry manual, 1911 enumerator instructions, 1911 geography component, Contextual Data (1911 to 1951), and 1911 Nesstar Webview.
- 2) CCRI Overview provides general information concerning the project for
- 3) The Database provides detail for census years







MAPS ONLINE

0

Roberts

Collections





Tsawwassen

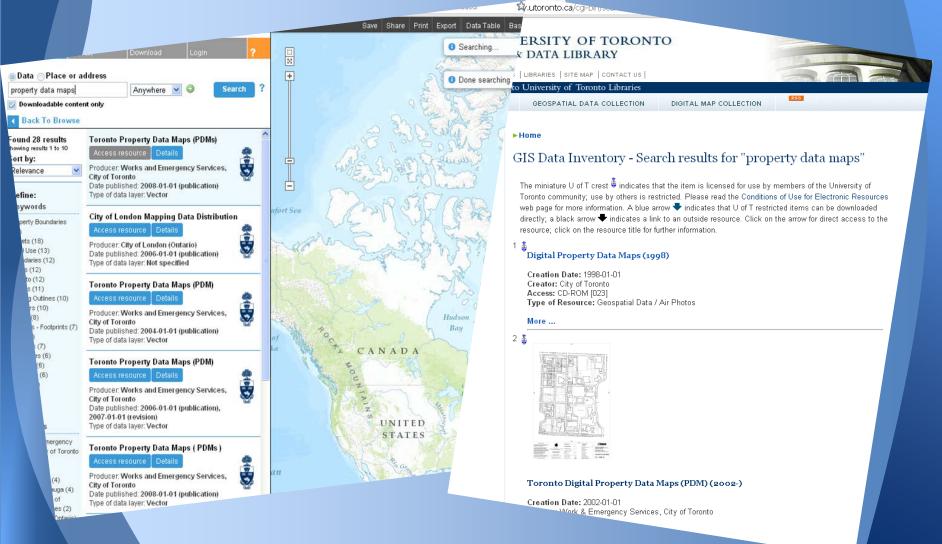
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Tying in existing systems



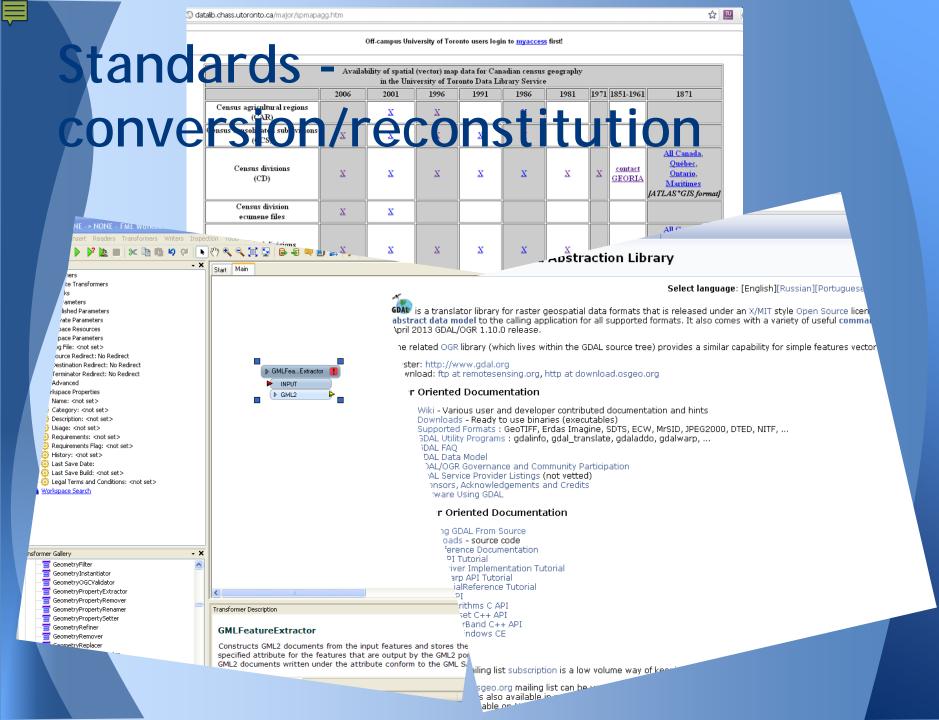
Standards





Standards - Metadata







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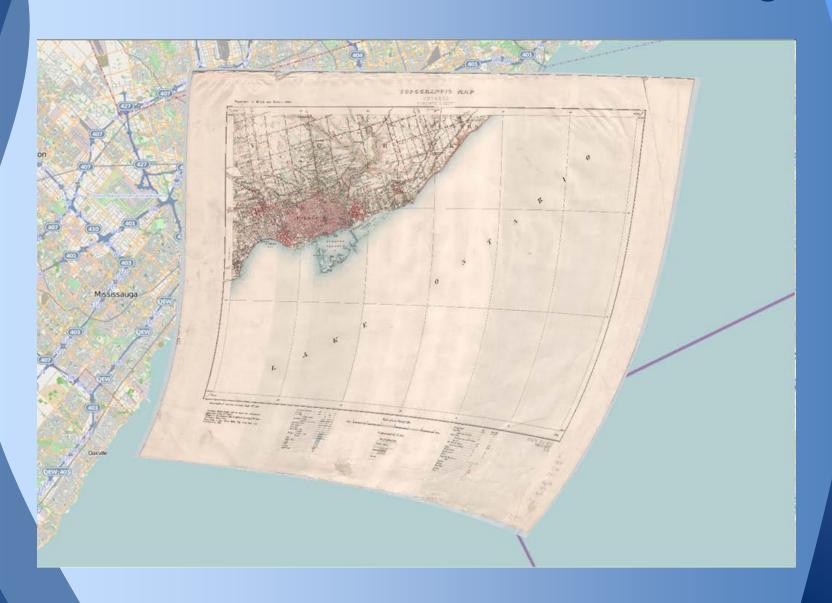
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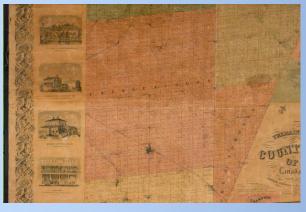
Best Practices - Georeferencing



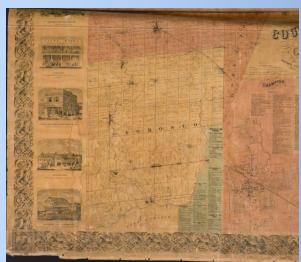








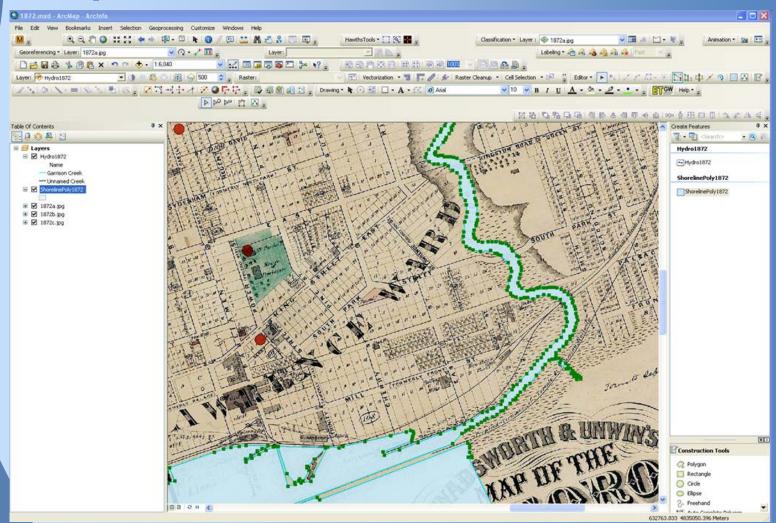






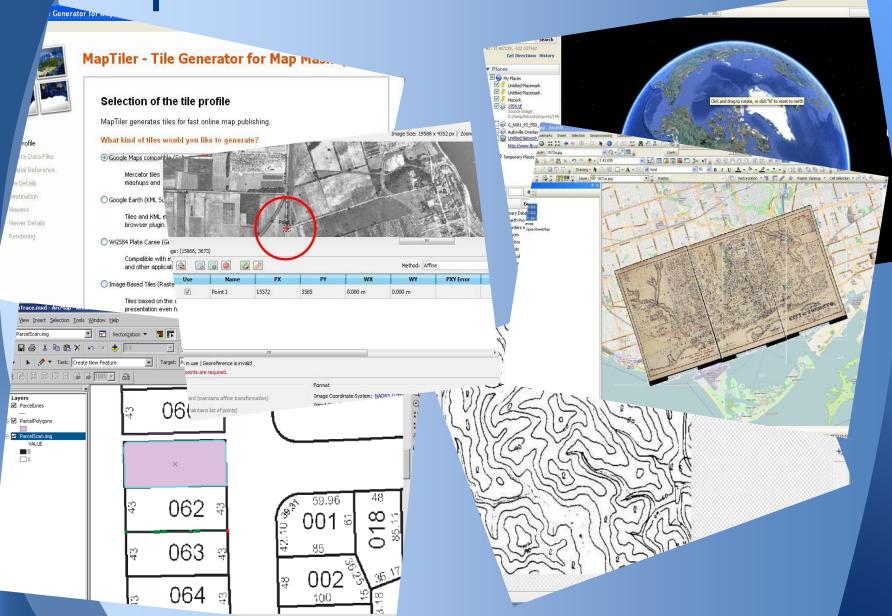


Best practices - vectorization





Best practices - software choice





Best practices - Data Curation







C https://www.archivematica.org/wiki/Main_Page

@rchivematica.

Navigation

Main page Recent changes Random page

Toolbox

What links here Related changes Special pages Printable version Permanent link

Page | Discussion

Main Page

What is Archivematica?

Archivematica is a free and open-source digital preservation system that is designed to digital objects.

Archivematica uses a micro-services design pattern to provide an integrated suite of so ingest to access in compliance with the ISO-OAIS functional model. Users monitor and Archivematica uses METS, PREMIS, Dublin Core and other best practice metadata sta analysis of the significant characteristics of file formats.

The overview section provides a detailed description of Archivematica's functionality and screencast of gives a demo of the core features in the current release.





Other Goals and Objectives

- Create a community
- Foster conversations
- Prevent duplication
- Promote literacy
- Build teaching tools



GIS National Historical Congraphic Information System Examples

a project of the Institute for Enabling Geospatial Scholarship

Home | Site map | Accessibility



ect Description r's Guide ata Availability Mapping Options

Oata Documentation

Tabular Data Sources Time Series Tables GIS Boundary Files Release Log

Research

Citation and Use Related Sites MPC Bibliography Welcome to NHGIS

The National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) provides, free of charge, aggregate census data and GIS-compatible boundary files for the United States between 1790 and 2011.

Leading Minority* of Womer patial.scholarslab.org/project/

by State, 2006-20

NHGIS News

Home I Serve

Spatial Humanities | Projects & Groups

2011 GIS Bound now available

Explore

About the project

Media resources

Contact us

About historical GIS

About the GB Historical GIS

Streamlined NHGI shapefiles now ava

New time series tab

Why Portsmouth?

Application, Fees and Funding

Research

Go back to: Research > Great Britain Historical Geographical Information System (GBHGIS)

Great Britain Historical Geographical Information System (GBHGIS)

The Great Britain Historical Geographical Information System is a unique digital collection of information about Britain's localities as they have changed over time. Information comes from census reports, historical gazetteers, travellers' tales and historic maps assembled into a whole that is much more than the sum of its parts. This site tells you more about the nmiert itself and about historical GIS.

ces. It can be found at www.visionofbritain.org.uk.

vebsite, created by funding from the UK National Lottery and extended and rerith funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee, makes this resource n-line to everyone, presenting our information graphically and cartographically. called A Vision of Britain through Time and presents the history of Great Britain





/hat is HGIS?

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The Historical G Research Netwo

Latest: European Social Science His Digital History network: The conference April 2014. The deadline for papers is the through the conference website.

The Historical GIS Research Netwo

The Historical Geographical Information System with funding from the Economic and Social Rese Research Seminars Competition.

The Network has four main aims:

1. To provide a focus for Historical GIS research

2. To advance our understanding of Historical G. applied levels.

3. To encourage the adoption of GIS amongst a broad audience of researchers who have an interest in the past.

4. To investigate the setting up of an international association to act as a focus for historical GIS research.

This website describes the events organised by the Network or relevant to it, and provides a portal for a wide variety of links and resources relevant to Historical GIS Research including details of training events, a large bibliography, and lists of projects, websites, organisations and software relevant to historical GIS and historical maps.

How can I contribute? NYPL Map Rectifie

View All Projects

Want to list your organization or group? Click "how can I contribute?" and get invi

View All Groups

The Spatial History Project

Portsmouth @ 2012

284 8484 Email: info.centre@port.acu

Spatial and nalysis (CESTA)

v.stanford.ed

NT PROJECTS

he Law of the Antebellu

RECENT UPDATES

Student Opportunities

OUR TEAM







- Community creation (librarians, archivists, historians, geographers, cartographers, etc.)
- Assembly of collaborators (pitching in)
- Discussion of terms of reference



Next steps - collaborator decisions

- data portal?
- discovery?
- data archive?
- best practices / knowledge base?
- data creation / enhancement?



Next Steps

- Funding
 - SSHRC Partnerships/Dev't Program?
 - SSHRC Connections Program?
 - "Guidelines and support for tools for research and research-related activities are under development, to be announced during fiscal year 2012-13."
 - Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) -Research Infrastructure Development?
 - o Joint applications with Partners?



otential collaboration / partnerships?

- **NRCan**
- Statistics Canada
- Provincial agencies
- NiCHE
- OCUL Scholars Portal
- Library and Archives Canada
- Individual HGIS researchers



Canadian Historical GIS Network so far ** C | www.hgis-sigh.ca



http://www.hgis-sigh.ca



Canadian Historical GIS Network so far

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subscribe by sending email to: listserv@listserv.utoronto.ca

"subscribe hgis-sigh-l yourmail@youraddress.ca Firstname Lastname"

What's missing?

Let us know what you think of the concept, and let's start the conversation.