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Workshop on Access and Participatory Approaches Associated with the Use of Geographic Information, Rome, Italy, Fall 2001

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Final Report for Period: 06/2001 - 11/2002**Submitted on:** 07/12/2003**Principal Investigator:** Onsrud, Harlan J.**Award ID:** 0098389**Organization:** University of Maine**Title:**

Workshop on Access and Participatory Approaches Associated with the Use of Geographic Information, Rome, Italy, Fall 2001

Project Participants**Senior Personnel****Name:** Onsrud, Harlan**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** Yes**Contribution to Project:****Name:** Elmes, Gregory**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No**Contribution to Project:**

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Hanson, Susan**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No**Contribution to Project:**

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Harvey, Francis**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No**Contribution to Project:**

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Jankowski, Piotr**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No**Contribution to Project:**

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Laituri, Melinda**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No**Contribution to Project:**

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Rugg, Robert**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No**Contribution to Project:**

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Weiner, Daniel**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No**Contribution to Project:**

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Post-doc**Graduate Student****Undergraduate Student**

Technician, Programmer**Other Participant**

Name: Drew, Christina

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Ghose, Rhina

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Lance, Kate

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Merrick, Meg

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Niles, Sarah

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Ramasubbramanian, Laxmi

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Name: Tulloch, David

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Participant at the workshop and in activities leading up to and after the event.

Research Experience for Undergraduates**Organizational Partners****UCGIS - Univ Consortium for GIScience**

Collaborated in helping initiate the workshop.

AGILE - Assoc of Geo Info Labs in Europe

Collaborated in helping initiate the workshop.

Other Collaborators or Contacts

15 US and 14 European senior and early career scientists attended the workshop

Activities and Findings

Research and Education Activities:

In the Fall of 2001, a workshop with participation by United States and European researchers was held in Spoleto, Italy to assess the current state of research on access to geographic information and on geographic access theory, to evaluate the impact of evolving policy and legal trends in the U.S. and Europe on access to scientific and technical data generally and geographic data specifically, to assess the current state of research on participatory approaches surrounding the use of geographic information, to explore commonalities and differences in U.S. and European directions of research within these arenas, and to develop a joint U.S./European research agenda on geographic information access and participatory issues.

Findings:

Of the first three research strands mentioned under "Research Activities", European academic researchers were found to be directing more concerted effort into the first and second of the strands while geographers and other researchers in the U.S. were more focused on the second and third strands. Broad overview findings resulting from the workshop discussions included:

- Access to geographic information has to be seen in the broader context of access by citizens, organized groups, businesses, and government agencies to electronic information generally
- Access to information is not just about physical or technological access but includes as well at least the extent to which socially-grounded relations affect access to information and the extent to which users have the necessary power to harness information to effect change
- Governments have an enormously important role to play relating to access to digital geographic information
- There is a need to develop a robust methodological framework for access-related research

More specific findings are found in the research workshop report and papers.

Training and Development:

Among the fifteen U.S. scholars involved in the meeting were included seven early career scientists. These were individuals who were PhD students or had completed their PhDs within the previous two years. The early career scientists were engaged in active learning by fully participating in and contributing to the research agenda development process. A further goal of the workshop was to provide networking and relationship building opportunities in an international, interdisciplinary context involving both junior and senior scholars so that early career scientists might draw on these contacts throughout their careers.

Outreach Activities:

Outreach to the public is occurring primarily through publication of the two special issues that arose from the workshop in an open-access scholarly journal.

Journal Publications

Books or Other One-time Publications

Onsrud, Harlan and Max Craglia, eds., "Access and Participatory Approaches in Using Geographic

Information: Special Issue 1", (2003). Special Issue of Journal, Published
 Bibliography: Journal of the Urban and
 Regional Information Systems
 Association (URISA), Vol. 15,
 APA1

Onsrud, Harlan and Max Craglia,
 eds., "Access and Participatory
 Approaches in Using Geographic
 Information: Special Issue 2", (2003). Special Issue of Journal, Accepted
 Bibliography: Journal of the Urban and
 Regional Information Systems
 Association (URISA), Vol. 15,
 APA2

Web/Internet Site

URL(s):

<http://www.urisa.org/Journal/APANo1/JrnlContents15-APA1.htm>

Description:

Location of Special Issue 1

Other Specific Products

Contributions

Contributions within Discipline:

Through small group and plenary sessions the group developed a set of suggested research foci for the pan-Atlantic geographic information science community relating to access and participatory research issues. Under the overarching theme of access, recommended research directions are grouped under the headings of institutional and organizational issues, legal and economic issues, and geographies of access. Under the overarching theme of participatory approaches in using geographic information, recommended research directions are grouped under the headings of support structures, participation-technology interaction, and theoretical issues.

Contributions to Other Disciplines:

The workshop by its nature was multidisciplinary engaging scientists from geography, engineering, planning, sociology, land surveying and science and technology policy who each are able to bring the results of the workshop to bear in the discussions of their respective disciplinary domains.

Contributions to Human Resource Development:

The workshop and the follow-up writing and submittal of peer-reviewed publications benefited the further development of the participating early career scientists at a critical time for initiating research programs in their careers.

Contributions to Resources for Research and Education:

The major resource developed for other scientists is the suggested research agenda that others may draw upon and consider in the context of their own research.

Contributions Beyond Science and Engineering:

The research priorities developed by the group identify facets of a broad

research area of growing importance to society since so many untested assumptions continue to characterize current policy debates on these issues. Empirical work and progress on the research priorities could better inform policy debates and decision-making generally.

Categories for which nothing is reported:

Any Journal

Any Product