

Will ignorance be the real barrier to interoperability?
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Abstract:

The rapid proliferation of spatial data, proprietary software and the implementation of location based technologies to many modern industrial and business activities has created a need to maximise the open exchange of information between geospatial enabled parties. Since the mid nineteen nineties a whole series of international, regional and national spatial data infrastructures (SDI) have been established.

The author has set himself the task of examining the state of knowledge amongst ordinary GIS professionals about these developments. If these developments are not sufficiently understood then the promise of interoperability will be a long time coming. Even where there is coverage one needs to critically examine the information to test to see what constituents of SDI are being treated and which one are not. Much of the advancement is in the area of technology but is the theoretical basis of the discipline suffering from neglect? Are we busy building a road but neglecting to write a road users safety code? The dissertation attempts to tests these questions and answer the simple question will ignorance be the real barrier to interoperability?