

The Digital Map Archives and Digital Earth Application

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The “National Digital Archives Program, Taiwan” (NDAP, Taiwan) has been proceeding for years. Among the program, the project of “Archiving Historical Map and Remote Sensing Imagery of Modern China” focuses on archiving digital maps, including various maps and remote sensing images that mainly cover Asia-Pacific region. The digital map archives provide objective information about the changes of culture and society, natural environment, and landforms in Asia-Pacific region. Over 130,000 maps were digitized by the end of year 2005.

This article not only introduces the processes and the results of the project mentioned above, but also addresses the follow-up steps. An application of distributed temporal-spatio information system will be established via Web Geographic Information System (WebGIS), and is expected to effectuate the concept of digital earth. Digital earth will serve as the spatial information querying and display interface of this application. By overlapping a variety of thematic maps and integrating related information, the application platform is able to restore and simulate the changes of historical events, and to offer the academics and the public the materials for spatial information manipulation.