

Digital Maps Archives and Applications

Fan I-Chun* Hsiung-Ming Liao** Cheng-Lien Fan**

*Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica

**Computing Centre, Academia Sinica

mhfanbbc@ccvax.sinica.edu.tw

Historical maps record spatial features of natural environment and human activities, which are significant to social development and environmental change researches. During the past five years (2001-2006), Academia Sinica had digitized and archived over a hundred thousand maps covering Asia Pacific zone throughout the 20th century. By the end of the first phase in digital archiving project, the goal has turned to popularize the applications and technical issues of digital maps.

This article provides an outline of system framework and system development, and illustrates the potential for applying GIS to digital archives as well. This project develops a distributed information system in time and space, which offers an effective and efficient way to compare and analyze spatial information via GIS ability in integrating maps and attribute data. A Web-GIS for data retrieval and map management is therefore established. Meanwhile, the project attempts to display the system and achievement on different platforms, including Google Earth, to lower the threshold of using the system and get the public involved.

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