

Applications of Digital Archives Geographic Information in K12 Education

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Along with the progress of education reform, the integration of GIS and K-12 education has attracted the interest from both fields of GIS and geography education. For educators seeking new technologies and concepts to enhance the quality of education, GIS appears very promising in both conceptual and practical aspects. The benefits of using GIS technology include: improving the quality of learning in the classroom, widening the scope of teaching, and helping children transit into an information-rich society where they will live. On the other hand, there are impediments that need to be removed for successful utilization of GIS, such as: teacher training, curriculum integration, equipment purchase, and among all, provision of curriculum material. Since its commencement in 2001, the National Digital Archival Program has accumulated over 3 million pieces of digital materials. Within them, maps and remotely sensed imagery are included as a content subject for archives. Collectively, these materials are unique geographic information that reflect spatial and temporal dimension of Taiwan's physical and socio-economic environment. For K12 education, these digital archives geographic information (DAGI) can be used in local study of Taiwan's geography and history classes. For better application of these materials in K12 education, many endeavors have been conducted by the Academic and Social Promotions and Application (ASPA) Program Office. For instance, we develop course modules that reveal the geographic and historical meaning of each place; workshops are being held in northern, middle, and southern Taiwan to better disseminate these modules. This paper introduces and reviews the progress for application of digital archives geographic information in K-12 education. Comments and suggestion for future development are welcomed.