

Geographical Data Acquisition

This is a book about techniques used in the acquisition of geographical data. The target audience is students and professionals using geographical information systems who want to go beyond the operation of the software and discover the general principles of how raw geographical data are acquired. By "raw" data we mean data acquired directly from the field, from photographs, or from maps but which has not been edited or structured for database storage. With this in mind, we have placed a heavier emphasis on geo-referencing and data acquisition techniques, making the coordinate reference framework an important link tying the chapters together. In writing this book, we have adopted a Scientific American-type style, which appeals to the technically curious layperson. This is more than just a collection of articles, this is a textbook written jointly by several people. The coordination required for such an approach has made the production of this book much more difficult. The authors are predominantly faculty members of the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. We had hoped that this close proximity of authors could help us better coordinate the contents and ensure some consistency in style.

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