

The current state and the main trends in the development of geographical information systems in the U.S.S.R

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Abstract

The paper falls into two parts. The approach to geographical information systems (GIS) in the U.S.S.R. and differences in terminology are first discussed. The main part of the paper comprises case studies on the design, construction and use of GIS and of computer-assisted cartography in the U.S.S.R. to illustrate the transition to the introduction of automated technologies to processing of geographical data for science, practice and education, the diversity of contexts, the problems tackled and their departmental attribution, and the territorial span, functional capabilities and technological equipment. The following trends of these developments are identified: the design of integrated GIS, an increase in their capabilities for modelling, the introduction of elements of expert systems, an orientation towards microcomputer technology, an awareness of the need to use standardized hardware and software (including linguistic terms) and a greater interest in the commercial and legal problems of GIS, international collaboration and education. © 1989 Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.

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