



Volunteered Geographic Information and Arches

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Outline

- Research Tools and Data
- Case Study: Chi-Shi Community in Tainan City
- Case Study: Nou-Li Community in Hua-Lien County
- Conclusions

• GIS data source:

- primary data: captured using surveying techniques such as satellite imaging, aerial photography, SONAR (sound navigation and ranging), RADAR (radio detection and ranging), LIDAR (light detection and ranging), GPS (global positioning system), and electronic total station; census data; field survey
- secondary data: obtained by processing or analyzing primary data, e.g., scanning maps, heads-up digitizing, data conversion, and photogrammetry
- Due to much progress of geospatial technologies in recent years, acquisition of high-quality spatial and temporal information has become much more efficient and cost-effective than past few decades.
 - Remote sensing images
 - GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems)
 - Mobile mapping: bicycles, cars, boats, aircrafts, and UAS (unmanned aerial systems)

- The emergence of Internet and Web provides an exceptional base for incubating new technologies for disseminating geographic information.
- Rapid development of ICT (information and communications technology) in recent years has enabled Web users with all sorts of tools to access information stored on a server, and even construct a website to let obscure users create, assemble, edit, and disseminate information with little or no restrictions on the content.
- Using GPS enabled mobile devices such as smart phones, tablet PC, digital cameras, and vehicles mounted with GPS, or sensors for capturing environmental data that are carried on body, almost anyone can be a mobile sensor for collecting geographic information, whether a young child or a field scientist with highly developed skills. Combining Web tools, this type of geographic data can be disseminated voluntarily by individuals. Goodchild (2007) coined this as volunteered geographic information (VGI).

- Wikimapia and OpenStreetMap both are compelling examples of VGI. They are collaborative mapping projects that encourage general public to participate in describing geographical objects in the world, and provide free geospatial data for anyone to use and share.
- Traditionally, scientific research is usually conducted by professional scientists of government, private companies, academic and research institutes. Through carefully designed experimental process the research results are generally more reliable, however, the scales of research are often constrained by available resources such as manpower, equipment, budget, and time.
- In comparison, citizen science, also known as civic science, is a type of scientific research that links general public with professional scientists to conduct research at multiple stages, which may include identifying research questions, collecting data, developing research methods, analyzing data, and interpreting results.

- Started in December 1900, the renowned Audubon's 'Christmas Bird Count' (CBC) is a pioneer project that exemplifies the concept of citizen science in the field. A total of 27 observers participated in the first CBC at 25 locations in the United States and Canada.
- Over the years the CBC has engaged many volunteers from different countries to participate in counting birds on Christmas. During the 116th CBC season (14th December 2015 to 5th January 2016), 76,669 observers contributed their efforts, and resulted in observation of 58,878,071 birds, and 2,607 species (Fig. 1) [4][5].

Wikimapia



OpenStreetMap



Locations of the 116th Audubon Christmas Bird Count



GPS logger





GPS logger software used for matching GPS data and photos



Using Google Earth for field data annotation



- Software tools used for building a web-based GIS system for database management
 - Python: a very popular and powerful general-purpose programming language
 - > QGIS: a cross-platform open source desktop GIS that supports numerous vector and raster data formats
 - > OpenLayers: an open source JavaScript library designed for web mapping
 - PostgreSQL: an open source object-relational database management system (ORDBMS) that runs on multiple platforms
 - PostGIS: an open source software that extends the PostgreSQL, it enables PostgreSQL to store geographic objects into geospatial database
 - Django: written in Python, it is a web framework designed to facilitate rapid development of web applications

Arches: the Heritage Inventory and Management System

- Jointly developed by Getty Conservation Institute and World Monuments Fund
- Firstly released in October 2013, Arches is an open source software in the heritage conservation field providing a suite of powerful tools for compiling and managing inventories of immovable heritages of various scales (national, regional, city or site).
- Arches is supported by two CIDOC standards: (1) the revised International Core Data Standard for Archaeological and Architectural Heritage (CDS) and (2) the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM). The former has been used as a basis to define the data fields in the generic version of the system while the latter has been used to provide the semantic framework.

- The Arches-HIP (Heritage Inventory Package) is an officially developed application of Arches. This application is designed to let users manage many types of heritage data and these types are mainly divided into six different resources:
 - Heritage Resources: culturally significant objects such as buildings and monuments.
 - Heritage Resource Groups: collections of heritage resources.
 - > Activity: resources that occur over a period of time.
 - > Historic Event: culturally significant occurrences.
 - > Actor: persons, groups of people, or organizations.
 - Information Objects: objects that encode information such as an image, documents, signs, and inscriptions.
- The Arches system is also designed to ensure the compliance with Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards and therefore is compatible with other desktop GIS applications such as ESRI ArcGIS, Google Earth, Quantum GIS, and online satellite imagery and map services.

HIP graphs

- In the HIP, the nodes that make up each graph correspond to an item of required information as specified in the International Core Data Standard for Archaeological and Architectural Heritage.
- Nodes correspond to a CRM class, while edges correspond to a CRM property.

HIP Graphs



Arches is comprised of four basic components:

- > A Django based server tier written in Python
- A Bootstrap based user interface using JavaScript and CSS
- A PostgreSQL relational database and PostGIS which is the spatial database extender for PostgreSQL
- > An Elasticsearch search engine

The development environment of this project:

| Name of software | Version |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Ubuntu Server | 14.04 LTS |
| Python | 2.7.6 |
| Apache | 2.4.7 |
| Elasticsearch | 1.4.1 |
| PostgreSQL / PostGIS | 9.3 / 2.2.0 |
| GEOS | 3.4.2 |

System Architecture



The Study Site (Tainan City)



A field trip shown on Google Earth



3D view of field environment



Thematic layers and orthoimages of the study site shown on QGIS



Video recording of virtual tour using Google Earth



Website of the community



Information of cultural heritage



大屠顶的云屠和石油

由於「大醫預」並落在血陰地上(此行項); 有了社会問数而件值或起大其前項,早在清朝 將生民即会力並管立讓取時石(納約石),原 尤斯力或时因方方的,不向量,成一面面子用的 若攻,至今名眾落和是合於面留可看見這先民 開美認太的和洋球晶,是常地位常重景異書有 電面的文化純量,在早身物力准點的時代,不 輸是到管文,讓取時高並選至當地,約成一約一 結結行成方形的不地盜切尋成不均,部是一項 純量標力,將目豐時的任格。這說相了大灌得 乃其整個曲頂領導,大那群冒頭力的處 家用的 努力可克服一切的困難,而這種精神更是一能 指導,至今仍原還人心,為於區從事態搜景地 算大的資源。





The Study Site (Hua-Lien County)



















Conclusions

- This study utilized open source software tools to develop a Web-based GIS (WebGIS) platform for rural communities in Taiwan. The WebGIS in an integrating system and analysis tool for managing community resources inventory data collected by volunteered residents of the community and tourists.
- It shows that VGI (volunteered geographic information) is a valuable source for data collection, however, it is recommended to employ validation measures to avoid erroneous data and insure data quality.
- The WebGIS is a useful tool for the community to draw more attentions from tourists. By providing convenient tools for query and mapping service through the Internet, the system encourages more people to participate in the process of data collection, thereby the geospatial database of the community resources can be established more thoroughly and efficiently.

Conclusions

- The Arches-HIP system implements internationally adopted standards for heritage data definition and management, which is essential for data sharing and international collaboration on heritage conservation.
- Arches-HIP supports geospatial technology standards, such as OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) standards on spatial data and web services. This is very important to develop a system that can be interoperable both on retrieving images and maps from the other servers, and publishing heritage data as standard web service that may be consumed by the other GIS applications.
- The results show that, using open source geospatial software, we are able to build a community-oriented heritage resources inventory and management system with very low cost. This can be helpful to develop applications for local communities and indigenous people, and encourage public participation in heritage conservation.

Thank you for your attention!