Conference Participant Report
GeoHealth & SIRC 2002

Hao Ding

December,2002

1   Overview

I attended the Spatial Information Research Centre's 14th Annual Colloquium (SIRC2002), held in Wellington, from 3 to 5 December 2002. Traditionally SIRC colloquium is held by the University of Otago in Dunedin, this year it is privileged to be running in conjuction with GeoHealth2002. The two conferences were running in parallel, with shared keynote addresses and overlapping streams. The theme of SIRC2002 was "Physical and Cognitive Spaces", which focused on using spatial models to understand how space is used, represented, and manipulated both mentally and physically. GeoHealth2002 presented a forum for researches on how GIS tools can best support decision making in human health.

2   Presentation in SIRC2002

I presented my paper, titled "Implementing OGC Web Map Service Client Applications Using JSP, JSTL and XMLC", based on my MSc research, which explores the best approach to developing the distributed web mapping system based on the OGC WMS specification using Java technologies. My talk was well received.

The papers presented in SIRC2002 covered very wide topics including spatial data collecting, representing, analysing, GIS model building, and decision making. Many papers were of graduate students's research work, most of them were from the SIRC of the University of Otato.

I feel it was really a good opportunity for research students to present their works. Mostly important, it provided us the chance to share ideas with other researchers and obtain valuable feedback. What some people felt interested

in about my project is that using the distributed web mapping architecture such as the OGC WMS, they can merge different spatial information resource into one map, which will make the analysis and management more efficient and convenient.

3 About GeoHealth2002

There were much more papers from all over the world presented in Geo-Health2002. I attended one stream that is about using Internet tools. The topics included accessing distributed GIS information via the web and XML based self-mapping. Both papers talked about the use of web technologies (particularly XML-based technology) in the GIS application development. They created image maps in the form of SVG from XML document and displayed them on the web using Java Applet. This technique is quite useful in the OGC web feature service (WFS), because in WFS the majority of messages communicated between the client and server are in the form of XML/GML.

4 Comments

GIS has become a very important and useful tool to be widely used for analysis and decision making in lots of areas. Internet technologies are used in more GIS applications because the web environment provides a convenient way for gathering and shareing spatial data globally.

This conference was a very good learning experience for me, and made me have more confidence to present and talk in front of a group of researchers.

5 Acknowledgements