The Importance of People in Geographic Information Systems

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SUMMARY

Are data or people more important in the conformation of a Geographic Information System? This question that I ask in exams or in classes is not to receive a categorical answer but to open a debate.

Decades ago, data seemed to occupy the central role because of the difficulty of obtaining, processing and manipulating them. The objectives defined by people did not have a great variety. They were thought to be easily achievable goals for the available technology.

With the incredible progress in terms of hardware and software, we can think of an end of history, as some thinkers call the future of humanity. This advance brings with it a paradoxical defeat in terms of goals. Simple goals are no longer admissible to justify the main objective.

People as active subjects in planning must think of ways for the Geographic Information System to solve complex problems by actively combining multiple layers and not just be a massive storage that answers obvious questions for today's technology.

To help with this, from my chair of Territorial Information Systems 2 in the Surveying career of the Faculty of Exact Sciences, Engineering and Surveying, we evaluate the projects to be carried out. It is approved based on the creativity needed to solve it and not on the massiveness of data. Extra points are also given for using unpublished software in our subjects. It seems contradictory for a career where the subject of Cadastre or Valuations is common that we do not focus on data and its accuracy. These are two basic things but they are not enough.

We will go through different students' works, research projects and field works with very diverse topics but that emphasize the creativity of the resolution and the novel information that it

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contributes.

In a field in the province of Santa Fe, an attempt was made to determine the feasibility of certain crops. For this purpose, soil samples of Phosphorus, Organic Matter, Nitrate, PH and Salt were taken. Intersection operations appropriate to the requirements of each crop were carried out.

In the southeastern section of the city of Rosario (Tablada neighborhood) a series of archaeological sites, with chronology of the twentieth century, in different situations of preservation and of diverse historical significance, with the purpose of drawing up a chart of Archaeological and Sociocultural Potential. Four sites linked to the history of the Port and to the economic activities of tanneries and landfills were identified and municipal protection measures were taken. A Geographic Information System was developed to synthesize and territorialize the information obtained.

A massive valuation project with analysis and determination of valuation variables and multiple regression models that tries to show global maps with the variables Location, Pavement or Shape instead of focusing exclusively on valuation precision.

This different way of thinking about Geographic Information Systems without being overwhelmed by the technological possibilities is a step forward to achieve objectives closer to the people.

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