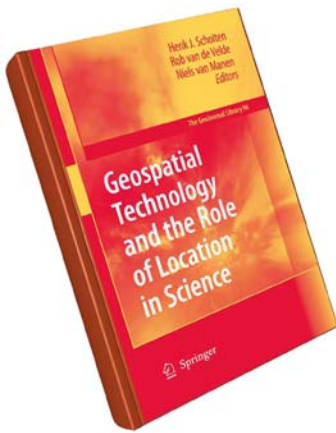

Press Release

Rotterdam, June 2009

Geospatial Technology and the Role of Location in Science

“At last, long held but unverified hypotheses about the importance of locational and spatial variable can be tested. We are at the dawn of a revolution in a spatially oriented social science”



This quote by Norman M. Bradburn (NSF, USA, 2004) has given the journey of the three authors a special dimension. Technological developments in the location industry are so fast now that no one blinks an eye. At the same time the use of this technology in social traffic is growing at a very quick pace. Scientists have also discovered these tools – with more than 100 disciplines using Geospatial Technology.

Over the last three years Henk Scholten, Rob van de Velde and Niels van Manen (SPINlab, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) have studied the role of Geo-ICT in science. This book is the outcome of a special explorative journey.

Bringing together the expertise of leading GI-Scientists, the book traces the adoption and dissemination of Geospatial Technology in a range of disciplines. It examines the impact this technology has had, and is likely to have, on the explanation of spatial behaviour, phenomena and processes. At the same time, stressing innovative usage, it explores scientific contributions to technology advancement and how Geo-ICT helps to build bridges to partners outside academia.

The book will be presented at the GSDI World Conference in Rotterdam on June 19th by two of the editors: Niels van Manen and Henk Scholten.

Book published by



springer.com

About the authors

Prof. dr. Henk J. Scholten studied Mathematics and Geography at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and obtained his Ph.D. in 1988. Since 1990 he is professor in Spatial Informatics at the Faculty of Economics of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Director of the Spinlab (www.spinlab.vu.nl). Prof. Scholten is founder and CEO of Geodan, one of the largest European companies specialised in Geospatial Information Technology (www.geodan.nl). Prof. Scholten has been advisor for the European Union and several ministries in the field of Disaster Management and GIS. He has written more than 100 articles and 9 books on GIS. On Friday April 29th, 2005, Prof. Scholten received a Royal Decoration for his significant contribution to geo-information, both on a national and international level. Prof. Scholten has been nominated in 2009 for the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by Jack Dangermond, founder of ESRI. This award is given to a person who has contributed significantly to advancing the science and technology of GIS throughout his career.

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Rob van de Velde, MSc is director of Geonovum, the Dutch National SDI Executive Committee. In his current role as director Mr. Van de Velde is strongly engaged in stimulating location awareness and organizing strategic cooperation amongst leaders in national and local government, academia and industry. In 2000 he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Food Quality, heading the GIS Competence Center. Here he experienced the key value of accurate spatial data and geospatial technology in managing the severe outbreaks of aviaire influenza and foot-and-mouth disease. Building on this he initiated the development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure for Disaster management, a joint effort of several public agencies, which was awarded the Public Safety Innovation Award in 2007. He has a part-time position as lecturer in Spatial Informatics at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Department of Economics. He has contributed to more than 40 publications on spatial decision support systems, environmental impact assessments and e-Government services based on geospatial technology.

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Niels van Manen, MA is a PhD student in the History of Science, Medicine and Politics at the University of York, UK. Between 2005 and 2008 he worked as researcher at the Spatial Information Laboratory, VU University, Amsterdam.

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