

cartography bulletin board

CARTOGRAPHY AT THE 1996 ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS MEETING

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The 92nd Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers recently concluded in Charlotte, North Carolina. There were 13 sessions sponsored by the Cartography Specialty Group, 10 sessions by the Geographic Information Systems Specialty Group, and 16 other sessions with some reference to cartography or GIS in their title. Session topics covered a wide range of cartography related topics including History of Cartography, Teaching of Cartography, Spatial Cognition, Multimedia Cartography, Map Use, and Atlas Projects.

In addition to formal paper sessions, there were 8 workshops with a cartographic theme: Hands-on Overview of the World Wide Web, Introduction to GPS for GIS Data Capture, ArcView for Geographic and GIS Education, Mapping with the Macintosh Computer, Map Design Production with CorelDraw, How to Teach GIS Using Mapitude, Electronic Atlas of New Hampshire and Vermont: A Teaching Tool, and Cartography and the World Wide Web. Scheduled poster sessions also provided the opportunity for several cartographic presentations.

An overflow crowd attended the Presidential Plenary Session titled "Has GIS Killed Cartography?" NACIS member Alan MacEachren from Penn State University gave his views on the

condition of the discipline and possible future directions, Michael Goodchild from the University of California, Santa Barbara spoke on GIS, and Eric Sheppard from the University of Minnesota concluded the session with observations on both cartography and GIS.

In reviewing the abstracts of papers presented at the meeting, it was interesting to note some of the keywords that authors selected from their abstracts. The word "cartography" was used alone 21 times and also as cartographic education, cartography-historical, cartography-automated, cartography-cognitive, cartography-color, cartography-design history, cartography-education, cartography-history, cartography-map legends, cartography-multimedia, cartography-production, cartography-reliability representation, cartography-visualization, computer cartography, history of cartography, telecartography, and therapeutic cartography.

The word "map" appeared in many forms: cartography-map legends, children's mapping, cognitive maps, difference mapping, early maps, ecosystem mapping, expertise-map reading, feng-shui maps, map making, map reading, map reading skill, map scale, map tasks, map use, map-reading, mapping, mapping in culture, mapping technology, maps, maps-ethnographic, outline maps, risk map, tactile maps, thematic mapping, topographic maps, transmittable map, vegetation mapping, and weather maps.

The varied topics suggested by these keywords demonstrates not only that cartography is alive and well, but that there are numerous research and production opportunities available. Next year's meeting of the AAG will be held in Ft. Worth on April 1-5, 1997. Contact the AAG (gaia@aag.org) or the Cartography Specialty Group of the AAG if you are interested in participating.

THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The World Wide Web is no longer a novelty or a computer network that has limited use or application. NACIS soon hopes to establish a home page to disseminate information to members and others in the cartographic community. Of the 15 workshops held at the AAG meeting, eight were related to cartography and two of those dealt with the world wide web.

Cartography labs are involved in the design and maintenance of web pages as well as the use of other sites for their production activities. Several sites are available that might be of interest to cartographers. Jeremy Crampton maintains an excellent site at George Mason University titled Cartography Resources (<http://geog.gmu.edu/gess/jwc/cartogrefs.html>) which provides links to numerous public and private cartography related sites. The AAG Cartography Specialty Group can be found at <http://everest.hunter.cuny.edu/csg/csg.html>.

Most government agencies are now represented on the Web. Some of interest to cartographers include: U.S. Geological Survey (<http://www.usgs.gov>), U.S. Geological Survey Earth Science Information Center (<http://www-nmd.usgs.gov/esic/esic.html>), NOAA (<http://www.noaa.gov>), NASA (<http://www.nasa.gov>), Bureau of the Census (<http://www.census.gov>), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (<http://enterprise.nwi.fws.gov>). □