ICA Research Agenda*

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ICA Research Agenda

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• Background
• Need for a Research Agenda
• Content
• The Research Agenda and the Commissions and Working Groups
• The Research Agenda and ICA Policy
• Conclusions

ICA's operating environments

• promote application of cartography
• development and promotion of our subject
• support professionals and users
• development scientific and technology base
• stimulate a good design

ICA's Science operating environment

• The development of the scientific and technological basis of Cartography and GIScience
• more interdisciplinary
• technology driven developments
• maps: any-where, any-time, any-appearance

Research Agenda

• Keep track of theory, concepts, methodology and technology relevant for our discipline
• Linked to and stimulate the other operational fields (Society, Education, Professional Practice, and Art)
• Give guidelines for ICA C&WG’s work and improve co-operation
• Moderate discussion, interaction and co-operation within and without ICA
• Support the development of an effective ICA C&WG structure
Need for a research agenda

- The gap: technology is developing rapidly but the theories and theoretical approaches remain traditional

Creating the research agenda

- Base was ICA’s Strategic Plan (2001/2003)
- A result of brainstorming sessions in ICC A Coruña
- Further developed by Commission chairs and EC members
- First version was presented/published at Moscow ICC
- Content was linked to ICA Commission & Working Groups’ TORs
- Published in the ICA endorsed Journals

The research agenda is supposed to be a living document

Content of the Research Agenda

Sample content: theory topic

- Conceptual analysis of maps and Cartography
- Structural models of Cartography
- Map artefact as a concept
- Cartographic design principles
- Cartosemiotics: map syntactics, map semantics
- Geospatial knowledge
- Cartographic ontology, terminology

Sample content: geovisualization topic

- Explorative data analysis
- Geovisual analytics
- Visualization in knowledge acquisition and reasoning
- Collaborative decision-making
- Visualization processes and models
- Visual thinking

How well is the agenda ‘implemented’
Commissions

Working Groups

On-line enquiry among C&WG chairs

Analysis of the enquiry results

Doing history ....

Doing usability ....
Interest in the research topic

Working Groups, Terms of Reference & Research

Commissions, Terms of Reference & Research

A sample or TOR and research

Commissions, Terms of Reference & Research

A sample or TOR and research
Relation research topics and interests C&WG

Research topics versus C&WG

- Interests in Cartographic Theory: twelve Commisions

C&WG versus Research topics

- Interests of the Commission on Theoretical Cartography: Cartosemiotics: map syntactics, map semantics

Lonely research topics

- Topics mentioned by only one or two C&WG’s: ontology, documentation, legal issues, and history of giscience

Dissemination of the agenda

- In our 2009 English language journals
  - vol. 46, no. 2, pp 63-75
  - vol. 36, no. 2, pp 202-222
  - vol. 44, no. 1, pp 44-55

- Potential German, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese translations (Polish realized)

- ICA website

What is missing?

- The research agenda is supposed to be a living document
- Recent trends
  - Neogeography
ICA Policy based on Research agenda

- Guideline for cooperation between C&WGs
- Management of the amount of C&WGs
  - realize research is just one of the environments
  - realize C&WGs depend on ‘voluntary’ workforce
  - realize the research is done/dictated in member’s own institute/university
- C&WGs play an important role in international (cartographic) cooperation and each have their niche

ICA's operating environments revisited

- matrix C&WGs versus environments