Preface

Between January 31st and 3rd February 2011, a workshop that explored "Understanding Different Geographies (UDG)" was held in Puchberg am Schneeberg, Austria. The focus was on Communicating Meaning with [Geo]Graphic Artifacts.

Generally, the workshop topics addressed were:

- Exploring Geographic Knowledge.
- Maps in Exhibition Spaces.
- Information and Exhibition Design with (Geo)graphic Artifacts.
- Extracting Meaning from Visualizations of Different Geographies.
- Deconstructing Maps of Information- (and other) Spaces.

This meeting again brought together researchers who either are exploring the development of cartographic products and tools for use in thematic research or thematic researchers who use 'maps' (in their widest context to support their research). This fusion of many diverse research interests resulted in the presentation of information related to a wide range of exciting cartographic research and development theories and projects. As well, wide-ranging discourse was held about the usefulness and applications of cartographic tools for supporting thematic research.

This book is the outcome of the further development of the papers presented at the workshop. Chapter submissions have been reviewed by a panel of academics working in the field.

We hope that this contribution to cartographic research documentation provides information about the various works reported here and the underlying ideas underpinning the work of authors in their efforts to develop concepts, build tools, and to use cartographic artifacts to support endeavors to Understand Different Geographies'.

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