

Preface

The 16th Spatial Data Handling (SDH) conference was a special event held in Toronto from October 6 to 8, 2014, with the 2014 ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium. We coordinated SDH with colleagues from ISPRS once again, which led to a particularly dynamic range of papers and discussions at the joint conference. Our thanks go out to Songnian Li and Suzana Dragicevic from ISPRS for their help and unflappable collegiality. This robust collaboration has always been central to assuring the vitality of the GIScience field. The submissions in the SDH proceedings you have in this volume have gone through a double-blind review and intensive editing. They represent some of the most engaging work going on connected to GIScience. As always was the orientation of SDH, the chosen contributions connect theory and applications. This continues to be important as it helps researchers connect their work to important recipients and see how the field is changing. Whether you are new to the field and have been active for many years, the following chapters have a great deal of insights and innovative developments to offer.

The International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling (SDH) continues as the biennial international research forum for Geographic Information Science (GIScience), again co-organized by the Commission on Geographic Information Science and the Commission on Modeling Geographical Systems of the International Geographical Union (IGU). The conference brings together scholars and professionals from a wide range of disciplines, including (but not limited to) geography, computer science, information science, engineering, statistics, and geostatistics, with a broad range of applications in others sciences that contribute to the development of the theory of GIScience. The 2014 SDH conference jointly organized with the ISPRS Technical Commission, offered additional possibilities for exchange during the conference. The SDH proceedings are, however, independent and reflect a distinct focus on traditional SDH contributions that connect science with applications.

Indeed, since the first conference in 1984, the SDH conference has developed through a long tradition and evolved in parallel with the discipline of GIScience. As a well-known international meeting place for GIScience, it remains a leading

scientific meeting in the field. After the conference's third appearance in Australasia 2 years ago (held in Hong Kong, after Sydney 1988 and Beijing 2000), the 2012 SDH in Bonn, Germany, the 2014 SDH conference took place in Toronto, Canada. While retaining tradition, again, following the lead of the 2012 SDH organizers, we again opened two different submission tracks making the distinction between long and short paper formats that reflect different publication cultures.

Even with these changes, the SDI review process continues to retain high standards. Over 52 paper proposals were submitted to the initial abstract review. 28 papers were submitted to a second double-blind peer review for publication in the SDH proceedings. Only 17 of the papers were revised and went through further editorial processing in preparation for the proceedings you have now.

Advances in Spatial Data Handling and Analysis
Select Papers from the 16th IGU Spatial Data Handling
Symposium

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2015, XIV, 320 p. 118 illus., 89 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-19949-8