

Preface

Societal Geo-innovation is the overarching theme of the 20th AGILE Conference on Geographic Information Science, held in 2017 at Wageningen University & Research in Wageningen, The Netherlands. This theme reflects the importance of geographic information science in support of a large variety of societal challenges, such as urbanisation, food security, water scarcity, health quality, energy transition and climate adaptation. Geographic information science plays a crucial role in agenda setting, analysis and solutions regarding these challenges. The instrumental role of geo-information for realising the 17 United Nations sustainable development goals to transform our world is also widely acknowledged.

Over the years, the contribution of geographic information science to our society has changed both in content and context. Traditionally, the content was strongly data-centric. Methods, techniques and associated quality measures for data collection and storage were key research and practical challenges. Currently, data analysis and algorithms for automated information extraction receive ample attention. This trend is also reflected in the papers submitted to 20th AGILE Conference. Many of them deal with new analysis techniques and methods for spatio-temporal data. Hence, a special part in this book on ***Spatio-Temporal Analysis***.

Another notable change is the context of our discipline. Traditionally, geo-information professionals determine “what, how and why” spatial data is collected. The perception of space was mainly based on the view of the geo-information scientist and professional. This has changed in the last decade. Due to easier to use technology and interest in their environment, citizens became conscious as well as unconscious collectors of spatial data. This has resulted in a new research focus to address questions like “how can we utilise ‘citizenized’ spatial data?” Given this new focus, we noticed that even the perception of the space arena becomes wider.

Nowadays, multiple perceptions of the same location (space and place concept) are more common than before. Quite some papers submitted to the conference deal with the citizens’ view on space; therefore, the other part of the book is about ***Spatio-Temporal Perception***.

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