

Free E-Textbook "Cartography 2.0"

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Mark Harrower, Anthony C. Robinson, Robert E. Roth and Ben Sheesley wrote the e-textbook *Cartography 2.0* and made it available on the Internet at no charge. The textbook's website (<http://Cartography2.org>) explains their reasoning, which was also published in the *Cartographic Perspectives* journal (*Cartography 2.0: For People Who Make Interactive Maps, Number 64, Fall 2009*). They emphasize they were frustrated with traditional textbooks' inability to keep in touch with web technologies, and they could not locate a comprehensive source of width and depth expected from a professional textbooks. They elaborate on this in detail.

The first reason they note is *speed*. Web cartography is developing rapidly and when classic textbooks reach pupils, they are already obsolete. Furthermore, static sections of dynamic and interactive

maps are often a poor replacement for such maps, making it very difficult to learn how they are produced and used. The third reason is to enable bilateral learning, because numerous contemporary cartographic projects require data input from many people. Cartography 2.0 is to the field of cartography what web 2.0 is to web. Our university classrooms are already bilateral learning communities. In spite of keeping track of technology development, the authors pointed out they realized their students were often ahead of them. Thus they expect everyone using *Cartography 2.0* to be teacher and a student at the same time. The fourth reason is the possibility of constant updating. The authors hope *Cartography 2.0* is going to have a role in cartography similar to the one Wikipedia has in general knowledge. Finally, the authors believe the time when textbooks cost about \$150 is behind us.

The textbook consists of five chapters and 12 sections:

- ❑ Map animation (five sections, Harrower, September 2009)
- ❑ Elements of design (one section, Sheesley, September 2009)
- ❑ Map interaction techniques (three sections, Roth, Robinson, Sheesley, September 2009)
- ❑ User interface and usability (two sections, Harrower, Roth, September 2009)
- ❑ Advanced topics (one section, Roth, September 2009).

The authors ask everyone who inspected the textbook for feedback, especially suggestions for improvement, because they intend to add new content on a regular basis. Anyone wanting to stay informed when new content is added can sign up at the web site.

Each section is written as an article represented as one (long) web page. This can be seen as either an advantage or a disadvantage, depending on criteria. Nowadays, most would probably expect that such content be divided into smaller units linked using hyperlinks.

On the other hand, the text is supplemented with numerous and high quality examples which can be inspected, used and researched by users – one of the key goals of the textbook. Problems often encountered at web sites linking other content is updating and availability of linked content. This textbook also features some examples and hyperlinks not providing the expected result. Such issues relate to questions discussed by cartographers and relating to archiving digital cartographic content to make them available to future generations.

We consider this project very valuable, especially to those wanting to find out about the history and basics of cartography on web, a medium which has enabled entirely new possibilities of representing and exploring the space around us.

Nedjeljko Frančula
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Besplatni e-udžbenik "Cartography 2.0"

Mark Harrower, Anthony C. Robinson, Robert E. Roth i Ben Sheesley su stvorili e-udžbenik *Cartography 2.0* i postavili ga besplatno na internet. Na web-stranicama udžbenika (<http://Cartography2.org>) objašnjavaju i razloge zbog kojih su to uradili. Te su razloge objavili i u časopisu *Cartographic Perspectives (Cartography 2.0: For People Who Make Interactive Maps, Number 64, Fall 2009)*. Kao glavni razlog navode da su bili frustrani nemogućnošću tradicionalnih udžbenika da drže korak s web-tehnologijama, a na internetu nisu mogli naći sveobuhvatan izvor širine i dubine koja se očekuje od profesionalnog udžbenika. Potom to detaljnije objašnjavaju.

Kao prvi razlog navode *brzinu*. Web-kartografija razvija se vrlo brzo i klasični udžbenici kad postanu dostupni studenima već su zastarjeli. Nadalje, statički ekranski isječci dinamičkih i interaktivnih karata vrlo su slaba zamjena za takve karte pa je vrlo teško naučiti kako se one izrađuju i upotrebljavaju. Treći je razlog omogućavanje dvosmjernog učenja, jer mnogi kartografski projekti zahtjevaju danas unošenje podataka od velikog broja ljudi. Kartografija 2.0 je na području kartografije ono što je web 2.0 na webu. Naše sveučilišne učionice već su zajednice dvosmjernog učenja. Autori nalažeavaju da su usprkos najvećim naporima da drže korak s razvojem tehnologije, shvatili da su njihovi studenti često ispred njih na tom području. Stoga očekuju da će svi koji se budu služili s *Cartography 2.0* istodobno biti i nastavnici i studenti. Mogućnost konstantnog osvremenjivanja četvrti je razlog. Autori se nadaju da će *Cartography 2.0* na području kartografije imati ulogu sličnu onoj wikipedije na području općeg znanja. I na kraju, kao peto, autoru vjeruju da je prošla era kad su udžbenici koštali oko \$ 150.

Udžbenik se sastoji od pet poglavlja i 12 odjeljaka:

- Kartografska animacija (pet odjeljaka, Harrower, rujan 2009)
- Elementi dizajna (jedan odjeljak, Sheesley, rujan 2009)
- Tehnike kartografske interakcije (tri odjeljaka, Roth, Robinson, Sheesley, rujan 2009)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Cartography 2.0 website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to 'Welcome', 'Purpose', 'Chapters & Articles', 'About Us', and 'Search'. The main title 'Cartography 2.0' is prominently displayed in the top right corner. Below the title, there is a large, scenic image of a mountain range at sunset with a rainbow in the foreground. The page features several sections with titles and links:

- Map Animation**
 - 1. Overview of Animated Maps: Learning from others (Harrower, Sept 09)
 - 2. History of Animated Maps (Harrower, Sept 09)
 - 3. Conceptualizing Time, Change and Geospatial Process (Harrower, Sept 09)
 - 4. Representing Time on Animated Maps (Harrower, Sept 09)
 - 5. Representing Time on Static Maps (Harrower, Sept 09)
- Map Interaction Techniques**
 - 1. Cartographic Interaction: Introduction and Overview (Roth, Sept 09)
 - 2. Multiple Coordinated Views: Brushing & Highlighting (Robinson, Sept 09)
 - 3. Data Probing and Info Window Design (Sheesley, Sept 09)
- User Interface & Usability**
 - 1. Overview: The User Interface (Harrower, Sept 09)
 - 2. Interface Evaluation 1: Phenomeny (Roth, Sept 09)
- Advanced Topics**
 - 1. The Nature of Geospatial Information Uncertainty (Roth, Sept 09)

- Korisničko sučelje i upotrebljivost (dva odjeljka, Harrower, Roth, rujan 2009)
- Napredne teme (jedan odjeljak, Roth, rujan 2009).

Autori mole sve koji su pogledali udžbenik da im jave svoje mišljenje, osobito sugestije za poboljšanja, jer namjeravaju kontinuirano dodavati nove sadržaje. Svatko tko želi biti informiran da se na web-stranicama pojavi novi sadržaj, može se predbilježiti.

Svaki odjeljak napisan je u obliku jednog članka koji se korisniku prikazuje kao jedna (dugačka) web-stranica. To se može smatrati i prednosti i nedostatkom, ovisno o tome što čitatelji više cijene. Danas bi vjerojatnije očekivali da će takav sadržaj biti podijeljen na manje cjeline koje su strukturirane i međusobno povezane hipervezama.

S druge strane tekst je upotpunjem brojnim i kvalitetnim primjerima koje korisnik može odmah vidjeti, upotrijebiti i istražiti, a to je i jedan od ključnih ciljeva tog udžbenika. Problemi na koje često nailazimo na web-stranicama koje povezuju neke druge sadržaje je aktualnost i dostupnost povezanog sadržaja. I u ovom udžbeniku može se naići na neki primjer ili hipervezu koja neće dati očekivani rezultat. Takvi problemi otvaraju i pitanja koja su sve češće zastupljena među kartografima, a tiču se arhiviranja digitalnih kartografskih sadržaja tako da ostanu dostupni budućim generacijama.

Smatramo da je ovaj projekt vrlo vrijedan, posebice onima koje žele upoznati povijest i temelje kartografije na webu, medija koji je otvorio potpuno nove mogućnosti za prikaz i istraživanje prostora oko nas.

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