

# Sharing Worldviews through Cartography

Kari J. CRAUN



Greetings – I want to warmly welcome all of you to Washington, DC, United States of America. It is a great honor to have experts in cartography and Geographic Information (GI) Science here in our nation’s capitol to share information about their work.

Throughout history, cartography, and more recently Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and GIScience, have helped us see the world from another perspective. Maps, in their various forms, help us understand what is happening in other places and other cultures. In essence, they help us share our worldviews in order to both convey information but also to help us understand one another better. And, without getting too political, I believe the past year has shown us – it has certainly shown me personally – that I need to spend more time trying to understand others’ perspectives. And not just perspectives from other parts of the world,

about how to represent concepts, information, data and this is critical in influencing how a viewer or user understands what is being represented.

Sharing – or “to share” a simple word we all think we understand (Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, 2016) (Figure 2). But, it has taken on a very different meaning in the modern world of “sharing” in social media. I understand this is not all we should think about when we use this word, but, today, we definitely have to be thinking about the word “share” in a social media context – because it has a BIG impact on how people are exposed to all types of information now. This includes maps and spatial data. It is a positive thing that we can so easily share information, but, this extensive sharing makes establishing the context of that shared information important so it can be understood by those with differing worldviews.

## world·view (wûrld'vyoo')

*n.*

1. The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.
2. A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group. In both senses also called *Weltanschauung*.

**Fig. 1** Worldview definition  
**Slika 1.** Definicija pogleda  
na svijet

but, perspectives from across the street or in my own city or state. We need more and better tools for this type of sharing - now more than ever.

Let’s back up and spend a little time talking about the meaning of two important words for this talk. First, “worldview.”

This is the definition of “worldview” (Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, 2016) (Figure 1). And, while cartographers tend to be very visual, this concept clearly goes beyond locating the positions of entities on the earth. It encompasses how people interpret the world. Again, as we know, cartographers make decisions

Here are some examples of how we share worldviews through cartography, starting with a very traditional way in which cartographers affect worldviews (Figure 3). The map projection seems to be ever controversial. And, in 2017, we are still discussing the best map projections to use. As cartographers, we understand the “best” projection depends on the use of the map, including the area of interest and information to be portrayed. But, if we think about the world in geopolitical terms and about how this affects “worldviews,” we realize how incredibly influential map projections are in how people understand the world they live in.



# Dijeljenje pogleda na svijet uz pomoć kartografije

Kari J. CRAUN

Dobrodošli – želim vam svima toplu dobrodošlicu u Washington D.C. u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama. Velika je čast imati osobe stručne u kartografiji i znanosti o geoinformacijama u glavnom gradu naše zemlje kako bi razmijenili informacije o svojem radu.

Kroz povijest, kartografija, a u posljednje doba, geoinformacijski sustavi (GIS) i znanost o geoinformacijama (GIScience) pomogli su nam vidjeti svijet iz druge perspektive. Različite karte pomažu nam razumjeti što se događa na drugim mjestima i u drugim kulturama. U suštini, omogućuju nam da podijelimo svoje poglede na svijet kako bismo prenijeli informacije, ali i bolje razumjeli jedni druge. Bez prevelikog ulaženja u politiku, smatram da nam je posljednja godina pokazala – meni sigurno jest pokazala – da trebam uložiti puno više vremena kako bih razumjela druga viđenja. U stvari, to se

Ovo je definicija "pogleda na svijet" (sl. 1, Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, 2016). Iako su kartografi vizualni tipovi, taj koncept očito prelazi utvrđivanje položaja na Zemlji. On se odnosi na način na koji ljudi shvaćaju svijet. Kao što znamo, kartografi donose odluke o tome kako prikazati koncepte, informacije i podatke i to na ključan način utječe na način na koji korisnik razumije ono što se prikazuje.

Dijeljenje – ili "podijeliti" jednostavna je riječ koju svi mislimo da razumijemo (sl. 2, Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, 2016). No, ona je dobila vrlo različito značenje u modernom svijetu društvenih medija. Razumijem da to nije sve o čemu trebamo razmišljati kad upotrebljavamo tu riječ, no danas definitivno trebamo razmišljati o riječi "dijeljenje" u kontekstu društvenih medija – zato što oni imaju velik utjecaj na

## shared, shar·ing, shares

- v.tr. **1.a.** To accord a share in (something) to another or others: *shared her chocolate bar with a friend.*  
**b.** To divide and parcel out in shares; apportion: *shared the estate among his heirs.*  
**2.a.** To participate in, use, enjoy, or experience jointly or in turns: *share a responsibility; share a room.*  
**b.** To hold or have jointly with another or others: *She shares my view about the election.*  
**3.** To relate (a secret or experience, for example) to another or others.  
**4. Computers** To make (a digital file) accessible to other users on a network, as for copying and downloading.

Fig. 2 Share definition in social media context

Slika 2. Definicija riječi "dijeljenje" u kontekstu društvenih medija

ne odnosi samo na druge dijelove svijet, već i na poglede na svijet koje imaju osobe koje žive preko puta ceste ili u mojem gradu ili zemlji. Potreban nam je veći broj i viša kvaliteta alata za taj način dijeljenja – sada više nego ikad.

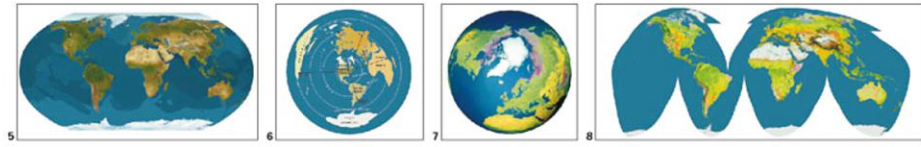
Sad bih se vratila i malo govorila o značenju dvaju važnih pojmova u mojem govoru. Prvi od njih je "pogled na svijet".

način na koji su ljudi izloženi svim tipovima informacija. To uključuje karte i prostorne podatke. Pozitivna je stvar da možemo tako lako dijeliti informacije, no toliki razmjer dijeljenja dovodi do toga da je važno utvrditi kontekst tih informacija kako bi ga mogli razumjeti oni s različitim pogledima na svijet.

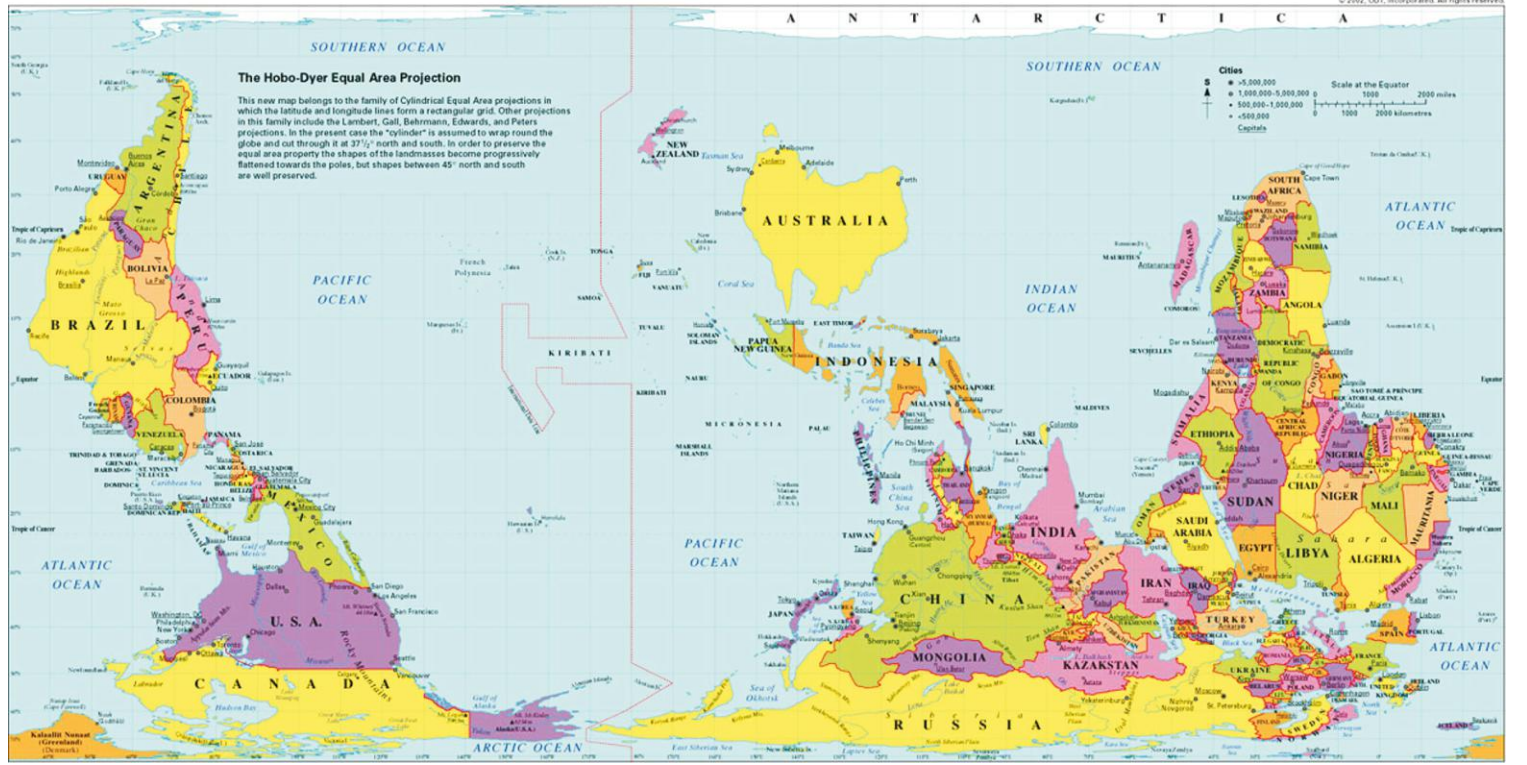
Navest ću nekoliko primjera o tome kako uz pomoć kartografije dijelimo svoje poglede na svijet. Počet ću s



**Take the quiz! Compare country size.**  
 Which of the images on both sides of this placemat are "area accurate?" How is the Hobo-Dyer projection below different from the one on the reverse side? Answers and details about all the images are at [www.odt.org/hdp](http://www.odt.org/hdp). To the right: (5) Van Sant's Geosphere, (6) Guelke's Toronto-centered projection, (7) the Oxford Globe, and (8) Goode's Homolosine



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**Fig. 3** Map projection example (ODT Maps, 2006)  
**Slika 3.** Primjer kartografske projekcije (ODT Maps, 2006)

And, I love the fact that we, as cartographers, are still designing new ways of representing the world through map projections. This audience will likely recognize this map which depicts the earth in the Authographic projection (Figure 4). The projection was developed by a Toyko-based architect named Narukawa .

From the Spoon and Tamago website (Johnny, 2016), written after the projection had won the 2016 Good Design Award in Japan, here are a few highlights.

"He [Narukawa] developed a map projection method called AuthaGraph (and founded a company of the same name in 2009) which aims to create maps that represent all land masses and seas as accurately as possible. Narukawa points out that in the past, his map probably wasn't as relevant. A large bulk of the 20th century was dominated by an emphasis on East and West relations. But with issues like climate change, melting glaciers in Greenland and territorial sea claims, it's time we establish a new view of the world: one that equally perceives all interests of our planet."

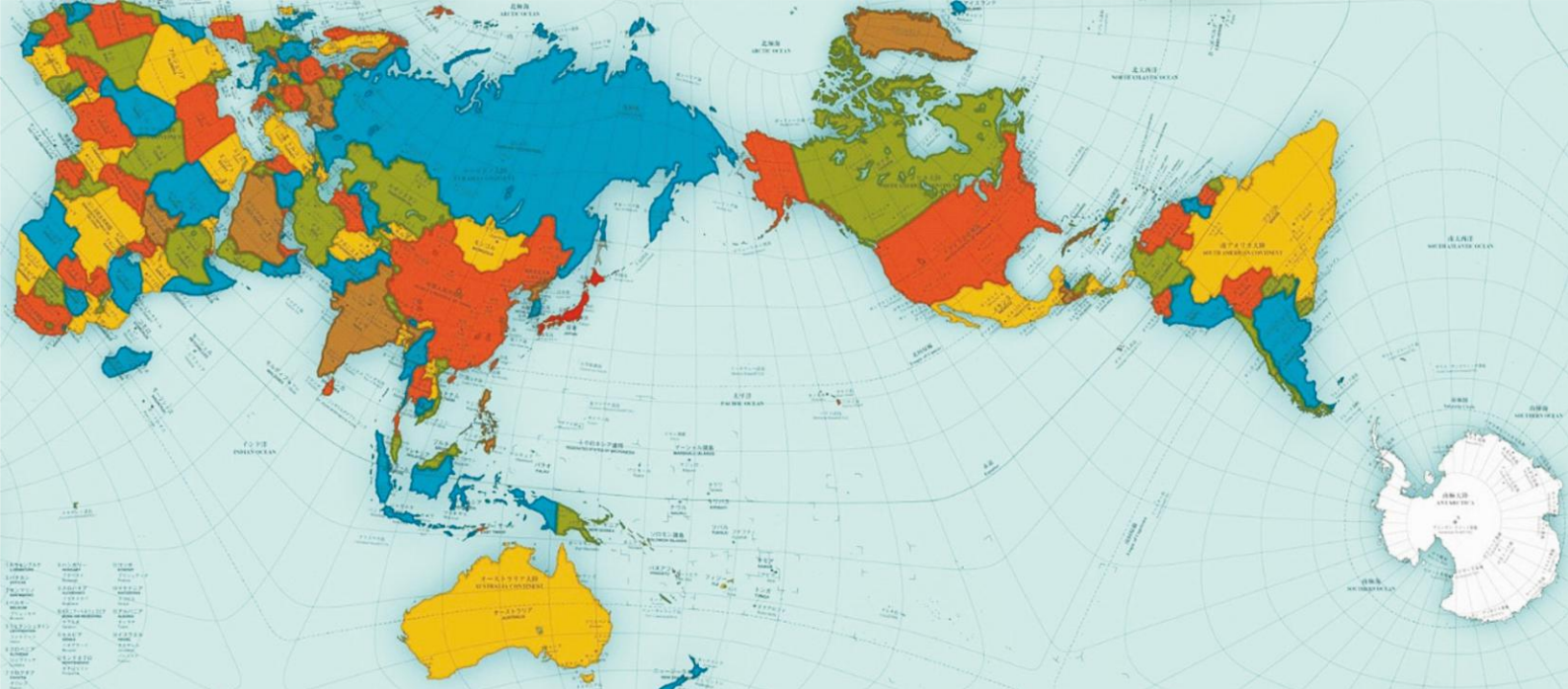
What is also interesting is that the previous winners of this Good Design award – for 2014 and 2015 – were for a robotic arm and a personal mobility chair, respectively. To me this shows the impression of the design judges that this projection was of similar practical importance as a robotic arm or a personal mobility chair.

This figure, again, likely looks familiar to most of you (in the audience) (Figure 5). OpenStreetMap, as I suspect all of us know, is ... " ...an initiative to create and provide free geographic data, such as street maps, to anyone" (OpenStreetMap Foundation, 2017).

While there are many citizen science and volunteered geographic information projects, OpenStreetMap is one of the most well-known and continues to be one of the most well supported and used. And, this is not an advertisement for OpenStreetMap, but, I do think the size and success of the project are exceptional.

There are several aspects of this project that are interesting in terms of sharing worldviews. First, this is a volunteer-created map. You or I can get an account and start mapping our part of the world. This is a huge leap in terms of sharing our perspectives on what features are important to us in a spatial context. We are likely to include those things of most importance to US in creating the map of our world.

Also, we (the rest of the world) have, through this project, gained open access to information about parts of the world we have likely never seen before and from the perspective of the people that live in that area, not necessarily from the perspective of their government. "share" This is big. And now that we have (and are continuing to improve) that basic framework of features,



**Fig. 4** Authographic map projection

**Slika 4.** Autagrafska kartografska projekcija

vrlo tradicionalnim načinom na koji kartografi utječu na poglede na svijet (sl. 3). Čini se kako je tematika kartografskih projekcija uvijek kontroverzna. U 2017. godini još uvijek raspravljamo o tome koje su najbolje kartografske projekcije. Kao kartografi, razumijemo da odgovor na pitanje koja je "najbolja" kartografska projekcija ovisi o svrsi karte, što uključuje područje i informacije koje treba prikazati. No, ako razmislimo o svijetu u geopolitičkom smislu i o tome kako se to odražava na "pogled na svijet", shvatit ćemo kakav ogroman utjecaj kartografske projekcije imaju na način na koji ljudi shvaćaju svijet u kojem žive.

Jako mi je drago da mi kartografi još uvijek smišljamo nove načine prikazivanja svijeta uz pomoć kartografskih projekcija. Sigurno prepoznajete da je karta prikazana na slici 4 izrađena u autagrafskoj projekciji. Ime je izvedeno od autalichna (eng. authalic u značenju jednake površine, odnosno ekvivalentna projekcija) i graf. Tu je projekciju izmislio arhitekt Narukawa iz Tokija.

Nakon što je ta projekcija 2016. godine osvojila japansku nagradu za dobar dizajn, Spoon i Tamago (Johnny, 2016) napisali su na web-stranici odakle prenosimo nekoliko citata.

"On [Narukawa] je osmislio kartografsku projekciju pod imenom AuthaGraph (i osnovao tvrtku pod istim nazivom 2009.), kojoj je cilj prikazati sve kopnene mase i mora što je točnije moguće. Narukawa je naglasio da njegova karta ne bi bila toliko važna u prošlosti. Velikim dijelom 20. stoljeća dominirao je naglasak na odnose između istoka i zapada. No, s pojavom problema kao što su klimatske promjene, topljenje glečera na Grenlandu i raspravama o teritorijalnim morima, vrijeme je da

utvrdimo novi prikaz svijeta, takav koji na jednak način prikazuje sve teme bitne za naš planet."

Također je zanimljiv podatak da su 2014. i 2015. godine nagrade za dobar dizajn dodijeljene za robotsku ruku i invalidska kolica. Smatram da to pokazuje da su suci smatrali da je ta projekcija jednake praktične važnosti kao što su robotska ruka ili invalidska kolica.

Većini vas karta na slici 5 vjerojatno je poznata. OpenStreetMap, kao što znamo, "... inicijativa je za stvaranje i pružanje svima geografskih podataka, kao što su karte ulica" (OpenStreetMap Foundation, 2017).

Iako postoji mnogo projekata građana znanstvenika (citizen science) i onih na temelju dobrovoljnih geoinformacija, OpenStreetMap jedan je od najpoznatijih, jedan od onih s najvećom podrškom i jedan od najupotrebljavanijih. Nemojte to shvatiti kao reklamu za OpenStreetMap, ali smatram da su veličina i uspjeh tog projekta iznimni.

Taj projekt ima nekoliko zanimljivih aspekata koji se odnose na dijeljenje pogleda na svijet. Kao prvo, tu su kartu izradili dobrovoljci. Bilo tko može otvoriti korisnički račun i početi s kartiranjem svojega dijela svijeta. To je velik skok u smislu dijeljenja perspektiva o tome koja su nam svojstva važna u prostornom kontekstu. Vjerojatno ćemo u kartu uključiti one elemente koji su najvažniji NAMA.

Također, ostatak svijeta kroz taj projekt dobiva pristup informacijama o dijelovima svijeta koje vjerojatno prije nije vidio te iz perspektive ljudi koji žive na tom području, a ne nužno perspektive njihove vlade. "Dijeljenje". To je veliko. Sada kad imamo (i nastavljamo poboljšavati) taj osnovni okvir, možemo ga poboljšati s još detaljnijim karakteristikama.



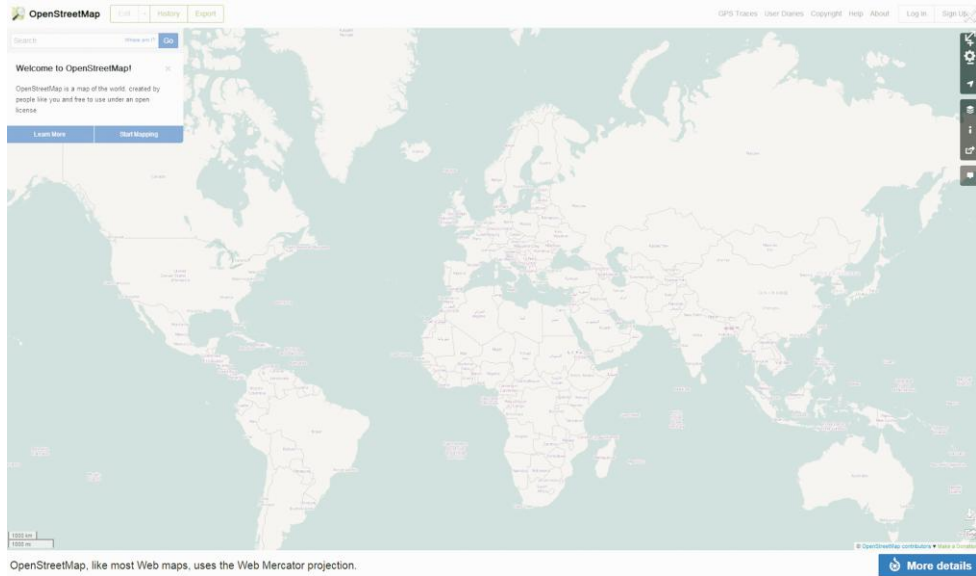


Fig. 5 OpenStreetMap screen shot (www.openstreetmap.org)

Slika 5. Pogled na OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org)

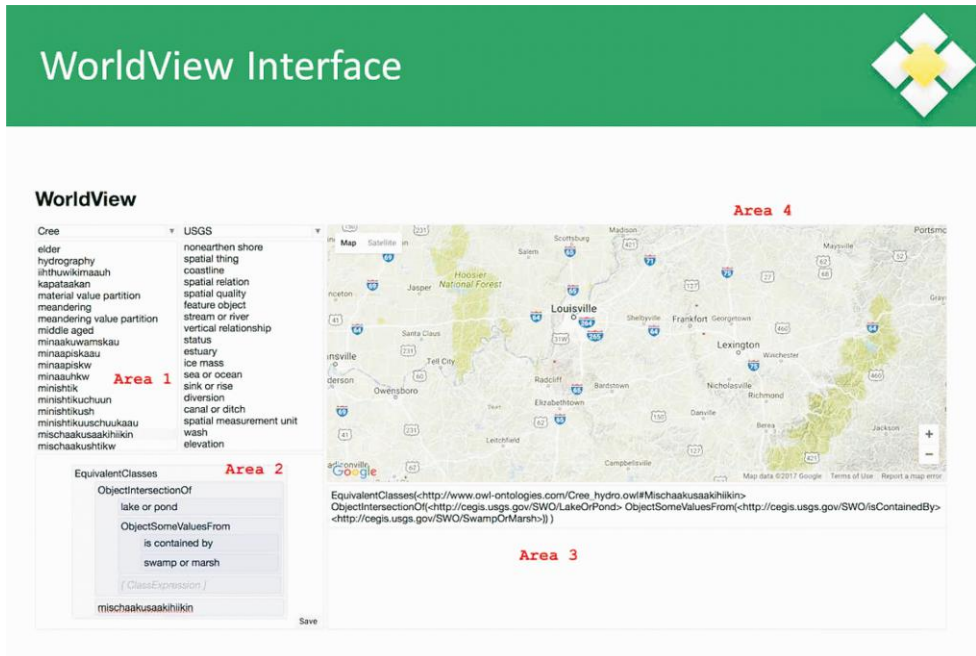


Fig. 6 WorldView ontology relator application

Slika 6. Program WorldView za ontologije

we can augment it with ever more detailed attribution.

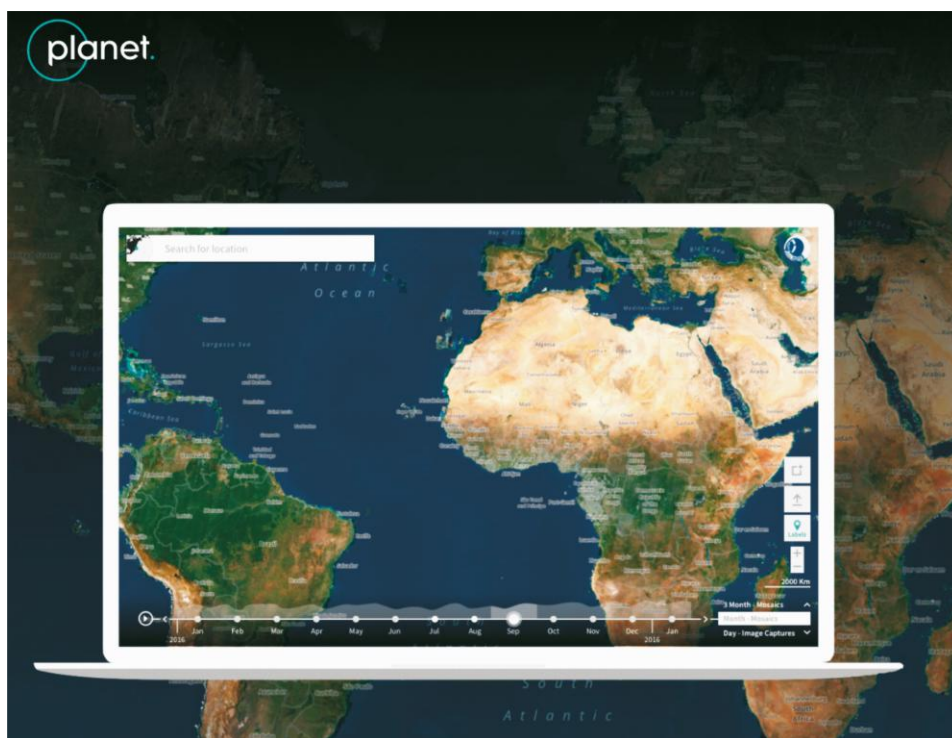
Another aspect of this image is the projection being used – obviously the Web Mercator projection. And, by the way, thanks to the OSM team for making this obvious. Because that, in itself, is unusual. Of course, this projection is not necessarily a favorite of cartographers – and likely will not win a good design award – but we have to acknowledge it is quite widely used and does affect how people understand the world. We don't always have control of the information being provided! But, sometimes we can control how it is referenced and documented. And, sometimes, that matters.

Of course, there is a lot of information – including georeferenced information – available on the internet. Like OpenStreetMap, much of it is “open.” One of our

challenges is making all of that information useful to us. This image (Figure 6) shows an application which relates ontologies. The purpose of the application is to explicitly link “worldviews.” Credit here goes to Dalia Varanka (U.S. Geological Survey – USGS) and Michelle Cheatham (Wright State University) working on developing a way to relate ontologies for water-related information as part of a project under the USGS Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information (CEGIS).

There are few of these tools available now that are helping us link our traditional GIS data to the massive amount of related information online.

Continuing on the theme of technology and concepts changing the way we view the world globally, but, changing emphasis a bit to how new technology is also



**Fig. 7** Planet Labs beta Explorer tool

**Slika 7.** Beta verzija alata za istraživanje tvrtke Planet Labs

Drugi je aspekt te karte njezina projekcija – očito je riječ Web-Mercatorovoj projekciji. Usput, hvala timu OpenStreetMap koji je to učinio očitim. To je samo po sebi neobično. Naravno, ta projekcija nije nužno omiljena među kartografima – i vjerojatno neće dobiti nagradu za dobar dizajn – ali moramo priznati da je njezina primjena prilično široka te da utječe na način na koji ljudi doživljavaju svijet. Ne možemo uvijek utjecati na informacije koje su na raspolaganju! No, ponekad možemo utjecati na to kako se referenciraju i dokumentiraju. A ponekad je to ono što je bitno.

Naravno, na internetu je dostupno mnogo informacija, uključujući georeferencirane informacije. Kao OpenStreetMap, velik dio tih informacija je "otvoren". Jedan je od naših izazova kako učiniti sve te informacije korisnima. Na slici 6 prikazan je program koji se odnosi na ontologije. Cilj je toga programa eksplicitno povezati "pogled na svijet". Za taj su program zaslužni Dalia Varanka (U.S. Geological Survey – USGS) i Michelle Cheatham (Wright State University), koji razvijaju način ontologija za informacije koje se odnose na vodu kao dio projekta koji provodi USGS Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information (CEGIS).

Trenutačno postoji nekoliko alata koji nam pomažu povezati tradicionalne podatke GIS-a s ogromnim brojem odgovarajućih informacija na internetu.

Nastavljam s temom kako tehnologija i koncepti mijenjaju način na koji vidimo svijet globalno, ali mijenjam naglasak na to kako nove tehnologije također mijenjaju osobni pogled na svijet. Na slici 7 prikazana je beta

verzija alata za istraživanje tvrtke Planet Lab. On se ne diči samo globalnom perspektivom i relativno visokom razlučivosti, već i elementom vremena kao dimenzijom našega pogleda na svijet. Na web stranici tvrtke Planet Labs stoji da raspolaže sa 149 satelita što joj omogućuje "...dobivanje novih slika sa svih dijelova Zemlje svaki dan" (Marshall, 2017).

Ne reklamiram Planet Labs, ali ta tehnologija – s relativno visokom razlučivosti – na "otvorenom" – zemaljske kugle s čestim ažuriranjem, nije nešto daleko u budućnosti – to se događa sad.

To je mnogo podataka. Oni možda nisu svima dostupni i korisni, ali ta tehnologija i njezini nasljednici omogućit će nam da vidimo cijelu zemaljsku kuglu na način na koji to nismo mogli te ćemo moći bolje razumjeti promjene tijekom vremena. Također će nam omogućiti da vidimo mjesta, obilježja i pojave na Zemlji koje možda nikad prije nismo vidjeli.

Širenje našega pogleda na svijet također znači stupanje u kontakt s osobama kojima naše znanje i tehnologija mogu pomoći jer im prije nisu bili dostupni. Tvrtka WeRobotics uvodi tehnologiju bespilotnih letjelica u kombinaciji sa zračnim snimcima, što pomaže zajednicama koje imaju potrebe i interese u tom području. Na slici 8 "Nepal Flying Labs" pomaže nakon potresa u Nepal 2015. godine. Surađivali su sa Sveučilištem u Katmanduu i DJI-jem kako bi imali zračne snimke, kao i osposobljavanje za buduću upotrebu te tehnologije. To je primjer kako se širi pogled na svijet u zajednici, ali i onaj partnera u projektu koji počinju razumijevati



**Fig. 8** Nepal Flying Labs working with the community after the 2015 earthquake  
**Slika 8.** Nepal Flying Labs radi sa zajednicom nakon potresa 2015. godine

influencing our worldview. This is Planet Lab's beta explorer tool (Figure 7). Adding not only a global perspective, and at relatively high resolution, but, also the true element of time as a dimension to our view of the world. From their website, Planet Labs states it operates 149 satellites giving them the "...capacity to collect a new image of everywhere on Earth's land area every day" (Marshall, 2017).

So, again, I am not marketing for Planet Labs, but, this technology – where we have relatively high resolution data – in the "open" – of the globe on a frequent revisit schedule, is not something that is far in the future – it is here now.

It is a lot of data. Maybe not accessible and useful for everyone, but, this technology and its successors will allow us to see the entire globe in a way we have not been able to see it before and better understand changes over time. It will also allow us to see places, features, and phenomena on the earth that we may never have seen before.

Expanding our worldview also means reaching out to people who can benefit from our expertise and technology but who have not had access to it before. WeRobotics introduces drone technology combined with aerial imaging to help build capability and capacity in communities with needs and interest in adopting technology to meet those needs. In this image (Figure 8), "Nepal Flying Labs" is assisting in Nepal following the 2015 earthquake. They partnered with Kathmandu University and DJI as a technology partner to provide an

aerial robotics solution, as well as training so that this capability is available for future use. This expands the communities' worldview but also expands the partners' worldview by helping them understand other cultures and how they view and adopt technology.

As we move deeper into the world of virtual reality and explore the world at ever higher resolutions, the concept of sharing our worldviews becomes truly about sharing our experiences with others (Figure 9, Chacos 2016). Bringing others into our worlds. Cartography and GI Science will be central to understanding the geographic and geospatial context of these virtual experiences.

In conclusion, cartography and GI Science have always influenced worldviews. How that happens – and the reach of the information – is certainly changing with the influence of new concepts and technology. And, as the world changes and we grow "closer" virtually and share more information through social media and other venues, the integrity of the information and appropriate interpretation of that information is more important now than ever before. We, as professionals, in a very important field involved in interpreting and representing information, have an equally important responsibility to ensure information is appropriately documented; accurately represented; and available as widely as possible so that as information is "shared," the user may understand the perspective – the worldview – of the provider of the information.





**Fig. 9** An example of virtual reality  
**Slika 9.** Primjer virtualne stvarnosti

druge kulture te kako oni gledaju na tehnologiju i primjenjuju je.

Kako ulazimo dublje u svijet virtualne stvarnosti i istražujemo svijet u sve većim razlučivostima, koncept dijeljenja pogleda na svijet uistinu postaje dijeljenje našeg iskustva s drugima (sl. 9, Chacos 2016). Dovođenje drugih u naše svijetove. Kartografija i znanost o geoinformacijama bit će od ključne važnosti u razumijevanju geografskog i geoprostornog konteksta tih virtualnih iskustava.

Zaključno, kartografija i znanost o geoinformacijama oduvijek su utjecale na poglede na svijet. Kako se to

dogđa – i doseg informacija – zasigurno se mijenjaju s dolaskom novih koncepata i tehnologija. Kako se svijet mijenja i kako postajemo virtualno "bliži" i dijelimo više informacija uz pomoć društvenih medija, integritet i ispravno tumačenje tih informacija postaju bitniji no ikad. Kao stručnjaci u vrlo važnom području uključenom u tumačenje i prikazivanje informacija, imamo jednako veliku odgovornost za primjereno dokumentiranje informacija, njihovo točno prikazivanje i raspoloživost, tako da korisnici mogu razumjeti perspektivu – pogled na svijet – osoba koje su te informacije "podijelili".

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