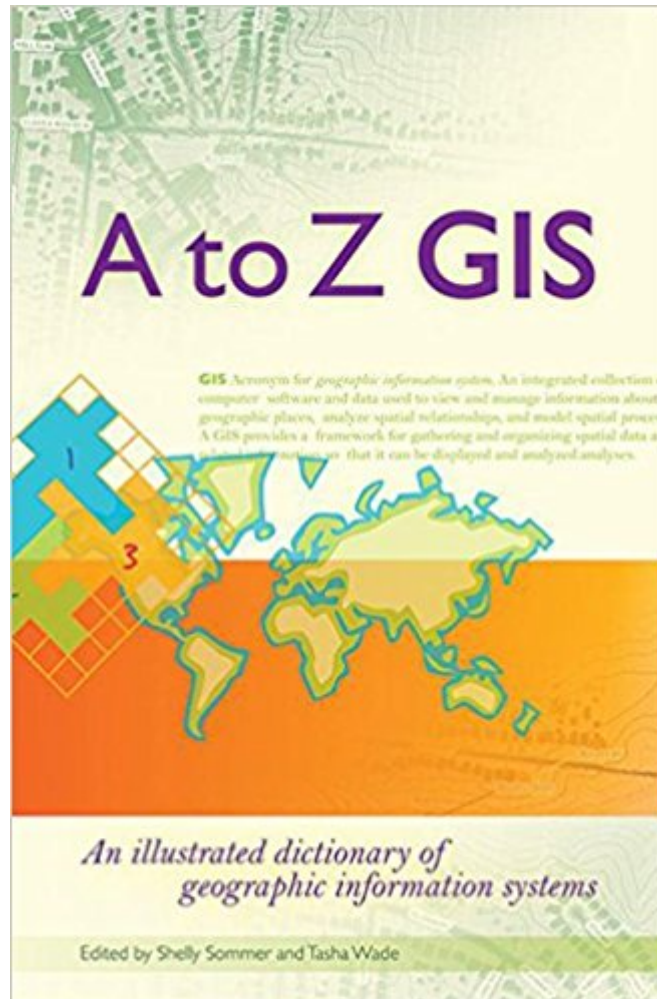


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A To Z GIS: An Illustrated Dictionary Of Geographic Information Systems



Synopsis

An invaluable resource for anyone who uses or encounters GIS terminology in the classroom, on the job, or in the field, this dictionary contains more than 1,600 terms covering the entire lexicon of geographic information systems. Terms have been selected from GIS operations such as analysis, data management, and geocomputation; from rapidly evolving uses of GIS for modeling, GIScience, and Web-based GIS; and the GIS foundation fields of cartography, spatial statistics, computer science, surveying, geodesy, and remote sensing. Hundreds of subject-matter experts and GIS educators have reviewed the definitions, ensuring the authoritative coverage that is a necessity for managers, programmers, users, and students discovering the interdisciplinary nature of GIS.

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Customer Reviews

This compact book is the best place to start for GIS learners. It gives GIS concepts clearly and succinctly, with great illustrations for visual learners. Cuts through the information overload of large textbooks.

Books about GIS are usually quite technical, surveying the applications and computer potentials of geographic information systems, so it's refreshing to note that *A TO Z GIS: AN ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS* is something different: a simple set of geography and cartography definitions designed to define values, coordinates, reference systems, representations, and GIS data processing methods and routines. Students of GIS will find this essential to understanding the terminology of both computer and geography worlds. Diane C.

First off, this is not a manual, tutorial or teaching aid. It's a dictionary of GIS terms. But that's what makes it so handy! I am a GIScience researcher at the US Geological Survey. In my job, I try to help the USGS make better maps. That involves writing about GIS a lot. This book gets frequent use when I need to mention subjects that I don't work with regularly. I also pull it out when I am reviewing other papers. In a nutshell: * It is not authoritative by any means but it does a good job. * It is more complete than Wikipedia but the "definitions" are more concise (short but spot-on) * It is compact and easy to throw in a backpack. If you are writing a term paper for a GIS class or working on a thesis and need to mention some GIS concepts, this is a good place to start. A little deeper: I just scanned through the list of contributors. I know about a half dozen of them personally. They are all ESRI employees. Since I don't recognize any of the other names (definitely none from outside ESRI, like Nick Chrisman, Mike Goodchild, Barbara Buttenfield) I would bet they are almost all ESRI employees. So this dictionary is very much the ESRI A to Z GIS. Most of the time that's OK but just be aware that of the source.

I bought this book thinking I might teach high school GIS, but didn't. However after it arrived and I looked through it, I wondered why the college courses did not recommend this simple, easy to use, understandable, nice-looking, perfectly-sized, strongly-bound, handy reference. Any introduction to a new discipline with all its unique non-standard terms must start with definitions and this book is a great place to help with that.

I've been studying GIS for a few months now on my own, and have often been stuck as to the meaning of a word. For me this is a very good little book, but it did not even mention some of the projections that are popular in my country, like the Lambert projections. I am not going to give this book a low mark just for that, because I did pick up a lot of useful information in a very efficient way. If you want to go about it the long way get the Geographic Information Systems and Science but you might fall asleep in the process (it's a good book though!!). The explanations of general computer science concepts like object oriented programming are very introductory, and I would go to the Wikipedia for more detail after if I didn't know the meanings. So I'll probably give it 5 stars when a second edition comes out. Still, for the money it's a definite winner, and it's very enjoyable read.

Super accessible. I would especially recommend this book to people who are learning ABOUT GIS,

not just learning HOW TO USE GIS, since it's really more of a conceptual dictionary than a book on how to use GIS software.

I found this book useful while studying for exams and oral examinations during my Masters program. The thing to remember is this is a ESRI book and uses their terminology. If you are a student I would recommend this book to use as a reference. The book isn't going to teach you GIS, it is meant to be used as a reference. So I would still buy the required books for your class.

I purchased this book as a supplement to my course materials for graduate level GIS classes. The book is great as a dictionary only (5 stars) but does little to explain GIS concepts or processes. The researchers did well to include simple pictures that relate to the terms being described. The book itself is small enough to keep in a backpack with no problems and is lightweight. Overall, a good GIS supplement.

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