Cartography today

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Relevance of Cartography

About Cartography

Definition debate

ICA context / developments

Maps

International Map Year

Definition

Changing roles

Relevance of cartography

• The killer maps …… (innovations that did really matter)

About Cartography

• … the art, science, and technology of making and using maps

[ICA Strategic Plan 2003–2011]
About Cartography

- the art, science, and technology of making and using maps

Many ‘correct’ design options

Bertin’s Data Analysis
About Cartography

• ...the art, science, and technology of making and using maps

Internet, Displays, Mobile

About Cartography

• ...the art, science, and technology of making and using maps

update coastline

Professionals & Crowd

a to b = 50km

Everyone

The sustainability of the definition

![chart showing the sustainability of the definition of cartography from 1960 to 2020]
The sustainability of the definition

art  science  technology  making  using


International Cartographic Association
Association Cartographique Internationale
The sustainability of the definition


The elasticity of the definition: push and pull by developments

About Cartography

- Do we need a new definition?
- **Not likely**…..
- It is simple and clean, and hype-proof
- Developments will play the elasticity of the chain of keywords

- Debate is always possible:
  - are these the right keywords?
  - what is meaning of the keywords?
  - should it be more extensive?

What about the relation between the definition and activities within ICA over time?

Spatialization of the work of the International Cartographic Society 1993-2013

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Cartography and maps

We do have a definition!

Do we have a definition?

Survey Dresden 2013 / 142 entries

Map

- A map is a symbolised representation of geographical reality, representing selected features or characteristics, resulting from the creative effort of its author’s execution of choices, and is designed for use when spatial relationships are of primary relevance.


Something more simple

- A visual representation of the environment
  - internal (mental maps)
  - external (interface to the world)
The International Map Year [mapyear.org]

WE ❤️ MAPS
INTERNATIONAL MAP YEAR 2015–2016

Changes: Cartography and maps

- Design and create maps that are 'authoritative' and offer insight and support decision making
- Yesterday
  - Filling gaps to present the essence of the message
- Today
  - Retrieve the essence and presented interactively in multiple alternatives allowing the user to interact, change, and ultimately understand

Let's make the world a better place with maps