Welcome to Edition V of our Newsletter. In these articles we are going to shift our focus a bit from the normal GIS routine and give some attention to the monumental efforts by people around the world using GIS to map and support the fight in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A major challenge all Geographic Information System departments face is dissemination of the data we collect; our goal is ensuring that the right person gets the right data at the right time. This has certainly been true over the last several months since this crisis began.

The vast majority of maps created during this pandemic have been interactive, online maps. This is for many reasons, not the least of which is the fluidity of the nature of this disease. Information changes so frequently if you print anything, it could very well be out of date and inaccurate almost immediately.

Understanding What an Interactive Map Is

In its simplest terms an interactive map is like a web site, but it is a map; you can zoom in, zoom out, pan around, and click on features in the map to reveal information about that feature.

Each image in this newsletter is a hyperlink to the source of that image, i.e. an online article or an interactive map. On page 4 we are showcasing the web site “Ohio COVID-19 GIS Data Portal”. It contains many links to information pertaining to the virus, focusing on Ohio.

“Everyone knows that pestilences have a way of recurring in the world; yet somehow we find it hard to believe in ones that crash down on our heads from a blue sky.”

Albert Camus, “The Plague.”
Multiple Sourced Cloud Data

The Cloud refers to software and services that run on the internet, instead of locally on your computer. Most cloud services can be accessed through a web browser such as Firefox, or Google Chrome.

Some examples of cloud services that millions of people worldwide use include Netflix, Apple iCloud, Google Drive, Dropbox, and Microsoft OneDrive. One of the greatest advantages is that you can access your information from any device with an internet connection; and those devices number in the billions worldwide, and now range from computers and smartphones to tablets and refrigerators.

Aerial Photography has a unique set of challenges that must be overcome before they can be made available for viewing online within map applications. First is simply the sheer size of these datasets; our latest are about 180 GB in total. The plan for (the year) 2020 is to seek a contractor that will upload and convert 14 separate datasets equaling a total of 1.3 TB, and make them available for application consumption.

WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard

Data from many sources funneled into one location for easy access

https://covid19.who.int/

World Health Organization

Globally, as of 3:33pm CEST, 14 May 2020, there have been 4,248,389 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 294,046 deaths, reported to WHO.

Confirmed Cases Over Time

4,248,389
confirmed cases

Deaths Over Time

294,046
deaths

US Weekly Unemployment Data

This application features state level unemployment insurance weekly claims data from the United States Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration.

US Bureau of Labor Statistics
What is a Storymap

A StoryMap is an online application that includes map, data, tables, charts, etc. It can include video and many other types of multimedia, but is in essence map centric.

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4fdcd43d3a34aa485de1fb0d2650ee0

“The maps and charts in this story are updated daily. For the latest guidelines on coronavirus prevention and mitigation, please visit the CDC’s or WHO’s information pages“

What is a Dashboard

“A dashboard is a view of geographic information that helps you monitor events or activities. Dashboards are designed to display multiple visualizations that work together on a single screen. They offer a comprehensive and engaging view of your data to provide key insight for at-a-glance decision making.”

COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU)

https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda759470d40299423467b8eef8e831

“An ArcGIS Storyboard is an easy way to engage the power of geography to tell your story and showcase your project.”

“An ArcGIS Dashboard is a simple way to funnel information of a geographic nature, coupled with tables, charts, graphs, etc., into one location. Reminiscent of a dashboard of an airplane or that of a vehicle.”
OGRIP has developed a platform for accessing verified and authoritative data, maps and dashboards pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic in Ohio. If you know of other data that can be added to this site, please send an email to the contact at the bottom of this page. This is a work in progress. Come back often to check for new information.

**Maps and Dashboards**

- Ohio COVID-19 Dashboard
- Johns Hopkins Worldwide COVID-19 Map
- COVID-19 Impacts by Ohio County
- Ohio County case reports relating to COVID-19
- Impact Planning for Counties

There are 8 maps and dashboards available on this page also. These are perhaps most useful to those with no experience in GIS or users that have no need to download any kind of dataset used in any of the maps and portals to the left.

**References**

- Mapping Pandemics at the Library, Neely Tucker
- Coronavirus Outbreak Maps Rooted in History
- WHO
- Clinton County OH GIS Department
- ESRI.com
- Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics