

Ohio GIS Conference, Abstract Submission for Presentation:

Map Distribution: Geo-enabled, Intelligent PDF Maps and Map Books Used Coincidentally with Online Interactive Maps

In this age of interactive maps and access to copious amounts of data, how can one acquire a simple “map”? Sometimes – one just wants a map. Nothing fancy; perhaps I wish to print it; perhaps I wish to save a tree and NOT print it. So, I want it to be of printable quality. I want a legend (unless things are terribly obvious), a title, and a north arrow. I want the data on the map to be of the area in the world in which I am active; if I’m in the middle of Wayne National Forest I have no need to be able to see satellite imagery of the Indian Ocean South West of Australia. (Incidentally that’s the opposite side of the Earth from Wayne National Forest.)

Geo-enabled, intelligent PDF maps are easily created and simple to view on all devices, including smart phones, tablets, and desktop computers. There are free applications that allow those PDF maps to be viewed in the field and enable the user to add data to them, making them far more than just a simple “picture”. The ever present possibility of losing internet connection while using these maps is not an issue; because of their small file size they are easily downloaded to the device being used. For those of us that may be using intelligent PDF maps for fieldwork, or for recreational purposes, a steady internet connection may not be a given.

This presentation will focus on the roots and purpose of a geo-enabled, intelligent PDF map, and how that data is used IN maps and disseminated to the masses.