

## Special Session

### *Session Title*

Empowering Citizen Services with Map/GIS Libraries

### *Organizers*

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### *Scope and rationale*

Geographical information is critical in humans' everyday life as it impacts in economy, politics, environment, land use, medicine, and a range of more activities. In recent years, there has been an increasing trend towards the integration of Maps and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in citizen services. Map/GIS Libraries have been developed mainly in western world after the World War II due to the rapid advances in technology and infrastructures. The use of Map/GIS Libraries' collections and services provides a range of benefits such as improving the accessibility to information, enhancing the user experience and enabling better decision making.

The target of this Special Session is to explore the ways in which Map/GIS Libraries are being used to improve citizens' access to the wide range of information, print and electronic. It will cover various types of Map/GIS services available, including their capabilities.

Overall, this session aims to provide valuable insights into the role of Map/GIS libraries and their potential to transform the way we interact with the geographical information and the multiple geo-platforms. Attendees will have the chance to have a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that Map/GIS libraries are offering and how to integrate them into their own library environment.

The organizers are willing to give their own presentation and to select up to 3-4 more speakers (depending on duration allowed for the session).

### *Papers*

1. *Map/GIS Libraries' collections and services in Greece: challenges and opportunities* by Ifigenia Vardakosta, PhD
2. *E-Routes Project* by Jelena Glisovic
3. *From 'Hidden' to Open Data Services: Enhancing Access to Legacy Data Collections in the AGSL* by Marcy Bidney
4. *Unearthing the cartographic treasures of National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)* by Anastasia Giamali, Stavroula Kouri
5. *The Re-immersion of Cartographic and GIS Services at the University of Pittsburgh Library, 2017-2022* by Boris Michev