

Review and Implications of the AutoCarto Six Retrospective Project

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ABSTRACT

In a previous IJAGR paper, Using the Retrospective Approach to Commemorate AutoCarto Six (Wellar, 2014), I presented the reasons for using a retrospective approach to re-visit papers that were published 30 years ago (1983) in the proceedings of the Sixth International Symposium on Automated Cartography. This paper addresses four important topics that arise from producing AutoCarto Six Retrospective. First, in response to requests for more information about the “retro experience”, the research design of the retrospective project is reviewed in terms of lessons learned. Second, the contribution that the retrospective approach makes to “the literature” on the evolution of automated cartography, geographic information systems, computational geography, and related fields is explored. Third, several implications of the retrospective approach for the literature search and review component of theses, dissertations, academic productions, and research proposals, as well as plan, program, and policy evaluation processes in both the private and public sectors are outlined. And fourth, comments are made about applying the AutoCarto Six Retrospective experience to other commemorative events.

Keywords: Applied Geography, Automated Cartography, Cartography, Derivative Research, Geographic Representations, Geospatial Analysis, GIS, History of Mapping, Information, Literature Search Design, Maps, Mapping Systems, Original Research, Remote Sensing, Research Methods, Retrospective Research Design, Robustness Test, Validation Processes

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