

Project Year

2001

Project Team

Faculty: Erica Schoenberger, Geography & Environmental Engineering, Whiting School of Engineering

Fellow: Rebecca Freeman, Geography & Environmental Engineering, Whiting School of Engineering

Project Title

GIS & Introductory Geography

Audience

Undergraduate students in the *Introduction to Geography* course.

Pedagogical Issue

Geography is an inherently interdisciplinary discipline that incorporates knowledge and methods from the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities to relate social, economic, and environmental processes. Students need repeated practice with geographic information systems (GIS) tools to design maps that integrate data for visualizing geographic concepts. Students need access to credible, well-researched online resources. An additional complication is that many of these introductory classes involve large numbers of students, making one-on-one communication with the faculty difficult.

Solution

This project team proposes to develop an interactive website for the *Introduction to Geography* course. The site will constitute a repository for course information, including links, materials on how to use the Internet for geographic research, and an interactive introduction to GIS through online course projects and assignments. Students will be required to use electronic databases on the Web to pose their questions, and construct their own analyses to answer them. Collaboration and the exchange between students and faculty will be enhanced through electronic communication tools on the course website.

Technologies Used

Web Design, Web CT, ArcView (GIS)