Using GIS To Measure In-Library Book-Use Behavior

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Abstract

This article is an attempt to develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology into an analytical tool for examining the relationships between the height of the bookshelves and the behavior of library readers in utilizing books within a library. The tool would contain a database to store book-use information and some GIS maps to represent bookshelves. Upon analyzing the data stored in the database, different frequencies of book use across bookshelf layers are displayed on the maps. The tool would provide a wonderful means of visualization through which analysts can quickly realize the spatial distribution of books used in a library. This article reveals that readers tend to pull books out of the bookshelf layers that are easily reachable by human eyes and hands, and thus opens some issues for librarians to reconsider the management of library collections.

Full Text:

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References


A. K. Jain, A Statistical Study of Book Use (Ph.D. diss., Purdue University, 1967), 128.


More descriptions about collection arrangements of MacKimmie Library can be found in reference 11, "GIS in the Management of Library Pick-up Books."


McGrath also excluded periodicals from his survey on in-library book use. W. E. McGrath, "Correlating the Subject of Books Taken Out of and Used Within an Openstock Library."

W. S. Pierce, Furnishing the Library Interior.

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Refbacks
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The Wired Library. Using GIS to Assess Public Libraries. by Dilnavaz Mirza Sharma on January 7, 2016. About the Author. For example, GIS can be used to provide a quantitative measure of the social activity taking place within the library. In an article about using GIS to map in-library use, Lauren Mandel gives an example workflow chart for mapping a library’s social activity. Mandel suggests using Microsoft Office suite in conjunction with MapWindow, an open-source GIS tool, to overlay the floor plan of a library building with data points that capture patrons’ use of the space. In order to create such a map, some level of advance planning would be required. By mapping in-library use data, administrators can id