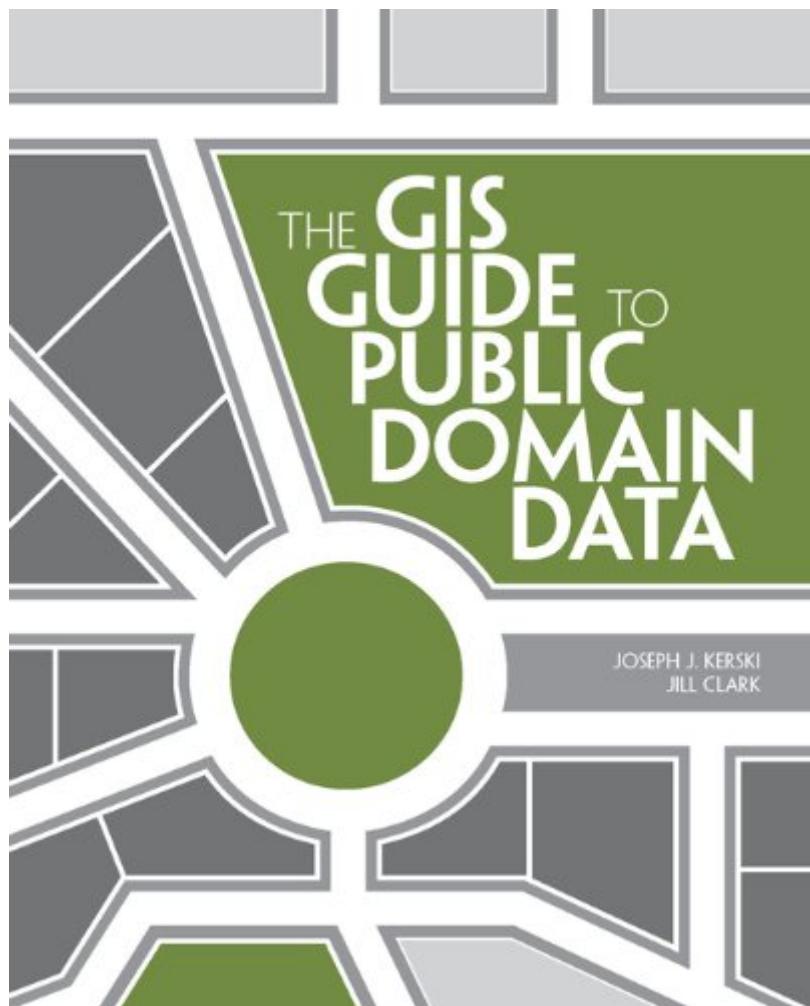


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# The GIS Guide To Public Domain Data



## **Synopsis**

The GIS Guide to Public Domain Data gives users of geographic information systems (GIS) relevant information about the sources and quality of available public domain spatial data. Readers will understand how to find, evaluate, and analyze data to solve location-based problems. This guide covers practical issues such as copyrights, cloud computing, online data portals, volunteered geographic information, and international data. Supplementary exercises are available online to help put the concepts into practice. Students, researchers, and professionals will find The GIS Guide to Public Domain Data a useful desk companion to help them navigate the world of spatial data in the public domain.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a well written, easy to follow book that describes where Public Domain data may be found, issues surrounding data that GIS users need to be aware of (different projections, different metadata standards, different repositories, different copywrite laws etc.). It is very well written, very thorough and will definitely open your mind to sources of GIS data you probably never thought

about... at least, that's what it did for me.

At first the book was a bit of a disappointment. What I wanted was a list of sites I could go to quickly to find data. Then I read a statement to the effect that such sites often change their addresses. True. So my disappointment was tempered a bit. I have not had the time to study the book in detail and so do not really know how to classify it. But it is obvious that it is a book to be studied, as well as a reference. Boy do I know about junk GIS data on the internet. So if this book keeps me from those data, it will be worth the purchase price. In its defense, even though there are not tables of websites for data categories, there are names of organizations which generate public domain data - albeit buried in the text. That information will be helpful. Therefore, the writers could make one valuable change: at the end of each chapter, even though they do not want to give out website addresses, they could at least tabulate the organizations that supply the data mentioned in the chapter for easy reference.

Well written and the exercises are great

This book is different from most GIS books and that is what makes it an important resource. Rather than a how-to book on obtaining and using certain data sets, this book focuses on more high level issues. Among the most important issues covered in this book are the licensing and legal aspects of using widely available spatial data. This is a topic that many GIS users ignore at their own peril. (Ask anyone who has received a cease and desist order from Google.) The book also addresses the fast evolving trends of crowd sourced data (or volunteered geographic information), big data, and mashups. The authors should be applauded for their efforts on these topics. However by the very nature of these topics, the printed material on them will soon be out of date. Keeping up with the warp speed changes in the world of big data, real time mobile mashups, and crowd sourcing is a daunting task and perhaps one better left to blogs and web sites than printed books. The same point can be made about the major sources of public domain data. The authors do highlight many of these, but any such coverage is bound to be incomplete. Nonetheless, the reader is led to some interesting sources of global information. More importantly, the reader is presented with a set of provocative questions concerning the acquisition and use of public domain data. Although this book is published by ESRI press, it is not over "ArcGIS-centric". However, I would have liked to have seen some discussion of some of the public domain spatial data software that exists. Perhaps a nice companion book for this would be a GIS guide to public domain software (free and open

source).

This book is OUTSTANDING and it fills a big void in the literature and guides to find and properly use public domain data. Very well written, clear and to the point. Full of very helpful information. A must have for any GIS professional, student or professor. The information provided truly helps the reader to become a critical user of public domain data and to question its provenance, quality and appropriate use. I will assign it in my introductory and advanced GIS courses when requiring students to collect geospatial data for their class projects or research work. As stated in the Preface, it is now easier than ever to find and use data, but also to misuse it. This book really helps to put public domain data in context and avoid common pitfalls. Highly recommended.

This is an essential reference source both for practicing GIS users seeking to navigate the often confusing morass of data available, and for students just building their awareness of what can be done with GIS. Much more than just a catalog, Kerski and Clark give the needed background on data types, quality considerations, ways out get the most out of metadata, and other important issues. Worthy of space on your geo-bookshelf and on your syllabus!

Joseph Kerski and Jill Clark have done a great service bringing together so many disparate sources of map layers together in one place. The organization is logical. The cautions in the use of the data discussed are valid and helpful. The scope is entirely appropriate. Excellent

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