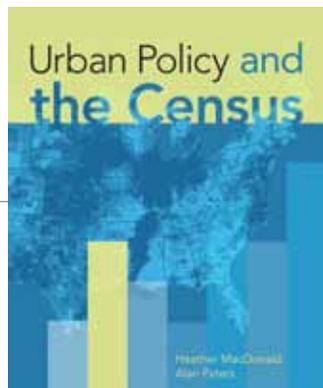


Making Sense of Census Data



With the release of the 2010 census data and the ongoing American Community Survey (ACS), the amount of demographic, housing, economic, and transportation data available

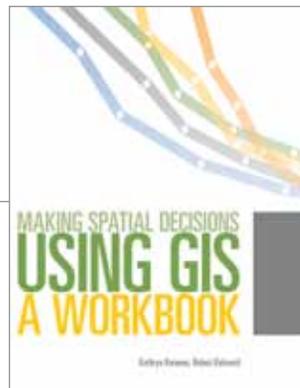
describing the United States and its citizenry is vast. However, transforming this census data into meaningful information that can form the basis of good decisions is an increasingly challenging task for government policy makers.

Urban Policy and the Census supplies both background and practical advice on using census data. It also addresses the special challenges inherent in spatial data and the characteristics of specific census datasets. Some data, previously collected using the familiar decennial Census of Population and Housing, is now gathered on a more frequent basis using ACS. Rather than a snapshot of the data on a specific date, ACS data represents a rolling average, providing improved timeliness at a cost in precision. This trade-off is most acutely felt when census data is used at the local level. To use ACS and other census data intelligently requires a greater understanding of how the data was produced and its limitations.

While the audience for this book extends from researchers and policy makers to college students and academics, it can benefit anyone who would like a better understanding of this important part of the nation's information infrastructure. This book provides a solid introduction to the data, insights into how it can be correctly interpreted, and methods for effectively communicating the information derived from it. Study design examples also demonstrate how to incorporate administrative data with census data.

The authors, Heather MacDonald and Alan Peters, previously collaborated on *Unlocking the Census with GIS*, released in 2004. MacDonald, a former associate professor in the urban and regional planning program at the University of Iowa, is a senior lecturer and course director of planning in the School of the Built Environment at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia. Peters is a professor of the built environment at the University of New South Wales. Peters previously held the positions of professor and chair of urban and regional planning at both the University of Sydney and the University of Iowa. Esri Press, 2011, 240 pp., ISBN-13: 978-1589482227

Learning Skills to Solve Challenging Problems



The lessons in the second edition of *Making Spatial Decisions Using GIS: A Workbook* reflect the work performed by GIS professionals because they focus on using a workflow that revolves around the

problem-solving process. Unlike other GIS books that include exercises, this book explains not only how to use GIS but also how to accomplish useful work with GIS. Its focus on identifying the problem to be solved, working systematically, documenting processes, and evaluating the work produced makes it more valuable than many other tutorial books.

The exercises are grouped around the use of GIS for local decision making relating to emergencies, understanding demographics, law enforcement analysis and planning, hurricane response, and urban planning. In each section, two projects are supplied by the authors, and the third will be supplied by the student. Each section can stand on its own, so modules can be assigned or worked in any order.

This book assumes a basic understanding of ArcGIS 10. A DVD containing data for the exercises and instructor resources is included. A 180-day trial of ArcGIS 10 for Desktop can be downloaded to work the exercises.

The first edition of this book, part of the Our World GIS Education series published by Esri Press, won the 2008 Geographic Excellence in Media award from the National Council for Geographic Education.

The authors, Kathryn Keranen and Robert Kolvoord, have extensive experience teaching this topic. Keranen, a retired teacher who was instrumental in introducing GPS, GIS, and remote sensing into the geosystems curriculum in Fairfax County, Virginia, schools, is currently a private consultant, an authorized K-12 Esri instructor, and adjunct professor at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Kolvoord is a professor of integrated science and technology at James Madison University. At the University of Arizona, he was a founder of the nonprofit Center for Image Processing in Education. He has given workshops and presentations around the world on using data visualization technology in education. Esri Press, 2011, 172 pp., ISBN-13: 978-1589482807

