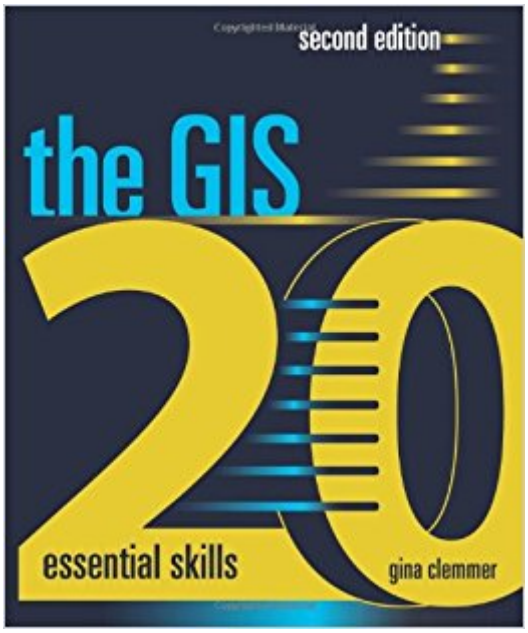
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The GIS 20: Essential Skills



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Synopsis

The GIS 20: Essential Skills presents step-by-step instructions, illustrations, and practical tips on how to perform the top twenty skills needed to successfully use a geographic information system (GIS). These skills include finding and editing data, querying GIS maps, creating reports, and sharing and publishing your maps. The second edition offers nine bonus topics to further advance your skills, exercise data on the accompanying DVD, and ArcGIS 10.1 for Desktop software (180-day use) to work through the exercises.

Book Information

Series: The GIS 20

Paperback: 165 pages

Publisher: Esri Press; 2 edition (August 29, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1589483227

ISBN-13: 978-1589483224

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 45 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,498 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Cartography #572 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Reference #923 inÃ Â Books > Travel

Customer Reviews

Gina Clemmer, president of the research and training company New Urban Research, Inc., has trained thousands of new GIS users from across the United States. Clemmer holds a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Iowa.

I purchased the book to study for a upcoming test. I had planned to finish it in 5 days. I was surprised to see that it was not a long book and easily finished it in 4. The book is well written and laid out with just the right amount of color here and there. That is, it is not garish and hard to look at but rather inviting. The illustrations are very good. The chapters are concise and to the point. Chapter 8 caused some problems though and therefore I was unable to do the problem. Nevertheless, because of the quality of writing, the fact that it is not long and overly detailed, it is an excellent quick reference. I will keep it and refer to it from time to time, knowing that I will not have to

kill a whole day to review some basic procedures.

This book is useful for individuals who are have some GIS training but are still beginners. The book is also useful for more advanced users who need to brush up on the the skills they have not used in a while. This is one of the few GIS books I have found that goes over the steps for uploading an Excel file into ArcMap. The book also providers excellent information on incorporating the U.S. census data into one's GIS research or project. I am a PhD student in Geography who has spent hundreds of hours in front of the computer analyzing data in ArcMap, but I still forget some of the most basic GIS procedures; this book has helped me tremendously during the times when I can't remember information learned during my introductory GIS classes. I highly recommend this book if you are a student who has been asked to complete an independent GIS project. This book can help you get started and fill in some of the basic GIS principles that may not have been covered in your lectures. I gave the book 4 stars instead of 5 because the book lacks and index as well as information on other GIS references (non ESRI references) and/or helpful GIS related websites. Lastly, the book is approximately 1/2 in - 3/4 in thick and light weight, which makes this book easy to transport.

I took a GIS course in college in 2004. Since then I haven't used it much and when I have, it's been for very basic tasks, like plotting a single point or viewing a project that someone else created. I purchased this book when I needed to do a bit more with GIS for a project I was working on. I found that completing the exercises in the book was really helpful for refreshing my memory on how the software works, as well as for acclimating me to the newer version.My only real complaint about the book is that it lacks an index. Since multiple tasks are embedded in one "essential skill" within the book, it was sometimes difficult to figure out where I had seen instructions for performing a task if I needed to do it in some other context. Thus, although this book is good for talking you through the 20 skills, expect to do a bit of page-flipping and growling if you are trying to apply the concepts to other skills and need to refer back to a specific task.That being said, I think this book is great as a refresher course for those who need to get acquainted with updated software and as a reference for performing the 20 essential skills it is focused on. I felt it was well worth the price!

When I tried to authorize ArcMap with the number provided in the book, ArcGIS Administrator complained: "Authorization denied because request would have exceeded max copies for the following authorization number(s)." even though I bought the book brand new... so much for

that.The book itself is OK, but you can find similar information online.

The book is laid out in lessons on a single skill. The lessons show just how easy GIS can be. It is likely to be a useful reference for things like geocoding in the future. However, the instructions for getting census data are already out of date (they anticipated this and provide the data in a CD), and the fundamentals are like what are the different reference systems, when or how would you know which one a map is, etc. are not in the book. This is strictly a reference book for specific skills, not a learn everything you need book. Generally, it's what I was looking for and has proved useful.

Although the title uses GIS, this book is only directed at ArcGIS desktop. The book was written for version 10, but works well with version 9.3.It is a good review for those that have not used ArcGIS for a while, or those familiar with version 9.3 and need to transition to version 10. The 20 skills are introductory to intermediate and do not cover more advanced skills. For those using the text as a bridge to version 10, this should be enough to make the transition. It was for me.I would highly recommend this book to anyone making the transition to version 10. The local university is using this book as a text for a special topic course for those students that are near the end of their certification. Up to this point they have used version 9.3 and want to transition to version 10 to improve their resumes.

This book is for beginners. I was hoping to learn a few new tricks or explore some seldom used aspects of ArcMap. This was a poor choice for that goal. I recommend this book for novices who may use ArcMap for a small portion of their job and want to become familiar with the main uses of the program. I would not recommend this book for anyone who uses ArcMap extensively or needs to know anything beyond the basics. The book is very easy to understand and all of the exercises I tried worked. I enjoyed going through it, but was left wanting more.

I ordered this book to get a better understanding of what skills really matter in today's GIS workflow. The book arrived quickly and was in perfect condition. Great supplement to the GIS Tutorial 1 book from ESRI. This title has much better step by step instructions and also refers you back to sections that are required in later chapters if you forgot how to complete something. I highly recommend it to anyone just starting in GIS or someone who is thinking of getting into GIS.

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