

Topic/Title:

Learning open-source GIS software via distance learning

Organization:

MEDRIX, Redmond, WA

Contact Name:

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Personnel from organization to be involved:

Robert Catherman

Data available:

Curriculum for learning QGIS and sample data files

Recent experience of lessons-learned from training conducted in Vietnam (Feb-Mar 2013)

Project Description:

MEDRIX has developed an English language curriculum for learning and using QGIS (open source GIS software) that is now delivered partly via internet and partly through classroom contact. Several tests by individuals have been completed and curriculum modifications have been made. In February and March of 2013, MEDRIX will use this curriculum in a formal training class taught in English for 13 health care professionals in Vietnam in how to use GIS for supporting management of health care incidents and programs.

GEOG 469 students will complete the curriculum using ONLY internet resources and interactions and provide feedback to MEDRIX identifying and improving areas of the curriculum that require adjustment to work effectively in a distance-learning-only environment.

Expected benefits to organization:

Expand MEDRIX GIS training opportunities worldwide to include anyone with internet access and English reading skills.

Expected benefits to students:

Gain experience using open source QGIS software

Gain experience in teaching GIS skills to others

Understand the challenges and propose solutions for training via internet