Geog 469 Project Proposal, Spring, 2013

Topic/Title:
A Spatial History of the University of Washington

Organization:
Office of the University Architect

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Personnel from organization to be involved:
Jeffrey Linn

Data available:

- Tabular data:
  - UW building history database
- Vectorized data:
  - UW buildings, 1895—2013.
  - U-District streets & blocks (not including campus), 1997, 1976, 1960, 1930, 1920
  - Campus paths & roads, 1911, 1920, 1929
- Georeferenced raster maps:
  - 1856 survey (rough)
  - 1891 campus plan
  - 1898 campus plan
  - 1900 campus general survey
  - 1908 USGS quad
  - A variety of AYPE (1909) maps, of varying quality
  - 1911 campus survey (post-AYPE)
  - 1920 campus map
  - 1929 campus map
  - 1936 campus map
  - 1949 campus map
  - 1949 aerials
  - 1957 campus map
  - 1960 campus map
  - 1962 campus map
  - 1968 campus survey
  - 1977 campus survey
  - Floor plans of various historical campus buildings (where additions have been made)
  - Conceptual campus plans 1912-1962
- Non-georeferenced raster maps
  - 1940 aerials
  - 1912 conceptual plan
  - UW Libraries and MOHAI undoubtedly have a large number of historical maps that we haven’t discovered.

Project Description:

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The 150-year history of the University of Washington is relatively short, yet surprisingly rich. Since the founding of the University in 1861, many historical events have subtly or dramatically changed the form of the University and its environs. The move to the current Seattle campus, the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition, World Wars I and II, changes in transportation technology have all created the campus and neighborhood where we currently live, work and study.

This project will focus on creating historical GIS data for the University of Washington Seattle campus. There are a variety of needs for this project, which could include the creation of 3d buildings and topography, campus paths and roads, streetcars and hydrography. The research process may include searching for historical documents, reconciling sometimes contradictory information, and georeferencing raster maps and various photo records, including aerial photos. Data processing will require the capture, clean-up and population of vector topo lines from raster maps, and organization of information into appropriate data structures. The final project will integrate a variety of data themes to create a cohesive historical narrative for the University of Washington and the University District at various points in time between 1861 and 2013.

Expected benefits to organization:

The University of Washington would benefit from the development of a comprehensive GIS history.

Expected benefits to students:

The students would benefit by gaining experience in historical research, georeferencing of raster maps, generating vector products from raster sources, creating 3d data and environments, and organizing spatial data into appropriate structures.