



Bachelor- or Master thesis

Topic: Assessing the potential of web 2.0 volunteered geographic information in social networks for the crowdsourcing platform “geo-wiki.org”

Background:

In recent years, volunteered geographic information has become a major source of open information in a mobile society, spanning different thematic areas like e.g. common mapping (OpenStreetMap), emergency and crisis response (ushahidi) or in global landcover validation like geo-wiki.org. The Geo-Wiki Project[0] is a global network of volunteers who wish to help improve the quality of global land cover maps, maintained by IIASA[1], FHWN[2] and FELIS[3]. Basis for the assessment are local knowledge, aerial photographs and satellite derived land cover classification. However, in remote areas, information from these sources may be rather poor. Geo-wiki intends to enhance the information available for these areas by harnessing additional georeferenced information which is becoming available via web 2.0: social media like e.g. panoramio, youtube, twitter and flickr allow to georeference their media by coordinates and tagging by specific keywords, making it a potential source of additional information for the assessment of global landcover.



fig.1 web2.0-broker flickr point cloud in geowiki

Objective:

Assess the potential use of georeferenced information in social media by integrating and testing the „web2.0 broker“ (developed by L. Diaz et al, [4]) in geo-wiki.org. Test and develop appropriate keywords to filter the plethora of web 2 information available and to extract information which is tailored to improve information on land cover. For a master thesis, assess multilingual taxonomies used in social networks to tag media covering land cover as a topic.

Requirements: Since this work is embedded in an international research co-operative, thesis in English.

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[0] <http://geo-wiki.org>

[1] <http://iiasa.ac.at>

[2] <http://www.fhwn.ac.at>

[3] <http://www.felis.uni-freiburg.de>

[4] http://www.geotec.uji.es/?page_id=682