

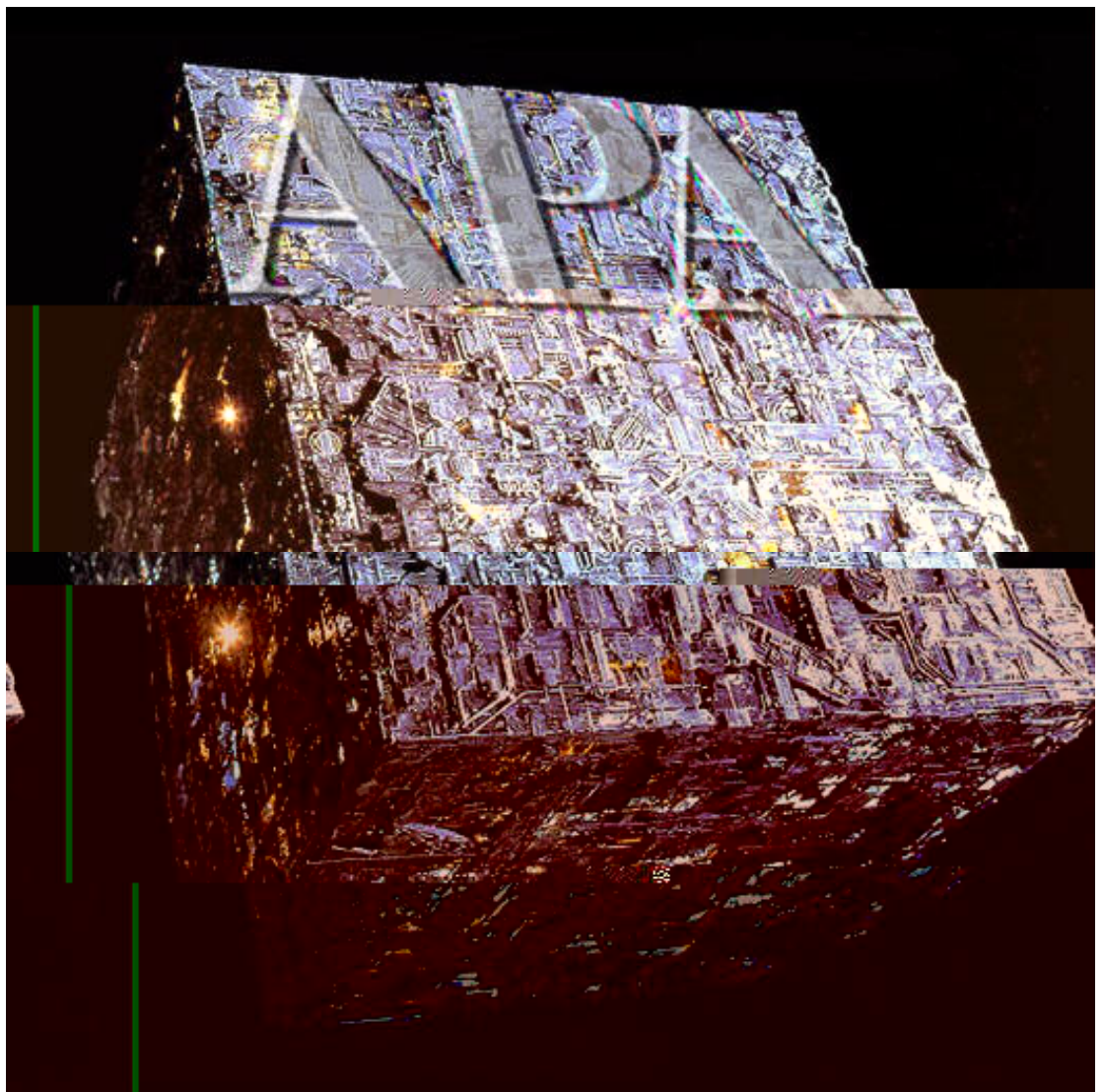
INFOTEXT

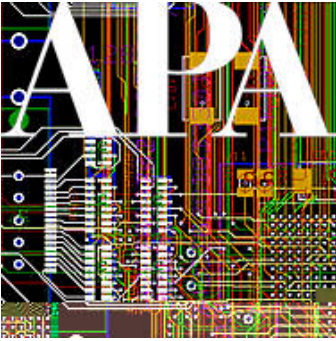
Information Technology Division of the American Planning Association
Summer 2004 Issue 80

Planning Support Systems

APA Contents

Message from the Chair	2
Call for Nominations	4
Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace	4
Call for Sessions	5
Using Planning Support Software in Rural Land Use Planning	6
Zen Computer	7
E-government for Citizen Participation	8
IT Core Skills	11
Sharepoint vs. PhProjekt	11
Top 10 PowerPoint Pointers	12
IT Core Skills	13
Disconnected Urbanism	14
Innovative Telecom Regulation	15





<http://apait.cyberbia.org>

CHAIR

Christopher Steins

CEO

URBAN INSIGHT

421 North Vista Street

Los Angeles CA 90036

Tel (323) 966-4540

Fax (323) 966-4544

Email steins@urbaninsight.com

Web www.urbaninsight.com

Web www.planetizen.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER

David Phillips

Professor

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Charlottesville VA 22903

Tel 804/982-2196

Fax 804/982-2678

Email dlp@virginia.edu

Web www.virginia.edu

EDITOR

Ric Stephens

Planning Director

AEI•CASC CONSULTING

937 South Via Lata #500

Colton CA 92324

Tel 909/783-0101

Fax 909/783-0108

Email rstephens@aei-casc.com

Web www.aei-casc.com

Message from the Chair

By Chris Steins



had the

opportunity to meet over 50 InfoTech Division members during the course of the APA national conference April 24-28, 2004 in

Washington D.C. Thank you to all those who took the time to introduce yourself and chat.

The annual Division Business and Network Reception on Monday evening was a great success, with 18 InfoTech members participating. Among the highlights of the meeting:

Research Chair **David Simpson**, Ph.D., AICP, provided a status report and update on the Division's nationwide benchmarking study of how public sector planning agencies are using technology.

Scott Grams, GISCI Certification Manager, provided an overview of how URISA's new GIS certification was developed and how it applies to planners. Long-time InfoTech member

Susan Stoddard will chair a new subcommittee to research and evaluate how to elevate "Technology" as a category for the APA's annual national awards category. **Mike Gritz**, AICP, and **David Simpson**, Ph.D., AICP, will serve as subcommittee members.

There were a wide variety of great technology sessions at the conference. Among my favorites: Computer-Based Decision-Support and Visualization

Strategies

<http://www.planning.org/conferencecoverage/2004/saturday/gissession.htm>

3-D Interactive Visualization
<http://www.planning.org/conferencecoverage/2004/sunday/3D.htm>

Next Year's Conference

We're already planning the Technology sessions for next year's conference, to be held in San Francisco, CA, March 19-23. Conference Chair **Ken Snyder**, AICP, will be organizing the Division's sessions, and proposals are due on July 28, 2004. Because of the short timeline for planning, you already received an email from Ken inviting our ideas and comments about the sessions. (If you didn't get the email from Ken, then we don't have your current email address, and you should update it here with APA: <http://www.planning.org/membersonly/>.) However, Ken is always open to suggestions about next year's sessions – contact him at: ken@placematters.us. [See page 5]

Technology Skills

One of APA's major efforts over the next two years is to define the roles and responsibilities of professional planners. To support this effort and to ensure that technology is well represented, Education Chair **Mike Gritz**, AICP, is leading InfoTech's efforts to identify technology skills that a planner should have. Please see the discussion of this effort on page 11). He has established a project website for this effort: www.APA-itsskills.org.

Officer Nominations

It's hard to believe that it's already time to begin thinking about officer elections, but April, 2005 is almost

here. **Milton Ospina**, **Jennifer Cowley**, Ph.D. and **David Phillips**, Ph.D. will form the nominating committee, as required by our By Laws. If you would like to nominate an InfoTech member for a leadership position, nominations are due by November, 2004. Please see the Call for Nominations on page 4 for more information.

Technology Tools Audio Seminar

Thanks to Conference Chair **Ken Snyder** and Education Chair **Mike Gritz**, AICP for planning of the Division's first audio training on "Technologies for Planning and Public Participation." This 90-minute training has been accepted for inclusion in APA's training agenda for 2005. The training will provide an overview of a variety of leading technology tools for community design and decision making that you may want to integrate into your own community to improve your decision making processes and the outcome of your decisions.

Division Evaluation

On a more administrative level, Divisions are now required to submit annual reports, workplans and budgets for evaluation by the APA Division's Council against a set of Division Performance Standards. The InfoTech Division's evaluation was positive, with the Council commending the Division on the creation of its 10-point plan, and on the Division's ability to quickly recover from the unexpected leadership transition that occurred in October, 2003.

InfoTech Website

InfoTech members **Lyle Hornbaker** and **Harsh Prakash** answered the call in the last newsletter to assist with managing the InfoTech website at www.apa-it.org based on the content management system infrastructure put in place by Website Chair **Dan Tasman**, AICP. The website team now includes Lyle and Harsh, as well as Communication Chair **Milton Ospina** and Education Chair, **Mike Gritz**, AICP.

Finally, I want to offer a special thanks to APA's Senior Research Associate **Sanjay Jeer**, AICP. Many members will recall Sanjay's long-time support for the InfoTech Division. Sanjay stepped down from his position with APA in May, 2004. We're sorry to see him go, but wish him well in his future endeavors.

If you've been thinking about getting more involved in the Division, there is no better time than now. We're moving quickly, and there's plenty of opportunity for you to get involved in a meaningful way. If you are interested, contact me, and we'll determine where you can effectively devote your efforts.

*Chris Steins, Chair
APA Information Technology
Division
steins@urbaninsight.com
CEO, Urban Insight, Inc.
Editor, Planetizen*



Officers



RESEARCH CHAIR
David M. Simpson, PhD, AICP
Professor
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
University of Louisville,
Kentucky
dave.simpson@louisville.edu

WEBSITE CHAIR
Dan Tasman
Senior Planner
LAKE COUNTY OHIO and
Founder
CYBURBIA
dan.tasman@cyurbia.org

POLICY CHAIR
Joe DiStefano, AICP
Associate
CALTHORPE ASSOCIATES
E-mail joed@calthorpe.com

EDUCATION CHAIR
Mike Gritz
GIS Coordinator
CITY OF LAS VEGAS
mgritz@lasvegasnevada.gov

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR
Milton Ospina
Urban & Regional Planning
and Economic
Development Solutions
Manager
ESRI
mospina@esri.com

InfoTEXT Themes & Deadlines

Issue	Theme	Articles Due	Issue Received
Fall, 2004	Public Participation GIS	9/15/04	10/15/04
Winter 2004/5	To be determined	12/15/04	1/15/05

If you are considering writing an article for a future issue, please contact the InfoTEXT editor in advance of the editorial deadline. Articles received after the deadline will be considered for the following issue.



Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace
By Dr. Betty Toole

Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace, was one of the most picturesque characters in computer history.

Augusta Ada Byron was born December 10, 1815 the daughter of the illustrious poet, Lord Byron. Five weeks after Ada was born Lady Byron asked for a separation from Lord Byron, and was awarded sole custody of Ada who she brought up to be a mathematician and scientist. Lady Byron was terrified that Ada might end up being a poet like her father. Despite Lady Byron's programming Ada did not sublimate her poetical inclinations. She hoped to be "an analyst and a metaphysician". In her 30's she wrote her mother, if you can't give me poetry, can't you give me "poetical science?" Her understanding of mathematics was laced with imagination, and described in metaphors.

At the age of 17 Ada was introduced to [Mary Somerville](#), a remarkable woman who translated LaPlace's works into

(Continued on page 5)

Call for Nominations

Information Technology Division Leadership

The Information Technology Bylaws call for the creation of a nominating committee to elect new leadership positions. This nominating committee was established at the 2004 Information Technology Division Business Meeting at the 2004 APA conference in Washington D.C.

Nominating Committee Members:

Milton Ospina (mospina@esri.com)

Jennifer Cowley, Ph.D.

(cowley.11@osu.edu)

David Phillips, Ph.D.

(dip@virginia.edu)

If you would like to nominate someone, or yourself, for one of the current positions, please contact the members of the nominating committee.

Timeline:

July, 2004: Creation of Nomination Committee

November, 2004: Nominations published

January, 2005: Elections held

February, 2005: New positions announced

Elected positions currently up for election:

Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary/Treasurer

Appointed Positions:

(The following positions are appointed by the Chair)

Communications Chair
Conference Chair
Education Chair
Newsletter Editor
Policy Chair
Website Chair

Chair Position Description

Oversee and managed APA Information Technology Division activities, including participation in national leadership events and conference calls. This position requires a time commitment of approximately 8-12 hours per month.

Responsibilities

Attendance at the annual Division Council meeting and other leadership

events

Attendance at the annual APA Conference

Attendance at the annual mid-winter leadership retreat are mandatory

Participate in regular conference calls with InfoTech leadership and members

Develop content and prepare quarterly columns for InfoTEXT newsletter

Preparation of annual division performance reports

Ensuring Division compliance with annual performance criteria

Preparation of an annual budget

Interact with national APA staff on a variety of issues

Qualifications:

5+ years involvement in both planning (or related field) and technology

5+ years membership in APA Experience in a leadership role with a volunteer organization

Strong familiarity with Internet technologies

National network of contacts involved in planning and technology

Availability to participate in national conference and mid-winter leadership retreat

Vice Chair Position Description

The role of the Vice Chair is to provide support and redundancy to the Chair, and be prepared to assume the position of Chair upon the conclusion of the Chair's term. This position requires a commitment of approximately 6-8 hours per month.

Secretary/Treasurer Position Description

The Treasurer receives and disburses Division funds, maintains financial records which can be audited, prepares an annual financial report which shall be sent to the APA staff, and assures that all required filings are sent to the APA staff.



Call for Sessions

2005 National Conference

Information Technology Division Leadership

Hello APA Technology Division Members,

Can you believe we're starting to plan for the 2005 National Planning Conference/San Francisco already? Each APA Division is responsible for developing and preparing two session proposals for the conference. Over the course of the next few weeks the APA Technology Division Board will be working on developing session topics and begin to recruit potential speakers. We are looking for session topics that advance the mission of the Technology Division. We welcome your comments and suggestions in this exploratory phase. Below is a list of session formats allowed at the conference:

Traditional Two to Three-Speaker Panel

The optimal number of speakers for a panel is two, and the maximum is three with a moderator. Keep in mind that in a 75-minute session, three speakers would have only 20 minutes each with the remaining time devoted to moderator's comments and Q&A. Session proposals that present a complete overview of a topic are the ideal type of proposal. Sessions should provide a variety of perspectives. APA is looking for multi-faceted discussions.

Moderated Discussion

Have the moderator break the session in short units of 3-7 minutes. The moderator will ask a question of each speaker, who will have 3-7 minutes to respond. The moderator will pass out note cards to the audience and ask the members to write their questions on the card and pass them up to the front

to the moderator. After 15-20 minutes, the moderator will stop the speakers and read one or more of the questions on the note cards out loud. Then the moderator will ask one of the speakers to respond. After each Q&A segment, the moderator will return to the pre-programmed questions directed to various speakers.

Debate

Have a good, disciplined moderator conduct a debate. Two or more speakers, with differing points of view, would act as the debaters. Questions can be given to the debaters by the moderator or a panel. Several times during the debate, the moderator could turn to the audience to ask for questions or comments.

Clinic

The emphasis in the session is on interaction among participants. The moderator/speaker and facilitators conduct the session. The moderator speaker introduces the session with a short introduction to the topic and then explains how the session will be run. Participants then break into groups. Topics for the groups are selected by the moderator and the facilitators. Each group discussion is facilitated by a facilitator recruited ahead of time. The last 15 minutes of the session are devoted to reports from the groups on key points that the discussants have agreed upon.

Send us your comments by July 15th to **Ken Snyder**, our Session Proposal Coordinator, at ken@placematters.us.

Sincerely,
The APA Technology Division



March 19-23, 2005

(Continued from page 4)
English, and whose texts were used at Cambridge. Though Mrs. Somerville encouraged Ada in her mathematical studies, she also attempted to put mathematics and technology into an appropriate human context. It was at a dinner party at Mrs. Somerville's that Ada heard in November, 1834, Babbage's ideas for a new calculating engine, the Analytical Engine. He conjectured: what if a calculating engine could not only foresee but could act on that foresight. Ada was touched by the "universality of his ideas". Hardly anyone else was.

Babbage worked on plans for this new engine and reported on the developments at a seminar in Turin, Italy in the autumn of 1841. An Italian, Menabrea, wrote a summary of what Babbage described and published an article in French about the development. Ada, in 1843, married to the Earl of Lovelace and the mother of three children under the age of eight, translated Menabrea's article. When she showed Babbage her translation he suggested that she add her own notes, which turned out to be three times the length of the original article. Letters between Babbage and Ada flew back and forth filled with fact and fantasy. In her article, published in 1843, Lady Lovelace's prescient comments included her predictions that such a machine might be used to compose complex music, to produce graphics, and would be used for both practical and scientific use. She was correct. When inspired Ada could be very focused and a mathematical taskmaster. Ada

(Continued on page 10)



Using Planning Support Software in Rural Land Use Planning

By:

Jeffrey Hamerlinck, Research Scientist and Associate Director, Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center

Diana Hulme, Assistant Director, Ruckelshaus Institute for Environment and Natural Resources

Scott Lieske, Research Scientist, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Mary Randolph, Executive Director, Wyoming Rural Development Council



Caffine Machine

Commercial products and private companies in **InfoTEXT** are not sponsored or endorsed by the American Planning Association Information Technology Division. They are provided for information and entertainment.

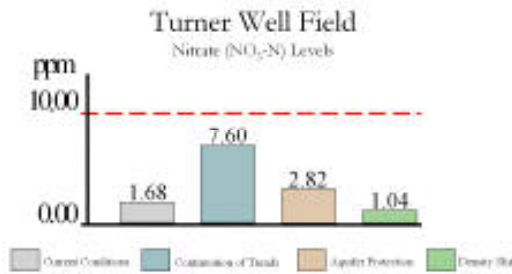
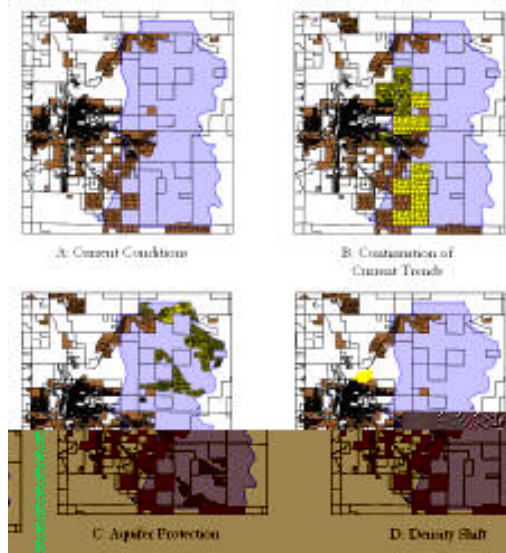
ity and county planners in the rural West face growing challenges with accelerated development and sprawl-promoting land-use practices in and around their communities. Issues range from traffic congestion and increased cost of community services to loss of productive agricultural land and open space. Understaffed and under-funded, most rural planning offices are ill-equipped to properly evaluate proposed land-use activities or to explore and propose alternative scenarios which can promote economic development while preserving quality of life. Recently, computer-based decision-support technologies have been explored as one set of tools for assisting planning professionals and local elected officials. Many of these tools are focused on “place-based” decision making, using the mapping and spatial analysis capabilities of geographic information systems (GIS) to better inform decision makers. These *planning support systems* are unique in their focus on planning needs and the land-use planning process, providing tools for modeling, analysis and design, as well as communication, visualization, and information dissemination.

The Wyoming CommunityViz Partnership was established in 2002 to promote the use of GIS-based planning support systems and related decision support technologies in community

land-use planning and economic development activities in the state. The focus of the partnership centers on the implementation and use of GIS-based planning tools from CommunityViz. Developed by the Orton Family Foundation of Rutland, Vermont, CommunityViz software bridges the gap between complex modeling and communication.

In June 2002, the Partnership initiated a three-phase plan to promote the use of planning software in Wyoming. Phase I consisted of a joint city/county aquifer protection plan for the City of Laramie and Albany County that served as a “proof of concept,” demonstrating how planning support software could be incorporated into the planning process. The project also identified potential challenges for broader adoption of this type of software, including digital geospatial data requirements, computing infrastructure, and technological expertise.

In 2002/2003, the City of Laramie and Albany County approved an overlay zone based on the *Casper Aquifer Protection Plan*. The Casper Aquifer is the primary groundwater source of drinking water for the City of Laramie, supplying approximately 50% of the city’s drinking water. **In order to determine possible impacts of the plan**, the project analyzed future land-use scenarios in the vicinity of municipal well fields and groundwater recharge areas and their impacts on water quality and related



resource indicators. Four scenarios were created: (1) current conditions; (2) continuation of existing trends; (3) aquifer protection; and (4) density shift. Each future scenario represented a different pattern of development and provided a way of quantifying impacts and informing decision makers about the implications of a particular planning approach on the aquifer re-charge area.

The current conditions scenario was based on data from the year 2000. Future scenarios reflected development patterns and growth impacts in the year 2050. Residential development within the aquifer protection area increased at an annual rate of 2.5% between 1990 and 2000. The 2.5% growth rate would, over

the course of the planning horizon, amount to an increase of 1,331 new residences in the aquifer protection area. In the **continuation of existing trends scenario**, development continues on the western edge of the aquifer protection area due to suitability of soils for building, favorable slopes, and proximity to the city. The **aquifer protection scenario** is based on recommendations found in the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan. In this scenario, development impacts on vulnerable features (such as faults, hydrological features, etc.) are mitigated through careful placement of new residences on the landscape. In the **density shift scenario**, projected subdivisions are clustered completely outside the Aquifer Protection Area. Such developments concentrate demand for city services and amenities, lowering infrastruc-

ture costs while keeping development away from environmentally sensitive areas.

Results were measured quantitatively by examining both water quality (summarizing the pollution implication of nitrates due to septic system failure) and water quantity (the amount of water used by the community). Although the emphasis was on groundwater protection, land-use decisions rarely are made on a single issue. In total, nine indicators were evaluated. Results were summarized in a "report card" for how each scenario performed relative to these indicators. In addition, the planning support software provided the capability to "visualize"

	Continue Trends	Aquifer Plan	Density Shift
Quantity of Water	Yellow	Red	Green
Quality of Water	Red	Yellow	Green
Local Tax Revenues	Red	Yellow	Green
Municipal Expenditures	Yellow	Red	Green
Traffic Impacts	Red	Yellow	Green
Vertebrate Species Distribution	Red	Yellow	Green
Recreation Access	Green	Yellow	Red
Visual Sensitivity	Yellow	Red	Green
Riparian Coincidence	Red	Yellow	Green

LEGEND
 Red: Worst
 Yellow: Medium
 Green: Best

the impacts of possible future alternatives on the landscape, using 2D maps and 3D images.

Building on the success of the Phase I demonstration project, the Partnership is continuing to build capacity for planning support system use with a series of projects targeting specific planning issues in Cheyenne (exurban growth), Sheridan (historic downtown design) and Worland (business park development). For more information, please visit the Part-



nership's web site at www.vygcsc.uvwyo.edu/dss.



Zen Computer Dojo
http://www.mauie.net/~zen_gtr/zcindex.html

The Zen Computer Dojo is a place on the Internet for anyone who wants to learn and has wisdom to teach. Based on the spirit and principles of the Japanese *dojo*, it seeks to create a participatory community of people willing to help each other learn and, in a broader sense, raise the human spirit in a technological age. Whether you bookmark this site and find it worth returning to again and again depends in large part on how interesting a place you, and we collectively, decide to make it. *Dojo* is a Japanese word usually translated as "school" or "training hall," but literally means "Place of the Way"—the great Way of life that governs the universe. As such, the term has a spiritual connotation. It is through participation in the *dojo* that one follows the path of self-cultivation.

What makes a *dojo* special is not its location or physical characteristics, but one's behavior in it. A *dojo* can be anywhere, even cyberspace. What's essential is a group of participants willing to work in the spirit of self- and mutual respect..

Jennifer Evans-Cowley is an Assistant Professor in City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University and Planning Education at a Distance Program Director <<http://knowlton.osu.edu/ped>>

Maria Manta Conroy is an Assistant Professor in City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University.

City Planning Departments Use of E-government for Citizen Participation

By Jennifer Evans-Cowley, PhD, AICP and Maria Manta Conroy, PhD

The Battelle Endowment for Technology in Human Affairs has provided a grant to two researchers at the Ohio State University to conduct an analysis of city planning department webpages to determine the degree to which communities are

The results of the study find that many communities are providing a high level of information to citizens, but only a small portion are providing opportunities for citizens to interact with the planning department on-line.



Berkeley, California Planning Department Website Demonstrates Usability

providing opportunities for citizens to engage in on-line participation. The result of this study of 240 cities has been published in June 2004 by the American Planning Association's Planning Advisory Service (PAS) as "E-governance: Creating on-line citizen participation tools for planners." The report outlines a process for creating on-line citizen participation tools and examines some of the technical requirements, such as compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as examines the types of tools that are being used by communities. This article summarizes information about the types of tools that planning departments are using across the United States.

The vast majority of cities, 74 percent provide their zoning ordinance in an on-line format, while 65 percent provide their comprehensive or other types of plans on-line. Fewer cities provide information about planning commission meetings, with 37 percent providing minutes from meetings, while 31 percent provide agendas. Only 5 percent provide both minutes and agendas. However, this may change over time. 77 percent of the websites examined offer either on-line minutes or agendas of other boards and commissions in the city. Approximately 10 percent of the planning departments observed provide streaming audio/video of public meetings. However, only five cities make available live or



archived coverage of planning commission meetings. Of the cities observed, 72 percent provide a departmental e-mail address, while 48 percent provide a list of staff e-mail addresses. The ability to contact planning commissioners is provided less frequently, 18 percent. E-mail contact information allows citizens to get in touch with their local planning department outside of business hours and at their convenience. Another way for citizens to keep informed of planning activities includes listservs and e-mail notification systems. Nineteen percent

Another application that is growing in popularity is e-commerce to allow for permit applications to be accepted and paid for over the Internet. Examples of cities using e-permitting applications include Buffalo, New York and Bellevue, Washington. At the present time most cities are limiting on-line permitting for simple applications and still require applicants to come in to meet with planning staff to discuss rezoning and variance applications.

This research study found that there a wide variety of on-line citizen



Indianapolis, Indiana Planning Department Website Makes Public Participation a Top Priority

of planning departments provide this service. These planning departments distribute announcements about planning meetings, electronic newsletters, and other information. While listservs and e-mail contacts can engage citizens, on-line discussion forums are one more way to get citizens actively participating in discussions about planning. However at the present time only a few cities are using this tool. Arlington, Texas has recently used discussion forums as part of its comprehensive planning process.

Interactive mapping is growing in popularity, with 25 percent of cities providing some level of access to the city's GIS. This access includes extensive map libraries to truly interactive GIS systems that allow the user to obtain information on a specific property.

participation tools that are being used throughout the nation. Some cities are simply providing information to citizens, while others are providing the opportunity to interact with the planning department and other citizens on planning topics.

In addition to identifying which tools communities are using, the researchers examined the ease of navigation and general usability of the website. The researchers developed a ranking system that identified overall how good a planning department's website is in terms of the ability for citizens to obtain information and interact with their government. The PAS report highlights Berkeley, California, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Raleigh, North Carolina as three city planning department websites

(Continued on page 10)



International Society of City and Regional Planners

ISoCaRP Secretariat
Willem Witsenplain 6
2596 BK - The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel +31 (0)633333333

(Continued from page 5)
 suggested to Babbage writing a plan for how the engine might calculate Bernoulli numbers. This plan, is now regarded as the first "computer program." A software language developed by the U.S. Department of Defense was named "Ada" in her honor in 1979.

After she wrote the description of Babbage's Analytical Engine her life was plagued with illnesses, and her social life, in addition to Charles Babbage, included Sir David Brewster (the originator of the kaleidoscope), Charles Wheatstone, Charles Dickens and Michael Faraday. Her interests ranged from music to horses to calculating machines. She has been used as a character in Gibson and Sterling's the Difference Engine, shown writing letters to Babbage in the series "The Machine that Changed the World" and I have gathered her letters and writings in "Ada, The Enchantress of Numbers: A Selection from the Letters of Lord Byron's Daughter and Her Description of the First Computer Though her life was short (like her father, she died at 36), Ada anticipated by more than a century most of what we think is brand-new computing.



that provide a high degree of usability and encourage citizens to engage in planning processes.

Each of the three websites excels at enhancing the citizen participation experience in different ways. Berkeley's site is simple, but provides a high-level of information to citizens, as well as live Internet access to the Zoning Adjustments Board meetings.

Next Steps

Currently the researchers are analyzing results of an analysis of planning websites for cities with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 across the United States. Information gathered from these websites will help further identify which on-line citizen participation tools are being employed by city planning departments.



Raleigh, North Carolina Planning Department Website

Indianapolis's site focuses on public participation by providing a variety of on-line discussion forums, on-line surveys, and information on neighborhood organizations. Raleigh's site provides a high level of information and interactive features, such as design your own neighborhood and the Planning Wiz, a tool to teach children about planning. These three cities each provided a significant amount of time and thought into what information citizens would like to see on the department's website.

Additionally, this analysis will provide more examples of best practices in e-governance.

For more information or to acquire the Planning Advisory Service Report, visit <http://www.planning.org/bookservice/> or contact Jennifer Evans-Cowley at 614-247-7479 or by emailing cowley.11@osu.edu should you be interested in further information.



Sharepoint vs. PhProjekt: Comparing Online Project Tools for Planners

By Willi Paul

Increasingly, both public and private planning managers are seeking online team decision making tools. The need is to increase over-all project efficiency; to save both time and money, and build community. Many project team applications can be deployed directly from the desktop, for minimal cost, with basic coding expertise, facilitating document iteration and the delivery of project goals and objectives. New open source technologies such as phpBB and PhProjekt, along with hosted applications and services are now available. Live online conference technologies and wireless data services are also exploding.

Clearly, simple html coded pages with FTP to upload and maintain files are 90% of the game. Minimal graphics. Perhaps the most technical challenge is the data base scripting for the ID/PW functionality, but a team can also use a hosted service with built-in member sign-up and security to avoid this hurdle. Initial investment thus is not a primary factor in deploying simple virtual project management tools: PhProjekt is free and open source. Choosing a technology that creates a balance between the electronic world and the physical places where we work is key. Team members need many ways to communicate, including back-ups to the high tech channels and tools, such as hard copy and phones. Promoting one place (i.e. – a web portal) that is accessible to all participants in the project lubricates the decision making gears and fosters equality– often for people who will never meet in person.

The following head-to-head comparison of Sharepoint vs. PhProjekt is an introduction to the tools only. Both applications have many advanced features that are not listed. While similar, PhProjekt does require open source coding skills and access to a secure server. The deployment cost for each is another major difference.

	Sharepoint	PhProjekt
URL	bcentral.com/products/sp/default.asp	phprojekt.com/
Cost	Free trial for 30 days 20.00/mth for 20 members or 40.00/mth for 30 members	Free Open Source application code
Tech Platform	Web-Hosted	PHP Web-based plus MySQL Database
UI	Customizable color graphic interface by Admin	Simple, file folder metaphor- standard
Project Team Management Tools		
Secure ID/PW	Yes	Yes
File Upload	Yes	Yes
Picture Upload / Gallery	Yes	Yes
Discussion Boards	Yes	Yes
Calendar	Yes	Yes
Data Library	Yes	Yes
Email Notification	Yes	Yes
Task Charting	Yes	Yes
Chat	No	Yes
Project Client	No	Yes
Polls / Surveys	Yes	Yes
Technical Installation to Start	None (with web access)	Programming and Web server required
Member Sign-up / Removal	Pass Word / ID from Admin	Pass Word / ID from Admin
Training / Support	Provided online	Provided online
Especially for Planners		
Internal vs. external teams	Yes	Yes
Public Relations	Yes	Yes
Community Builders	Yes	Yes
Maps	Yes	Yes
GIS	No	No
Document Iterations	Yes	Yes
Multiple Topic Discussions	Yes	Yes



See page 15 for strategic online management points.



Zen
[computer jargon]
To figure out something by meditation or by a sudden flash of enlightenment. Originally applied to {bugs} but occasionally applied to problems of life in general. "How'd you figure out the buffer allocation problem?" "Oh I zenned it." Contrast {grok} which connotes a time-extended version of zening a system.



Zen Mousepad

PowerPoint Pointers

by Ric Stephens

PowerPoints permeate planning presentations. Make them memorable; make them magic!

10. DANCING BEARS

No PowerPoint presentation is complete without adding some kind of animation whether or not it has anything to do with the actual subject. The Internet has 1,000s of animations that can be dropped in your presentation wherever. And don't forget to use the Random Slide Transition so it's always a surprise how the next slide appears.

9. PINATA POWERPOINTS

Color is free, so don't use it sparingly. Try mixing and matching the whole rainbow! There is a fine line between dazzled and dazed—go ahead and cross it.

8. FONTASTIC

There are 1000s of fonts, so why use Helvetica or Times Roman when you can have Celtic illustrated uncials and Florentine script? You can fit entire pages on-screen if you use a very small font. Better yet, just photocopy text and insert. Remember to begin each slide with "Now I know you can't read this, but..."

7. ALL THE WORLD'S A POWERPOINT

When you're "on stage" why risk "learning your lines" when you can simply read them? Just write your entire presentation on PowerPoint and read each slide. This guarantees no surprises and any pesky additional information.

6. TEMPLATE TIMESAVERS

PowerPoint comes with ready-made presentations that are individually crafted to suit your particular subject. You know you've selected a great template when you see everyone else use the same one!

5. CONTENT IS KING; COOKIES ARE QUEEN

Do not bother to include graphics or

any esthetic design elements—people just want endless amounts of straight text—preferably black on white. If you want to spice up the presentation, add a square bullet instead of a round one. Your audience will appreciate your consideration in not having any distracting slides with pictures, illustrations, etc.

4. IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING

When giving a presentation, do not worry about slide timing. You can either A) use the automatic timers and take the attitude that no matter what happens, "the show must go on," or B) have every single element require a "right click," that way you control the speed of every minute visual element and build audience anticipation. The slide show might take twice as long, but, hey, it's **your** time, right?

3. THE MEDIA IS THE MESSAGE

Rather than using your PowerPoint as a visual *aide*, go all the way and make it the focus of your presentation. If you do it right, you can add audio, a timer, and sit back and enjoy watching from a seat with the audience.

2. OOPS!

Unlike printed media, it's easy to change PowerPoint slides, so do not worry about spelling, grammar, formatting and other pesky errors. You can make changes during the presentation with the help of your audience. They will appreciate the interactivensess of the presentation as they anticipate the next error.

1. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

...but it just takes too much damn time. After making a series of eye-popping slides, just wait until your presentation to decide what you're actually going to say. Spontaneity will make the presentation more exciting for your audience and you, as you wait to see what comes next.



A project to “Identify the Core Skills a Technology Proficient Planner should Master”

The Information Technology Division has embarked on a project to “identify technology skills that a planner should have”. Although this project could have many different titles, having these skills will enable a planner, whether in the public, private, non-profit or academic role, to be more effective in realizing their goals. Technology is not an end in itself, but a tool to assist in analyzing, communicating, managing, researching or planning projects in a more efficient and productive manner, enabling more informed decisions to be made.

To achieve this end, a website has been set-up to collect resources and experiences from members, identify organizations that already specialize in specific technology disciplines as well as their career ladders. Anyone may go to the project site and see the progress. Also, members may easily add content. They will just need to email the IT Division Education Chair, Mike Gritz (mgritz@lasvegasnevada.gov) along with their name, email and any other contact information for login permissions. We are also recruiting for a committee of members to oversee the specific skills areas of the website and review input from members. If you wish to be included on this project team list, please indicate so in your email. Participation may be as little or as much as one may wish to give. Minimum is to at least check their

specific skill set area at least once a week for input from others. No one is limited to only one discipline and encouraged to participate in all that they see fit.

We are in the brainstorming phase now, so no ideas will be turned away. We are also attempting to avoid recreating the wheel by leveraging and/or partnering with other organizations that have common technology educational goals. This brainstorming phase will



go on through the summer and a document along with a means to continue this type of effort will be completed in the fall.

Technology is constantly growing and moving forward. It can be a challenge to keep up with all of it. It is one of this division’s goals to provide a means by which our members can stay up to date with technology trends, it uses and various resources available. Go to the project website: www.APA-itskills.org and take a look. The project site is also not an end, but will evolve and grow as we receive input from the membership. This is a great time and way for one to contribute. Also, make use of the Division’s discussion board at www.apa-it.org. For more information email Mike Gritz, or give him a call at 702-229-4606. Hope to hear from you.



Strategic Points for Online Project Management

1. Elaborate web design schemes, java scripted “bells and whistles” are to be avoided. Low tech strategies (i.e. - simple html and FTP) can be geared to the average user. Any work site that requires “training” is over-designed and could reduce team participation.
2. Appropriate online tools do not require expensive hosted solutions or strategic consultants;
3. Tools must consider traditional and electronic project management strategies;
4. Online portals creating a single site for file sharing, communication, and coordination. Grooving decision making into one place puts all of the stakeholders into one archived thread;
5. Design in 24/7 access to documents and promote accountability and democratic collaboration through shared portal deployment;
6. Online project management tools add to organizational sustainability and knowledge management processes.



metropolismag.com

Disconnected Urbanism

By Paul Goldberger
From *Metropolis Magazine*

The cell phone has changed our sense of place more than faxes, computers, and e-mail.

here is a connection between the idea of place and the reality of cellular telephones. It is not encouraging. Places are unique—or at least we like to believe they are—and we strive to experience them as a kind of engagement with particulars. Cell phones are precisely the opposite. When a piece of geography is doing what it is supposed to do, it encourages you to feel a connection to it that, as in marriage, forsakes all others. When you are in Paris you expect to wallow in its Parisness, to feel that everyone walking up the Boulevard Montparnasse is as totally and completely there as the lampposts, the kiosks, the facade of the Brasserie Lipp—and that they could be no place else. So we want it to be in every city, in every kind of place. When you are in a forest, you want to experience its woodsiness; when you are on the beach, you want to feel connected to sand and surf.

This is getting harder to do, not because these special places don't exist or because urban places have come to look increasingly alike. They have, but this is not another rant about the monoculture and sameness of cities and the suburban landscape. Even when you are in a place that retains its intensity, its specialness, and its ability to confer a defining context on your life, it doesn't have the all-consuming effect these places used to. You no longer feel that being in one place cuts you off from other places. Technology has been doing this for a long time, of course—remember when people communicated with Europe by letter and it took a couple of weeks to get a reply? Now

we're upset if we have to send a fax because it takes so much longer than e-mail.

But the cell phone has changed our sense of place more than faxes and computers and e-mail because of its ability to intrude into every moment in every possible place. When you walk along the street and talk on a cell phone, you are not on the street sharing the communal experience of urban life. You are in some other place—someplace at the other end of your phone conversation. You are there, but you are not there. It reminds me of the title of Lillian Ross's memoir of her life with William Shawn, *Here But Not Here*. Now that is increasingly true of almost every person on almost every street in almost every city. You are either on the phone or carrying one, and the moment it rings you will be transported out of real space into a virtual realm.

When you walk along the street and talk on a cell phone, you are not sharing the experience of urban life. You are there, but you are not there.

This matters because the street is the ultimate public space and walking along it is the defining urban experience. It is all

of us—different people who lead different lives—coming together in the urban mixing chamber. But what if half of them are elsewhere, there in body but not in any other way? You are not on Madison Avenue if you are holding a little object to your ear that pulls you toward a person in Omaha.

The great offense of the cell phone in public is not the intrusion of its ring, although that can be infuriating when it interrupts a tranquil moment. It is the fact that even when the phone does not ring at all, and is being used quietly and discreetly, it renders a public place less public. It turns the boulevardier into a sequestered individual, the flaneur into a figure of privacy. And suddenly

the meaning of the street as a public place has been hugely diminished.

I don't know which is worse—the loss of the sense that walking along a great urban street is a glorious shared experience or the blurring of distinctions between different kinds of places. But these cultural losses are related, and the cell phone has played a major role in both. The other day I returned a phone call from a friend who lives in Hartford. He had left a voice-mail message saying he was visiting his son in New Orleans, and when I called him back on his cell phone—area code 860, Hartford—he picked up the call in Tallahassee. Once the area code actually meant something in terms of geography: it outlined a clearly defined piece of the earth; it became a form of identity. Your telephone number was a badge of place. Now the area code is really not much more than three digits; and if it has any connection to a place, it's just the telephone's home base. An area code today is more like a car's license plate. The downward spiral that began with the end of the old telephone exchanges that truly did connect to a place—RHineland 4 and BUtterfield 8 for the Upper East Side, or CHelsea 3 downtown, or UNiversity 4 in Morningside Heights—surely culminates in the placeless area codes such as 917 and 347 that could be anywhere in New York—or anywhere at all.

It's increasingly common for cell-phone conversations to begin with the question, "Where are you?" and for the answer to be anything from "out by the pool" to "Madagascar." I don't miss the age when phone charges were based on distance, but that did have the beneficial effect of reinforcing a sense that places were distinguishable from one another. Now calling across the street and calling from New York to California or even Europe are precisely the same thing. They cost the same because to the phone they are the same. Every place is exactly the same as every other place. They are all just nodes on a network—and so, increasingly, are we.



METROPOLISWAG.COM

Innovative Telecom Facility Regulation

By Jim Fagelson, Susan Stoltenberg and Ric Stephens

At any given time the Riverside County Planning Department may be processing over 100 wireless telecommunication facility applications. One of the largest counties in the United States, Riverside California is also one of the fastest growing areas with a comparable growth in cell phone usage. To respond to this demand, Riverside County Planning Director **Robert Johnson** initiated revisions to the existing telecom ordinance to address emerging concerns. Principal Planner **James Fagelson**, technical assistants **Susan Stoltenberg** and **Ric Stephens** coordinated with services providers, agency staff, and County officials to create an ordinance that was performance-oriented and flexible enough to regulate diverse geographic areas and communities. The ordinance (348.4090) has 4 Primary Categories:

- Concealed Antennas (unseen or unrecognizable)
- Disguised Antennas (minimally visually obtrusive)
- Co-located Facilities (shared by different service providers), and
- Other Antennas

Expanded processing requirements include:

- Site plan
- Landscape plan
- Propagation diagrams
- Photo simulations
- FAA clearance letter
- Lease agreement
- List of county-wide facilities
- Geotechnical report
- Biological assessment
- Variance

Other features include:

- Development standards
- Abandoned sites procedures
- Appeal process



For more information contact, Principal Planner James Fagelson at jfagelso@co.riverside.ca.us

area code



Riverside County
Planning Department
www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us



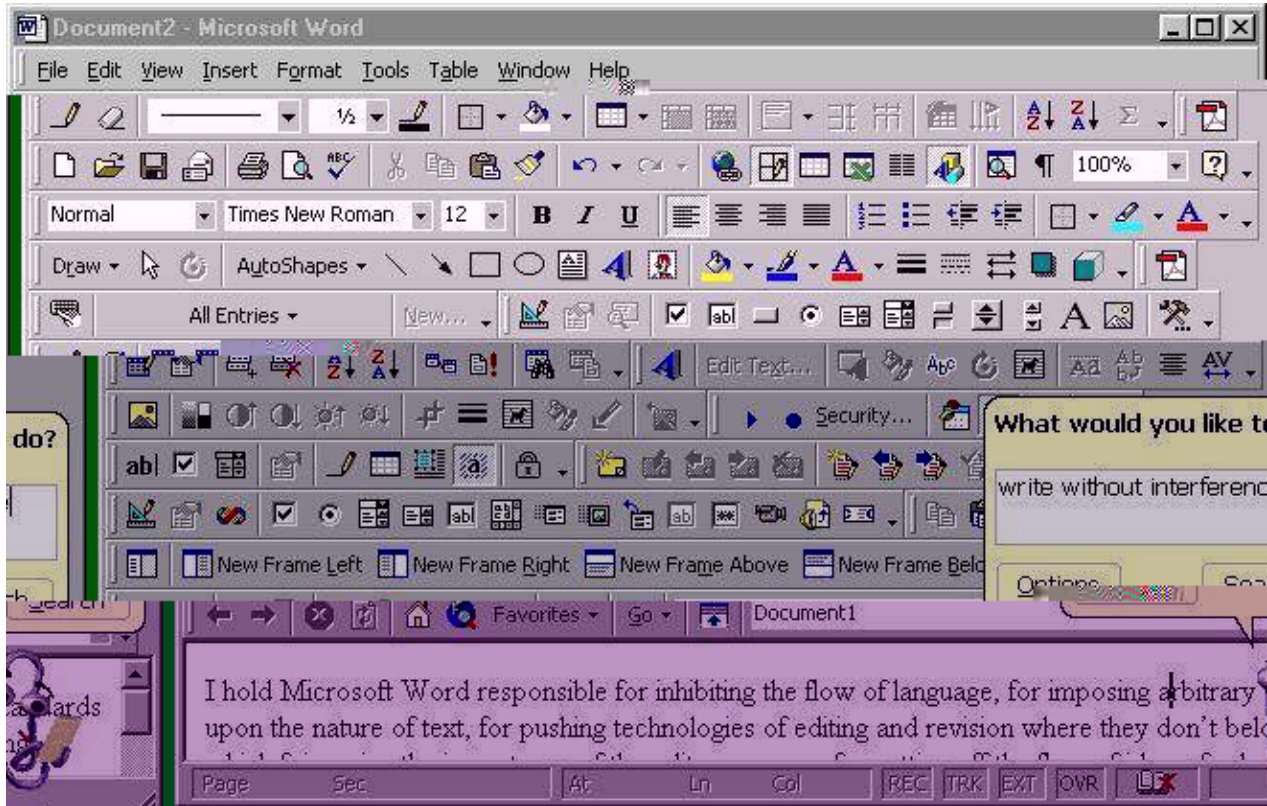
Monopalm



INFOTEXT

AEI•CASC
937 South Via Lata #500
Colton CA 92324 USA

InfoTEXT



The Information Technology Division is charting the new technologies for the American Planning Association. Planners everywhere need to understand the use and planning implications of new systems: computer simulation, GIS, telecommunications, and computer based information resources. [Web www.apa-it.org](http://www.apa-it.org)

APA's **INFOTEXT** is the Division's newsletter, bringing you current information that is useful for making decisions on how to use the new technologies.

If you are presently a member of APA, it costs only \$25 to join the Division; students \$10; non-members \$45.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Please mail to:
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
LOCK BOX 97774
CHICAGO IL 60678