Cartographic Design / Technology Resources

Lynda tutorials for Adobe Illustrator

Access tutorials at Lynda.com or through My UW. The Lynda tutorials are extremely thorough and cover virtually all topics of illustrator. You can watch the entire tutorial or scroll through topics to watch a video covering a specific topic. Lynda tutorials are available for many other useful topics outside of illustrator as well. Make use of this excellent resource!

Lynda.com

Design Lab

Design Lab offers 1 on 1 appointments to improve any kind of design project. Because the field of design is broad, be sure to select an instructor who has some training in graphic or digital design. Caitlin Iverson at Design Lab is a 370 alum who can offer help with map design. Use others to help with completing specific tasks in Illustrator or the design of accompanying map elements rather than the map itself. If in doubt about a design question, consult with your TA.

https://designlab.wisc.edu/

DoIt Illustrator Workshops

DoIt, the department of information and technology on campus, offers workshops on Illustrator and other programs through a program called Software Training for Students. These workshops can give you a head start in using the software.

https://sts.doit.wisc.edu/classlist.aspx

DoIt 1 on 1 Consultations

1 on 1 consultations at DoIt are available for specific technology and software questions. Keep in mind that the tutors are not trained in cartography and cannot offer specific cartographic advice. Use DoIt consultations for technology issues only. DoIt is not the place to go for last minute help as appointments must be booked at least 24 hours in advance.

https://sts.doit.wisc.edu/myst/ask.aspx

UW Cartography Lab

M381, across from M376. The cartography lab is filled with friendly folks who are more than willing to spend a few minutes to look at your designs and offer formative feedback. Do not be shy! Two people to meet are Tanya Buckingham, the director of the cartography lab, and Daniel Huffman, a resident scholar who sometimes teaches 370. Occasionally student jobs open up in the cartography lab, so if you're interested in earning money while improving your cartographic skills, make sure to introduce yourself to Tanya!

Your TA

Ask questions and come to office hours! We are here to help you succeed.

Data Resources

The data resources listed below are an extremely small slice of what is available to you, but make a good starting point. Always keep your eyes and ears open for interesting data sources!

Map Library

The cartography librarian, Jaime Martindale, is a fantastic resource for helping you find data. Submit a request using the form below or stop by in person to consult with her.

https://www.geography.wisc.edu/maplib/services.php

Data Information Service Center

The data information service center is an excellent resource for finding statistics on social studies topics, especially historical topics. Data from the DISC is typically in tabular form and must be added to a shapefile. If you have trouble with this task, your TA can help you do it.

http://www.disc.wisc.edu/

Applied Population Lab

The *Applied Population Lab* has demographic and health statistics which may be of use to 370 students, as well as some shapefiles.

http://www.apl.wisc.edu/

Hazardous Waste Data

A research project in the Geography department is studying the hazardous waste trade. Data from this project is available for student use in exchange for the project being allowed to use visualizations produced. Please talk to Kristen Vincent for more details.

US Census Bureau / The National Map

The *US Census Bureau* has demographic and political data available for free download. Frequently these files are in the tar.gz compressed format. This is a double compressed format which needs to be extracted multiple times before use. *The National Map* has topographic, elevation (DEM) and hydrological data along with many other thematic and reference information available. Information available differs depending on the area / extent of interest.

https://www.census.gov/

http://nationalmap.gov/

Natural Earth

Natural Earth provides fantastic basemap data. We will use Natural Earth extensively in this course.

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/

Your Favorite Professor / The Department of your Major

There are many other research labs on campus which may have interesting datasets available for you to use. Ask around and learn what is available – you never know what opportunities may come up!

A series of questions to help produce thoughtful designs:

I (the cartographer) am making something for **you**.

What do **you** (the map user) **need**?

1.) Who is the audience of the map? What different groups comprise this audience? What are the different needs of these groups?

2.) What is the main point the map is trying to make?

3.) How does the data used support the main point of the map?

4.) What is the lineage of the data?

5.) How do the visual variables contribute to the point the map is making? How do the visual variables work together?

6.) What has been omitted from this map?

7.) What are the generalizations a viewer may make from looking at this map? Are there any unintentional connotations or conclusions?

8.) Think about 'hidden' design decisions – has anything been left as a default styling option?