



Infrastructure requirements for use of authoritative data in neogeography applications

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Neogeography, or "Volunteered Geographic Information" (VGI) provides flexibility, agility and scalability of a potentially large community actively maintaining a geographic data set. In contrast, Spatial Data Infrastructures have tended to focus on getting a higher return from the social investment in base data sets, leveraging traditional custodial roles and responsibilities.

These two paradigms are somewhat at odds, in terms of their technical strengths and weaknesses and the technology base adopted. There are two alternative views of neogeography that, when the underlying concerns are identified and separated, conform to the custodial model of SDIs.

We argue that these concerns are respectively identification and mapping of features in the landscape, and characterisation of aspects these features.

Neogeography can be used to characterise aspects of features defined in authoritative data sets within an SDI, provided the infrastructure provides the means to reference such features within the technology of neogeography applications. Likewise, VGI is an acceptable custodial model for the reference data sets provided the identification of objects conforms to some predictable and traceable governance pattern - much as any other reference data set would be expected to be managed by the relevant authority.

A case study is presented of a proposed UN-wide gazetteer service acting as a registry of authoritative data sets for use within neogeography applications for disaster relief.