Africa Map: A Framework to Support Collaborative Research and Teaching

Introduction

Harvard offers a 115+ summer spot in Africa each year. There are African research projects at all of Harvard's schools and institutes, ranging from the arts and humanities (including the social sciences and environmental sciences), to government and policy-making, to health sciences, to environmental sciences, and government. In the summer, there are 115 Harvard students doing their research and project work on the African continent. Research topics range from 166 Harvard students doing their research and project work on the African continent. During the summer of 2006 alone, cutting edge work of individual scholars to large scale projects, many of its research centers and institutes, ranging from the African research projects at all of Harvard's schools and institutes, ranging from the arts and humanities (including the social sciences and environmental sciences), to government and policy-making, to health sciences, to environmental sciences, and government.

The Problem

A common problem facing African researchers is the multiplicity of data, especially geographical data, for Africa, the ease of access and use of this data. Much public data exists, but it is so difficult to discover, let alone obtain, that many research projects on Africa spend a great deal of time searching through the vast landscape. As more detailed mapping becomes available, it can be added to the system. Place names will provide zoom access to specific locations when and where other researchers' data is currently available.

The Mapping Africa project will build a framework for geographic data which will be applied to any part of the world. The system will be a high-level series of base, context, dynamic data only as a large ensemble, and will be used to create a rich and multifaceted project. The project will provide access to specific location to specific researchers. As more detailed mapping becomes available, it can be added to the system. Place names will provide zoom access to specific locations when and where other researchers' data is currently available.

Proposed Solution

The Mapping Africa project will build a framework for geographic data which will be applied to any part of the world. The system will be a high-level series of base, context, dynamic data only as a large ensemble, and will be used to create a rich and multifaceted project. The project will provide access to specific location to specific researchers. As more detailed mapping becomes available, it can be added to the system. Place names will provide zoom access to specific locations when and where other researchers' data is currently available.

Building the Base

Slave Trade Ports and Database

An online mapping system and database for Africa Map: a repository for Africa research projects.

Links

- Search for any Harvard research projects on the continent at a glance with preferred base map.
- Submit non-spatial data (such as text documents, photos, video/audio files, etc.) to the system.
- Optionally specify a location on the base data view to register the URL linking to the found items.
- Search for non-spatial data through the Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL).
- Optionally submit redlining and comments to the system through the project data visualization package.
- Access African research project database built on users' submission.

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