

The wikification of GIS and its implications for urban and regional studies

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Following the success of earlier open-source software development such as the development of Linux, consumer-driven business development such as E-Bay, and most recently user-led knowledge production such as Wikipedia, the past five years have witnessed the emergence of user-created web content in the spirit of Web 2.0 as evidenced by the growing popularity of MySpace, FaceBook, YouTube, and more broadly the reality TV or game/competition programs with increasing user/viewer involvement. The wind of this more broader societal trend of wikification has also started blowing in the GIS community during the past two years. The wikification of GIS includes the growing effort in open-source and free GIS, increasing availability of volunteered geographic information, and emergence of neogeography as citizen science. This talk presents a broad-brush overview of wiki GIS and discusses its implications for urban and regional studies.