

## Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography

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Series Editors: William Cartwright, Georg Gartner, Liqiu Meng,  
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# Headway in Spatial Data Handling

13th International Symposium  
on Spatial Data Handling

 Springer

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ISBN: 978-3-540-68565-4

e-ISBN: 978-3-540-68566-1

Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography ISSN: 1863-2246

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008928568

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Typesetting: Camera-ready by the editors

*Cover design:* deblik, Berlin

Printed on acid-free paper

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

springer.com

## Foreword

Geographic information is a key element for our modern society. Put simply, it is information whose spatial (and often temporal) location is fundamental to its value, and this distinguishes it from many other types of data, and analysis. For sustainable development, climate change or more simply resource sharing and economic development, this information helps to facilitate human activities and to foresee the impact of these activities in space as well as, inversely, the impact of space on our lives. The International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling (SDH) is a primary research forum where questions related to spatial and temporal modelling and analysis, data integration, visual representation or semantics are raised.

The first symposium commenced in 1984 in Zurich and has since been organised every two years under the umbrella of the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Information Science (<http://www.igugis.org>).

Over the last 28 years, the Symposium has been held in:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Zürich, 1984
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Seattle, 1986
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sydney, 1988
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Zurich, 1990
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Charleston, 1992
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Edinburgh, 1994
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Delft, 1996
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Vancouver, 1998
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Beijing, 2000
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Ottawa, 2002
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Leicester, 2004
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Vienna, 2006

This book is the proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling. The conference was held in Montpellier, France, on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2008, in conjunction with and prior to SAGEO, the annual French conference on Geomatics. All the papers in this book were submitted as full papers, and received blind reviews from three members of the Programme Committee. 63 papers were submitted and the 36 that are included here are of a high standard, as well as being accessible to everyone who is doing research in the science of geographical information. This year we have chosen to promote the five best reviewed papers that can be noted by a \* on the table of contents. These very enthusiastic and

original papers deal with ontology, classification, data matching, 3D and spatial process description.

This publication 'Headway in Spatial Data Handling' is the fourth in the Springer-Verlag series which members of the commission hope will continue successfully in the future.

## **Acknowledgements**

This conference has been organised by a network from four geographical locations: Montpellier (Thérèse Libourel), Brest (Thomas Devogele), Paris (Anne Ruas) and Wales (Chris Gold).

We thank all the members of the Programme Committee for their extraordinary effort to return detailed reviews on time.

We warmly want to thank Nicolas Moyroud for helping us with the web site with a constant and positive availability, Thomas Devogele for editing and for his contact with the publisher and Therese Libourel for her energy in organising the conference in Montpellier (and for editing the Latex files).

A special thank you to Victor for enhancing the pleasure of our working together.

Anne Ruas and Chris Gold  
31 March 2008

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