



National Capital Region Chapter of the  
ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Human Interaction

## **Exploring and Discovering Geographical Facts Using Geographical Storytelling**

Presented by **William E. Cartwright** School of Mathematical and Geospatial Science,  
RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
on Wednesday November 03, 2004 at **Adobe Systems Canada**

### **What?**

New methods for depicting the earth and its cultural and natural attributes have developed and many New Media formats have been used to complement maps for presentation of geographical facts and information. This includes the production of multimedia atlases, audio-guided city guides, 3D virtual landscapes, etc. These methods have been used with much success, but, it is argued, that when used in conjunction with other New Media approaches that encourage users to 'explore' and discover geography, then products offered are much more powerful. But, how can we ensure that, when New Media installations are employed, that users see essential views of geography? A project is currently being conducted to evaluate the appropriateness of the application of 'Geographical Storytelling', providing New Media artifacts that are delivered as a 'story' and the focus of parts of the story are defined by geographical location.

This presentation will provide information regarding how this concept has been used to build a prototype for evaluation. It also reports on the initial findings from the research regarding the appropriateness of this method for geographical information provision. It then develops the idea of Engineered Serendipity, and how it might be further explored as a means of allowing users perceived freedom when using New Media cartographic products, but ensuring that they do not overlook essential information. Finally, it proposes how the concept of geographical storytelling might be realized through the application of Engineered Serendipity.

### **Who?**

William Cartwright is an Associate Professor of Cartography and Geographical Visualization in the School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences at RMIT, where he specializes in the application of New Media technologies to Cartography. He joined the University after spending a number of years in both the government and private sectors of the mapping industry. He is a Vice-President of the International Cartographic Association and a National Councilor of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia. He is a member of the International Cartographic Association's Commission on Visualization and Virtual Environments and the Commission on Maps and the Internet. His major research interest is the application of New Media to cartography and the exploration of different metaphorical approaches to the depiction of geographical information.

### **When and Where?**

The meeting takes place on Wednesday November 03, 2004 at 7:00 pm in the Rideau 2 Conference Room at Adobe Systems Canada in Ottawa, located at 785 Carling Avenue (near Dow's Lake, between Rochester and Preston streets) Ottawa, ON K1S 5H4 Canada.

- Free parking available on site after 6:00 PM; entrance is on Rochester Street.
- **Bus routes 6 and 85** pass in front of the Adobe Systems Canada office on Carling Avenue.
- **Bus route 3** stops on Preston St at Carling Avenue, near the Adobe Systems Canada office.
- **Bus route 4** stops on Bronson Avenue at Carling Avenue, near the Adobe Systems Canada office (10-15 minute walk)
- The **O-Train** stops at Carling Station; you can walk east long Carling Avenue from the station (3-5 minute walk).

**Note:** All attending will be required to register with security. Please arrive 5-10 minutes earlier to allow for registering.

The meeting fee is \$5 for non-members and free for CapCHI members (\$20/year). Membership is for the session period (September 2004-August 2005) - anyone can join!

Refreshments will be provided for the meeting.