Journal of Geography and Cartography (2023) Volume 6 Issue 2
doi: 10.24294/jgc.v6i2.6367

EDITORIAL

Cartography as a tool to analyze city planning and development

Wanxu Chen

China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), Wuhan 430079, Hubei Province, China; cugcwx@sina.com

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 30 November 2023
Available online: 7 December 2023

City planning is becoming more and more crucial as modernization and urbanization progress quickly. Making maps is an essential and helpful way in the city planning process for gathering data about the layout of a city and its elements, including the roads, traffic, buildings, and environment. Thanks to advancements in technology, computer software is now used to create maps, yielding more accurate and varied results. As a result, cartography is now closely related to and plays a crucial part in city planning. This brief essay will discuss the value of cartography in urban development and planning, as well as the connection between the two.

The structure and layout of a city reflect its culture, economy, and people. Map-making allows for the acquisition of specific details about a city's design and layout. Thus, it is thought that using cartography to study the growth and evolution of a city is a sensible decision. For example, Wu et al.[1] use a unique combination of historical map restoration approaches to unearth critical morphological details that bridge Hangzhou's shift from its pre-modern fabric to its modern-day urban form. They identify significant transformations such as the transition from elaborate street layouts to systematic grids, the deliberate integration of public areas such as West Lakeside Park, and the city's changing urban nucleus, which reflects its larger sociopolitical and economic narratives[1]. Their research helps readers grasp the evolution of a city. It is equally important that our research should focus on development, and more definitely on sustainable development. Ejiga et al.[2] argued that understanding land use patterns is critical for effective planning and supporting sustainable development. They combined terrestrial and social surveys, GIS, and remote sensing tools to create a land use map for planning increased economic productivity and sustainable development[2]. It has been demonstrated that map-making can provide useful information to relevant practitioners, assisting them in developing sound city planning plans.

City planning relies on map-making since it can depict the layout and form of a city. Professionals responsible for planning and creating our ever-changing cities, such as urban planners and designers, rely on a variety of maps and spatial technology to make decisions[3]. Cartography can support a city's long-term development by assisting urban planners and designers in making sound city planning decisions.

Overall, cartography is an excellent tool for city planning since it allows individuals to gain a deeper understanding of a city's layout and form, hence promoting its long-term growth. It is envisaged that cartography can be merged with a variety of high-tech solutions to address more urban challenges and assist humans in the future.

Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

1. Wu Y, Qiu Y, Wang H. Urban cartography and spatial politics: Ethnic tensions, westernization, and decolonization in Hangzhou's transformation within the global south. *Journal of Geography and Cartography* 2023; 6(2): 2853. doi: 10.24294/jgc.v6i2.2853
2. Ejiga A, Sani OS, Okeke F. Mapping land use diversity in new GRA, Idah local government area, Kogi, State: Towards sustainable township development. *Journal of Geography and Cartography* 2023; 6(2): 2495. doi: 10.24294/jgc.v6i2.2495
3. Hillier A. Making sense of cities: The role of maps in the past, present, and future of urban planning. In: Brunn SD, Dodge M (editors). *Mapping Across Academia*. Springer; 2017.