

New destination for Landmap

A year on, Gail Millin-Chalabi updates readers on the fate of this key scientific and educational resource in remote sensing

In the January/February 2014 edition of Geoconnexion UK I authored 'Where next for Landmap?' highlighting the many achievements over the past two decades of this Academic Spatial Data Infrastructure (A-SDI) such as:

- The development of the *Optical, Thermal, Features, Radar and Elevation* data collections, with data sourced from a wide range of data providers in the geospatial community such as European Space Agency (ESA), Infoterra, Bluesky, RapidEye, The Geoinformation Group and Getmapping
- The creation of Open Educational Resources (OER) authored by academics and the commercial sector to facilitate the use of spatial datasets in the latest image processing and GIS software's

Landmap was recognised for these achievements by the European community when voted runner-up for the Best Service Challenge in the Copernicus Masters 2013 Awards which recognises innovative solutions for business and society based on the use of Earth Observation data¹.

Community collaboration

In December 2013 Jisc² funding ceased for Landmap at Mimas³ and the goal for 2014 was to identify other platforms/services for hosting Landmap data collections and e-learning resources. The story over the past twelve months has been one of collaboration among the geospatial community to ensure that these resources remain available to new and current users. It has involved the re-negotiation of

data licensing with the original suppliers; work with the NEODC⁴ (the Natural Environment Research Council-designated data centre for Earth Observation), and the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society (RSPSoc)⁵.

NEODC hosts data collections

The role of the NEODC is to assist UK Earth Observation (EO) science researchers to locate, access and interpret EO data. Therefore, NEODC agreed that its data centre was the most obvious new home for the Landmap data collections. In the spring



Landmap educational resources are now being hosted by the RSPSoc

of 2014, a significant amount of work went into the transfer of the *Landmap Earth Observation Collection* from Mimas to NEODC. Here, the cataloguing of the data was completed in the summer of 2014. The data are now fully catalogued and available via ftp and web browser download at www.neodc.nerc.ac.uk.

RSPSoc hosts Learning Zone

The other key content was the Open Educational Resources (OER) which included courses in Image Processing, Radar Imaging, Classification Methods, Scripting and Geospatial Standards. These materials are now hosted by RSPSoc as agreed by the Education and Training Committee of the Society, please visit www.learningzone.rpsoc.org.uk

Future growth

Remote sensing is a future growth area for the UK as identified in the Government Report: 'Space Innovation & Growth Strategy 2014-2030: Space Growth Action Plan'⁶. It is therefore crucial that data and e-learning resources continue to be made accessible to train the next generation of users through essential services and organisation such as NEODC and RSPSoc. Thanks to NEODC and RSPSoc, an excellent destination for Landmap resources has been established.

¹ www.copernicus-masters.com

² www.jisc.ac.uk

³ www.mimas.ac.uk

⁴ www.neodc.nerc.ac.uk

⁵ www.rpsoc.org.uk

⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/298362/igs-action-plan.pdf

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