

Get connected, started, and developed interdisciplinary research with social media: a case study from archaeological GIS

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We reported our Ustream program "Tomobiki Night!!" featured by archaeology and Geographic Information Systems and Sciences (GIS) at the "Social Media and Geoscience" session in JpGU 2011 (http://www2.jpgu.org/meeting/2011/yokou/MTT034-02_E.pdf). By February 15, 2012, the program has been broadcasted for 25 times, on every other *tomobiki* day in Japanese lunar calendar system in theory. A live typically has one to ten viewers, and the recorded videos (<http://ustre.am/fAyw>) have been viewed for 884 times to date.

In addition to reports of academic conferences and workshops associated with archaeological GIS and demonstrations of research instruments, talk sessions to which a guest is invited from the archaeology-related fields of research is the most significant feature of the program among others. We have had five guests from geography and spatial information sciences, and casual talks after the live session have often resulted in a new development of research. For instance, after his participation in the Ustream talk, a researcher in human geography was invited to give a lecture at the special session titled "The Present and Future of Field GIS for Human Science", organized by the first author at the 20th annual conference of GIS Association of Japan in October 2011. Another guest, who was a master student in geography, talked about her dissertation and then she was invited to give a follow-up presentation in an offline meeting after her final examination.

Furthermore, we have provided technical supports of Ustream broadcasting to photography workshops coordinated by Field-net, a social network for field scientists, on the request from a viewer in cultural anthropology. Another viewer in medical GIS, with whom we are frequently communicating via Ustream and Twitter, has become a good collaborator to held GIS workshops and related excursions twice with young researchers and engineers. These events are further developed to a GIS-based multidisciplinary research project of a remote island.

These episodes have a common denominator in which communications through the social media such as Ustream and Twitter encouraged the real academic interactions such as scientific workshops and collaborative projects. It is also noted that the interactions we established, exemplified by those between archaeology, geography, and medical GIS, suggest that such communications may yield developments in research beyond the conventional boundaries of disciplines and interdisciplinary projects. It is also expected to develop a new relationship between geoscience and archaeology, mediated by the social media.

Keywords: Ustream, Twitter, archaeology, GIS, interdisciplinary research