How to learn GISci?: Based on internship program at ESRI Inc.

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http://giswin.geo.tsukuba.ac.jp/sis/

How to teach 'Geographical Information Science (GISci)' is one of the hot topics at Japanese university.Currently, development of GIS curriculum is in debate. Lectures are doing their best to teach GISci as well as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) through formal trainings, self study and researches. This paper reports experiences acquired in GIS internship program at Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI Inc.).

ESRI is a developer of the most popular GIS software (i.e., ArcGIS). ESRI Inc., a leading US campany, holds a huge market share (34%) of GIS industries. GIS users are growing exponentially where ESRI is making significant efforts to spread the GIS and GISci all over the world through publishing books, organizaing user's conferences, and providing trainings. For example, ESRI Virtual Campus on the Web, we can learn various knowledge, techniques and operations at GIS. Although instructor led training courses are available at ESRI training centors in US, Japanese students prefer e-learning system without leaving their home country. Some basic courses are available at no cost but some specialized courses need tuitions. The ESRI curriculum focused on GIS and GISci with vast technological and logical backgrounds.

ESRI provided internship program involves primarily instructor led training courses followed by an exciting working opportunity through applied projects. On the poster presentation, I would present more detail about my experiences acquired during the ESRI internship program at Redlands, CA.