

## **Interdepartmental Cooperation in US University GIS Programs: Investigation for the 2007-2008 Academic Year**

# Mizuki Kawabata[1]; Rajesh Bahadur THAPA[2]

[1] CSIS, Univ. of Tokyo; [2] Division of SIS, Univ. of Tsukuba

Geographic Information Science (GIScience) is an interdisciplinary field including the fields of geography, information science, environmental studies, and humanities and social sciences. Cooperation among different fields of study is therefore an important component for developing successful GIScience curricula. In this paper, we examined interdepartmental cooperation in GIS programs at US universities for the 2007-2008 academic year. We found that of 160 GIS programs, 61 (38%) programs featured interdepartmental curricula comprising classes from multiple departments, and 34 (21%) involved cooperation among four or more departments. Cooperation between geography-related departments and the other-field departments was found in 47 (29%) programs, and cooperation between geography-related departments and engineering/information-related departments was observed in 28 (18%) programs. The results of this investigation could be useful for developing GIScience curricula in Japan.