

GIS Data Portals

Administrative unit boundaries for countries of the world:

<http://www.unsalb.org/>

United Nations Second Administrative Level Boundaries Project. Good metadata and thorough tracking of administrative unit boundary changes down to the second level (province and district) by year, many quite current. Does not have currently updated data for all countries, however.

<http://www.gadm.org/>

Global Administrative Areas. Created for the BioGeomancer Project (biodiversity catalog at the global level), coordinated out of the University of California at Berkeley. Thorough listing of most countries in the world, with previews of admin boundaries for each country; however, documentation and metadata is not reliable.

Subject-specific data and maps:

<http://www.hivspatialdata.net/>

HIV Spatial Data Repository, sponsored by PEPFAR. Includes shapefiles and linked tables for mapping of DHS data for over 40 countries, which can be viewed online and downloaded. Good metadata, fairly current data (1999 to 2007) on population, administrative boundaries, and HIV statistics. Census projections are available to the year 2010.

<http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/>

Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University. Home of the “Gridded Population of the World” (2000 data) and the Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project (2005 data). Includes searchable information from many countries in the world, focusing on land use, environmental indicators, and population.

<http://apps.who.int/globalatlas/>

World Health Organization (United Nations) Communicable Disease Global Atlas. Can perform data queries and generate reports, charts, and maps. Interactive mapping section allows creation of maps of diseases, location of health facilities, schools, roads, and physical features.

Geonetwork: The following 3 organizations all use the same “search engine” and interface to access their GIS data: FAO, WHO, and WFP. Not all files are available for download in shapefile format —some are available only via interactive map or PDF, but there is good metadata and good search functionality, and a wide variety of maps available.

<http://apps.who.int/geonetwork/> World Health Organization (United Nations).

<http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/> FAO stands for Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

<http://vam.wfp.org/geonetwork/> World Food Programme (United Nations). VAM stands for Vulnerability

Analysis and Mapping, which is WFP’s food security analysis work.

<http://gcmd.nasa.gov/>

Earth Science Data Directory from NASA. Many datasets available on a global scale. Large portal which is searchable by geographical area or subject. Many other sites link to this one, some through defined portals. Considered a master directory for climate change information.

<http://earlywarning.usgs.gov/>

Famine Early Warning System (FEWS), sponsored by USGS and USAID. Africa Data Dissemination Service. Environmental monitoring program serving Africa, Southern and South Central Asia, Central America, and more. Searchable by region and data type, downloadable shapefiles, includes metadata.

<http://gisweb.ciat.cgiar.org/povertymapping/>

International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Poverty mapping case studies with detailed shapefiles and good metadata for a limited number of Central American and African countries.

http://www.devinfo.org/di_digital_map_library.html

DevInfo is a database reader and administration tool which is distributed by the UN for use with their Millenium Development Goals. It has the ability to create tables, graphs, and maps. Sub-country level maps can be downloaded from this link after registering as a DevInfo user.

<http://www.cdc.gov/epiinfo/maps.htm>

Free shapefiles are available here for download to use with Epi Info, a mapping tool available from the CDC (the United States Center for Disease Control).

http://www.who.int/health_mapping/tools/healthmapper/en/

Information is available here about the World Health Organization's HealthMapper tool. The application and some sample datasets are available for download. It comes with a core geographic database which covers areas in Africa and SouthEast Asia.

http://www.esri.com/products/#data_panel

ESRI has an extensive array of shapefiles and imagery from around the world, available as free downloads to ArcGIS users.

<http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>

Gazetteer (official list of standard spellings of foreign geographic names) at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. Can be searched graphically or by text based query.

<https://gist.itos.uga.edu/>

The data repository of the Geographic Information Support Team at USAID, this site was created to provide GIS support for humanitarian relief and emergency response. Upon registering at this site, the user can search an extensive database of shapefiles with good supporting metadata from around the world.



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