



Ionian University

Department of Archives and Library Science

Laboratory on Digital Libraries and Electronic Publishing

**“Geospatial Collection Development Policies (GCDPs) in  
Academic Libraries: a worldwide research”**

Ifigenia Vardakosta

Sarantos Kapidakis

Laboratory of Digital Libraries and Electronic Publishing

Department of Archives and Library Science

{ifigenia, sarantos@ionio.gr}



# Session Overview

Geospatial Collections Development Policies

Previous Studies

Objectives of the study

Methodology

Findings

Future work



# Geospatial Collections Development Policies (GCDDPs) (1/2)

**Collection development policies** consist of a universal process in the library world that permits the library to develop a collection in correspondence with the information needs of the user thus currently establishing various trends:

- the satisfaction needs of the users,
- the use of new technologies,
- the increase of the plans for cooperation,
- the forms of presentation of information,
- the increase of technological and financial resources

(Sanchez Vignau & Meneses, 2005)



# Geospatial Collections Development Policies (GCDPs) (2/2)

«Geospatial data collection development policies (GCDPs) differ from traditional paper-map policies” (Erwin & Sweetkind-Singer, 2010)

- there is no uniform data model,
- geospatial data vary widely in the amount of information they show,
- these data are being stored in relational geodatabases requiring sophisticated storage and archiving schemes,
- geospatial imagery datasets are often quite large and metadata may be voluminous as well,
- geospatial data may be produced over time,
- are subject to versioning because of updated information being made available or to correct past errors in the data

(Janeé, 2009 ; Erwin & Sweetkind-Singer, 2010)





## Previous researches in GIS in Libraries

- ✓ 1999 (ARL) ▶ **53/64** libraries were using GIS services
- ✓ 2005 (Kinikin and Hench )  
▶ **22/138**
- ✓ 2005a (Kinikin and Hench)  
▶ **11/21**
- ✓ 2006 (Gabbaldon and Repplinger ) ▶ **31/103**
- ✓ 2009 (Good) ▶ **90%** of univ.
- ✓ 2011 (Vardakosta and Kapidakis)  
▶ **95/133**

## Previous researches in CDPs in Libraries

- ✓ 1977 (ARL) ▶ **29%** out of 70 libraries had written policies
- ✓ 1980 (Bryant) ▶ **43%** of libraries had some texts
- ✓ 1989 (Taborsky & Lenkowski)  
▶ **58%** had written policies (some were mission statements)
- ✓ 1995 (Futas) ▶ **1/3** of academic libraries in USA didn't have written policies
- ✓ 2007 (ARL) ▶ **98%** of libraries had a librarian devoted to CDPs

## Objectives of the study

- 1) How many libraries with GIS services have geospatial collection development policies?
- 2) What kind of services they offer?
- 3) Do they use commercial or open source software?

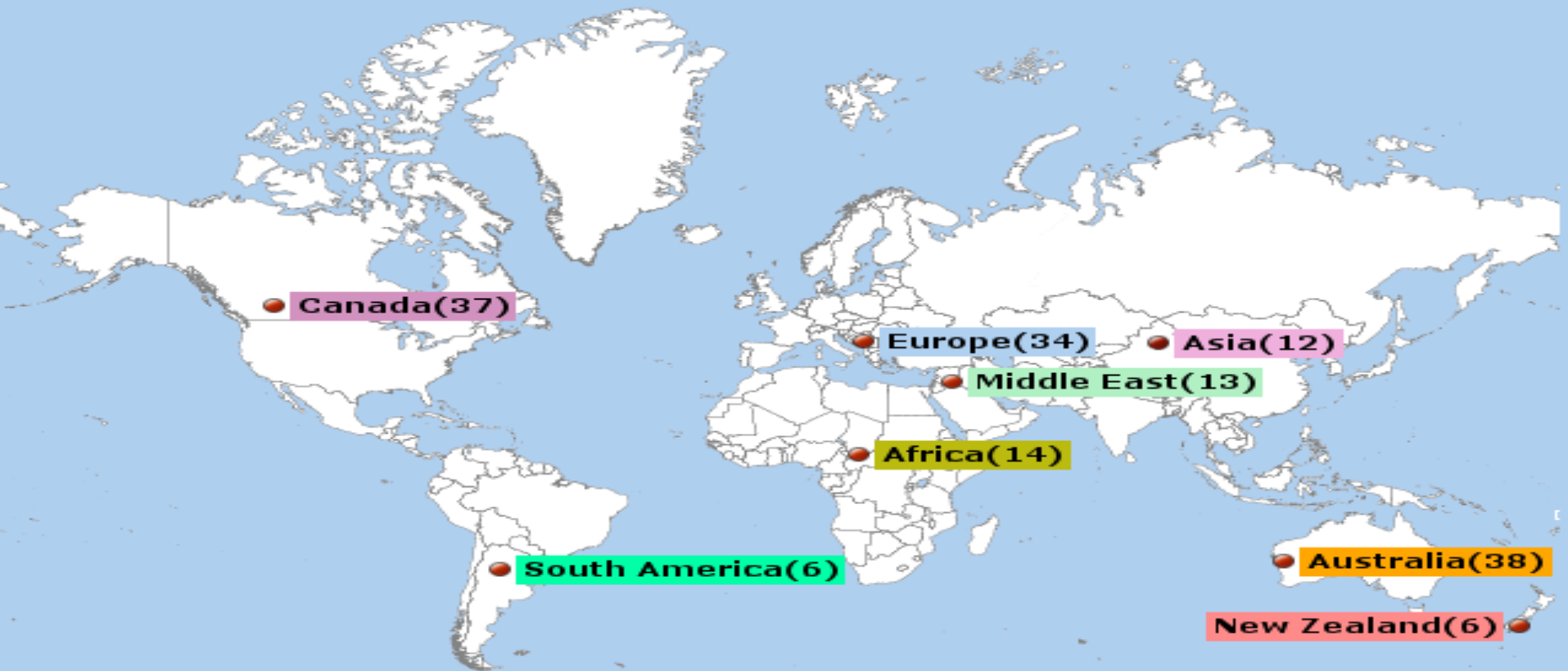


# Methodology

- Lib-web-cats and Libweb directories for locating academic libraries
- Academic libraries in universities which operate departments whose curricula are based in the use of geospatial information and GIS e.g. geography, earth sciences, environmental sciences etc.
- From initial list excepted those libraries that prevent access or there was an absence of translated pages in the english language.



# Sample : 160 Academic Libraries





# Libraries with GIS

GIS from the Library

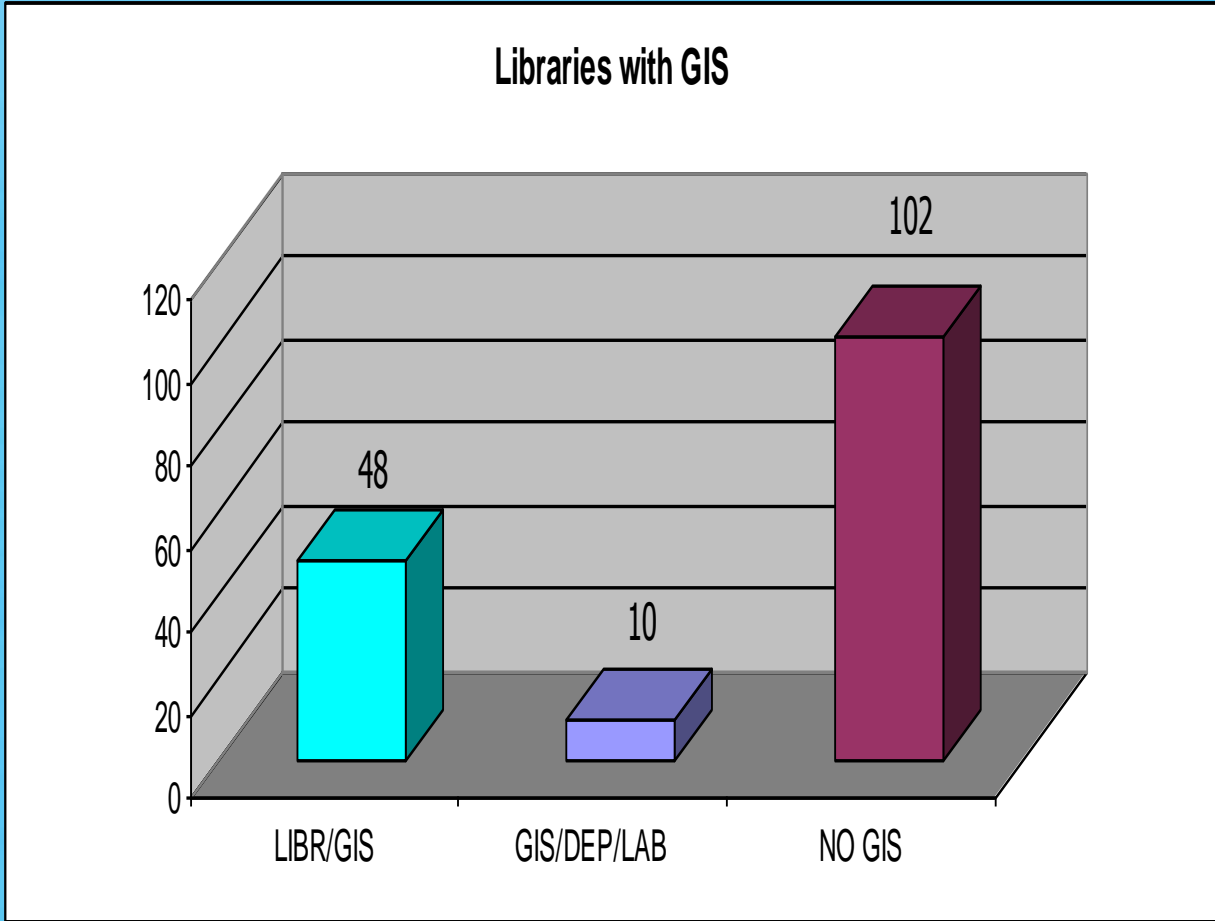
48/160

GIS from Department/Lab

10/160

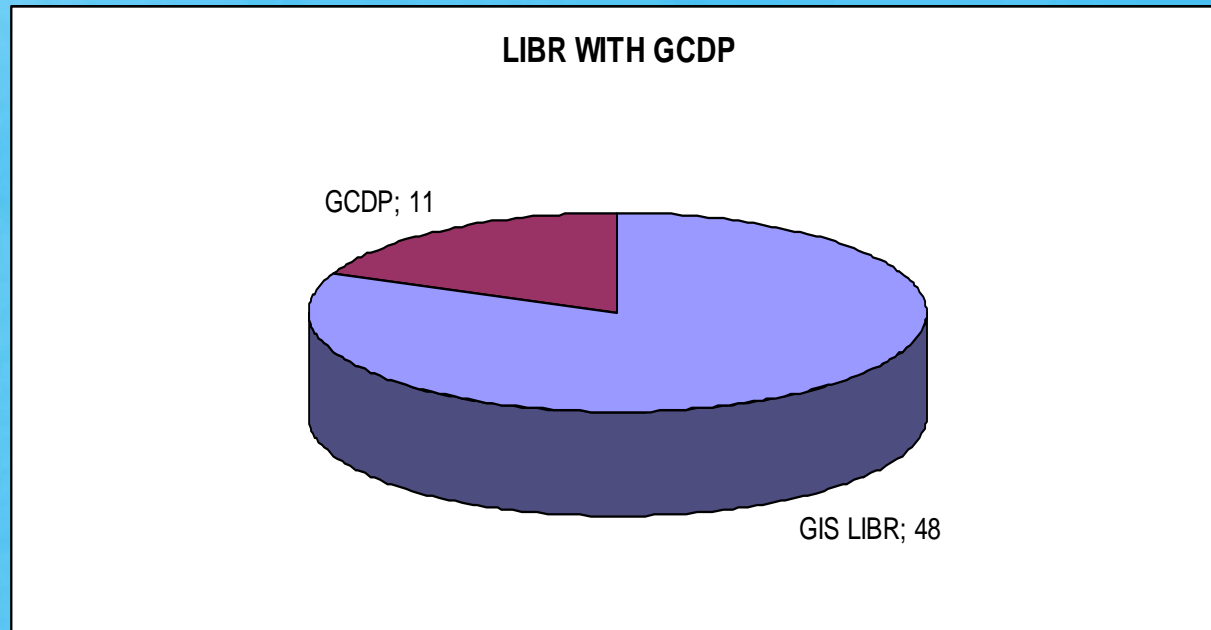
Libraries with no GIS

102/160



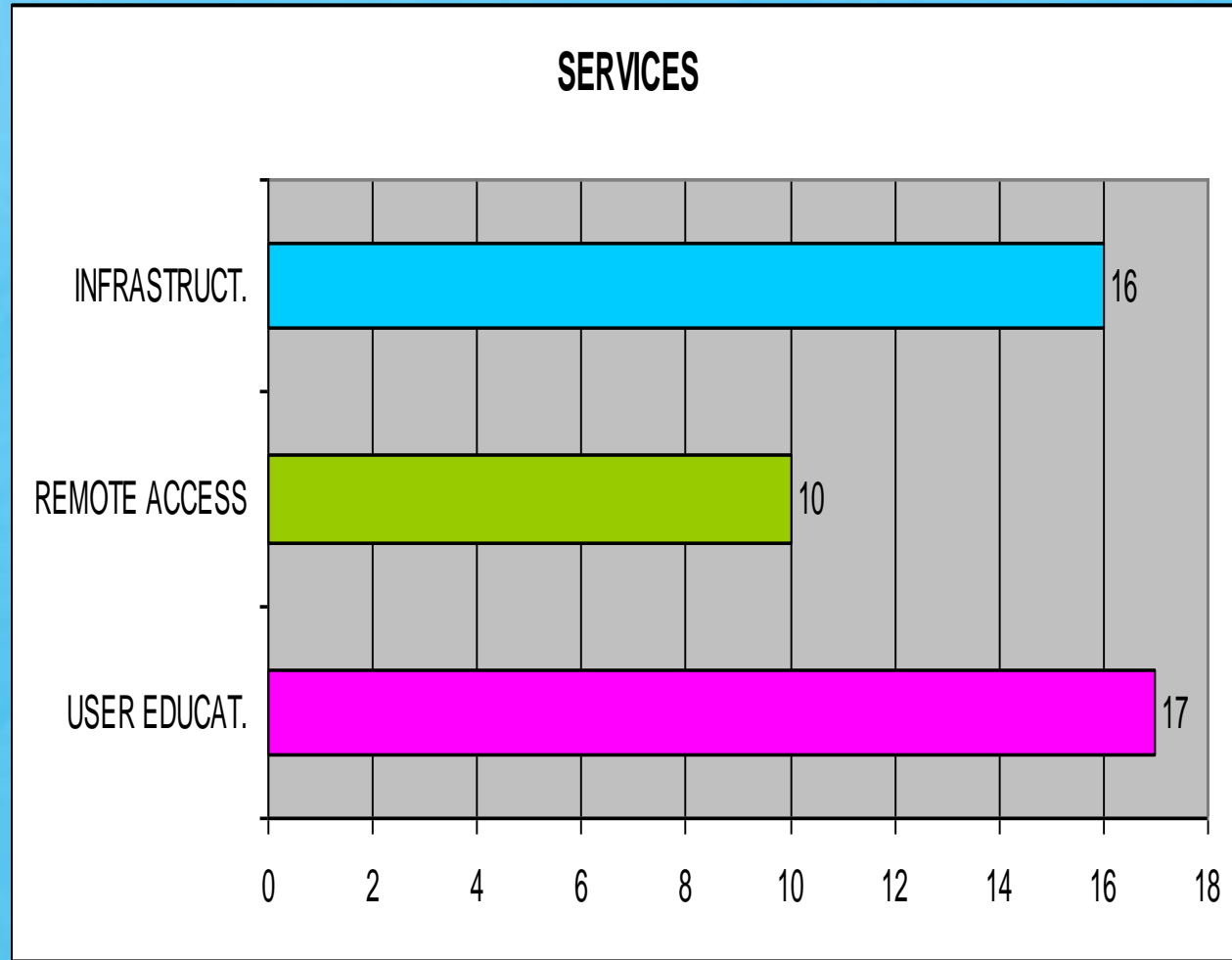
# 1) How many libraries with GIS services have geospatial collection development policies?

**11/48** had  
Geospatial Collection  
Development Policies



## 2) What kind of services they offer?

- Infrastructure  
16/48
- Remote Access  
10/48
- User Education  
17/48



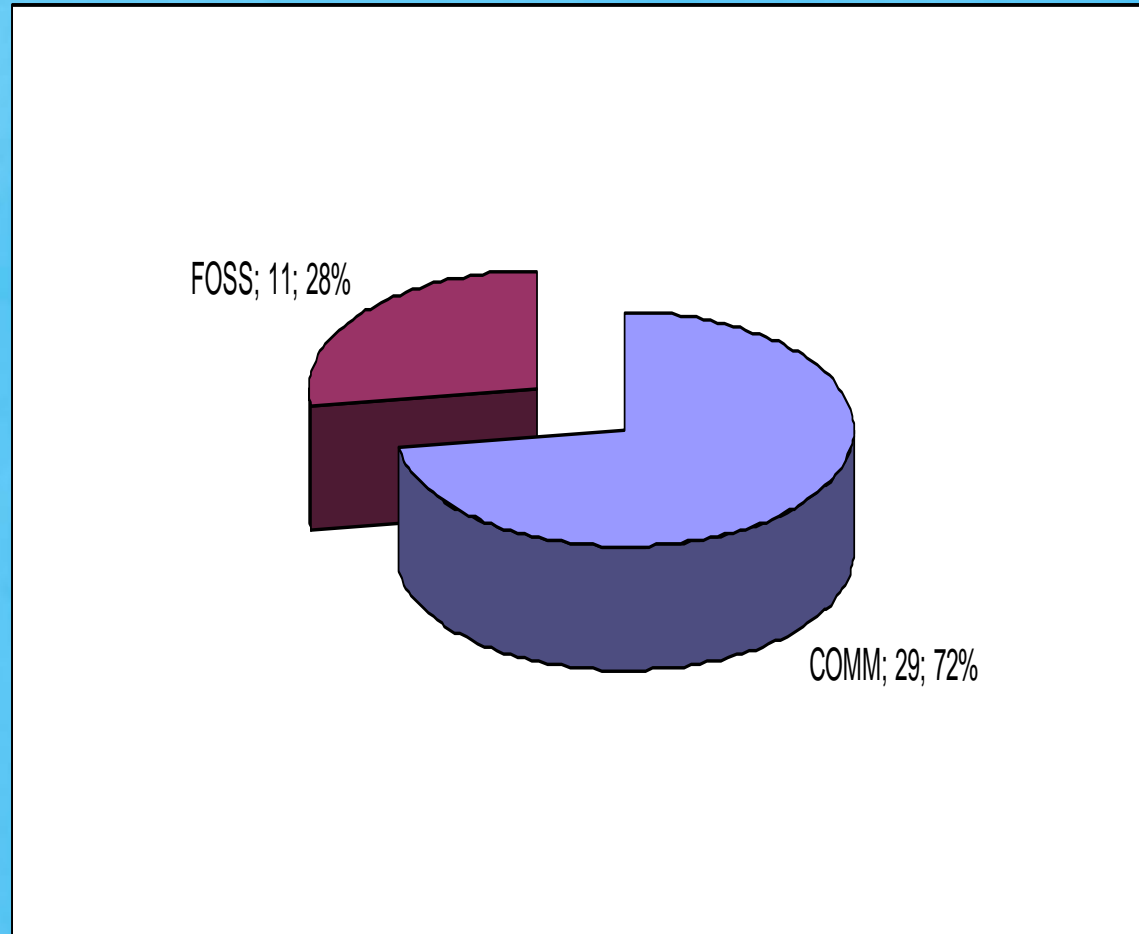
### 3) Do they use commercial or open source software?

- Commercial Software

29/48

- FOSS  
(supplementary)

11/29





# RESULTS ACCORDING REGIONS

## Libraries with GIS/Region



# Libraries with GCDPs/Region



# Services/Region



# GIS software / Regions





## Resuming results (1/2)

- Geospatial collections are not particularly developed by academic libraries worldwide even if they serve academic communities with geospatial interests.
- Geospatial Collection Development Policies are not used by geolibraries.
- User Education is recognized as an important service.
- Commercial software covers the main needs of libraries.
- FOSS are used supplementary by libraries and not as the main software for covering their needs.



## Resuming results (2/2)

- Canada is the geographic region that mostly incorporates geospatial collection policies and GIS services in academic libraries.
- Europe and Australia although they have developed geospatial collections however they do not seem to follow specific policies.
- Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America are not familiar with the development of geospatial collections.
- In Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand libraries selects commercial software for providing services, although FOSS are used supplementary.



## Future work

- What are the main characteristics of the existence geospatial collections policies?
- Are there any homogeneity among policies;
- Are policies related to a well developed collection and services?



Thank you!!!

Any Questions??

