Meeting the Information Needs of Crisis Mappers

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Western Association of Map Libraries
Crisis Mapping

• “Neogeography” and crisis map mashups done by volunteer tech-savvy humanitarians – assisting those on the ground during disaster relief.

• Crisis maps can depict important information that can be used for good and ill.

“Crisis Mapping platforms are to crises zones what MRI’s are to emergency rooms. “ Patrick Meier
Stories

• “Satellite images to confirm the disruptive impact of forced relocation on economic activity”
• “Cote D'Ivoire monitoring of violence and resources. The objective is to understand the location and severity of violence on the ground in order to quantify the unfolding disaster”
• “Christchurch Recovery Map used crowd sourced information to help people on the ground find what they needed, like emergency shelters, food, water, and medical care. I helped organise and coordinate volunteers on 24 hour rotating shifts and wrote training materials and instructions to help new volunteers get started.”
خريطة رصد المقاومة المدنية المصرية

موقع واسع النطاق الاستعانة برسوم نسقية للفترات المتوقعة للمقاومة على الطريق. هذه المقاومة المتوقعة تشتمل على جزء كبير من ممارسات الأبراج الخاصة، ولكن يتم تعاملها بعناية بواسطة القرود المستقلين. وتعتبر هذه المقاومة مركزة ككل من الأحداث في مصر.

للتصفح أكثر امان وسهولة للتصفح

هذا الموقع يستخدم جوجل كروم Google Chrome
Egypt protests

The protests in Egypt are rumbling on, these are the hotspots around the country.

Compiled by Storyful.com.

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Al Galalat Bridge

Bust
Reports of police lines were overpowered in minutes, police station occupied.

El Mansura
Up to 40,000 people reported protesting Jan 28.

Moubarak Palace
The presidential palace in this district was reportedly under siege.

Kasr Al Nile bridge
Protesters have blockaded the bridge.

Alexandria
Huge protests in Alexandria - chanting and walking through the main streets. Calling on people looking from balconies to join them.

Ismailia
Hundreds of protesters clashed with police who used tear gas and bullets to disperse them.

http://storyful.com/
My research
What are the information needs of Crisis Mappers and how can libraries and librarians assist them?

- Crisis Mappers Network = 1,858 Members Working in 103 countries
- Countries where Members have worked = 193
- Average age of Members = 37.5 years old

- 44 people surveyed
- 4 people interviewed
- Clear majority (85%) volunteer online
- It’s a young field: over 45% working on first-time volunteer projects; over 30% had worked on CM for 2 years or less,
What are the information needs of Crisis Mappers and how can libraries and librarians assist them?

- Demographics
- Defining Information?
- Methods of Access?
- Acting on information needs?
- Information sharing preferences and practices?
- Influence on the context on librarians and information professionals?
Skills Used

- Cartographic or GIS mapping: 61.54%
- Data aggregation: 46.15%
- Data management: 42.31%
- Coding/scripting: 42.31%
- Other: 30.77%
- Research: 30.77%
- Database building: 26.92%
- Language or translation: 19.23%
Data and Resources

Versatile skills needed and data used.

- Top 5 forms of data
  - Twitter feeds, image files, KML/KMZ files, excel files, “other” geospatial data

- Top 5 resources used
  - technical reports, manuals, grey lit (white papers), grey lit (government reports), books.
Information Needs

Not active library users

- Only **1 person** surveyed had used a librarian or information specialist for help with information or geospatial help
- Only **1 person** interviewed said they had ever used a librarian or information specialist for information or geospatial help
How frustrating or difficult is it for you to find the data or information you need?
How easy is it for you to find information stored from previous projects and initiatives?
There is often a significant time delay in finding the information I am looking for.
I find it easy to share data or information with those I want to.
Implications for Librarians

• Self-sufficient group, adaptable, making decisions on the fly

• Centralized access to information (google docs, ushahasi databases, etc…)
  o Location and accessibility, one-stop searching, easy navigation

• Use of online resources most predominant, but little way to find out about new resources.
  o Information seeking skills may be helpful in finding more information
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