



Narrative Cartographic Representations: Mapping the Spatiotemporal Complexity of Stories

Ana KUVEŽDIĆ DIVJAK

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Geodesy, Kačićeva 26, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
akuvezdic@geof.hr

Abstract

The significance of mapping narratives in understanding natural and social phenomena is increasingly perceived and depicted in a great number of cartographic products found on the Internet in a variety of narrative forms. So, it is worth asking how narrative maps can deal with the spatiotemporal complexity of stories. To answer this question, we selected and systematically examined various forms of online narrative maps; static, view-only narrative maps, narrative cartographic representation with dynamic view-only maps, narrative representation of sequential structures with static and dynamic view-only maps, narrative representation of sequential structures with static interactive maps, and narrative cartographic representations in which storytelling is performed by scrolling.

Mapping narratives requires the development of specific forms of cartographic representation that simultaneously present the diverse, complex spatiotemporal dimensions of the narrative and its geography (locations in the story) and geometry (relationships between story elements). Therefore, we start by discussing the context and methodological issues of mapping narratives. Next, we present the examined narrative maps and explain how we structured our comparative analysis for the selected examples. Finally, we summarize our findings and highlight the potential and limitations of each narrative map form in relation to how the story is transformed into spatiotemporal units, and thence into cartographic objects.

Keywords: narrative cartography, narrative map, story map