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Maps and the Internet

International Cartographic Association

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Chapter 1 - Maps and the Internet: An Introduction

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Publisher Summary

This chapter discusses the adoption of the Internet as a medium of communication that has been particularly rapid since the appearance of the World Wide Web (WWW) in the early 1990s. The number of Internet users has increased dramatically as the technology has spread around the world. In the process, the dominant means of map distribution has also changed. The number of maps distributed through the Internet on a daily basis is estimated at over 200 million, which is more than that printed on paper each day. Printing on paper is expensive, especially in large format and in color. It is simply less expensive to place color graphics on the Web than it is to print on paper. The Internet has fundamentally changed the way spatial information is communicated. Its development is dependent on the understanding and advancement of this form of map delivery. . There are three general types of maps that are available through the Internet: static, interactive and animated.

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