

UDMS 2013
29th Urban Data Management Symposium
University College London, 29 - 31 May 2013, London
United Kingdom

Organised by UDMS and ISPRS Working group IV/7



London (above), Roberts building (the UCL host building) and one of the conference rooms

The Urban Data Management Society (UDMS) has organised international symposia at various locations in Europe to promote the development of information systems at the local government level. At first, the focus of these symposia was mostly on urban applications, but regional and rural issues have both grown in importance over the years. Nowadays, an important aim of UDMS is to provide a forum for people to discuss new approaches, to consider new technologies, and to share practical experiences in the field of urban data management. UDMS2013 was held at University College London, London, United Kingdom, in May 2013, bringing UDMS back to London for the second time in its 42-year history. This 29th Edition was the second one that was organised in collaboration with ISPRS.

The rate of emergence of new data and new technologies has never been as rapid as it is now. Trends including smart cities, smart phones, social media, 3D modelling, volunteered geographic information, building information modelling and the Internet of Things all generate information about the urban environment and the people who live there. Additionally the volume of data generated in part through such techniques has in turn resulted in research into 'big data'—how best to handle the data, analyse it, visualise it in

different contexts. Thus the challenges and opportunities facing those working with these *New types of Urban Data* are manifold.

Given this, the general theme for UDMS 2013 was *"Recent and Emerging Trends in the Management of New Urban Data."* Conference topics, of interest to both the ISPRS and UDMS, included Urban Development, Remote Sensing, Statistics and Geo-Visualisation, Disaster Management, Ontologies and Data Integration, 3D Modelling and Applications, Volunteered Geographic Information, Smart Cities and Big Data and Transport.

The conference was visited by about 80 people from UK, Italy, The Netherlands, Germany, Malaysia, France, Czech Republic, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Latvia, USA, Canada, Brazil, Portugal, Romania, Poland, India, Nigeria, Bahrain, Sweden, Algeria. The conference programme was spread over three days;



Registration



Keynote Mauro Salvemini

29th May: The conference was opened by prof Massimo Rumor and followed by a key note speech of prof. Mauro Salvemini. He discussed the importance and the changes in urban and regional planning through the years and the increased use of geo-services. The message he has sent was to intensify the use of semantics in dealing with geo-information process as it facilitates the work of multi-disciplinary stakeholders. After the opening two parallel technical sessions were organised on Volunteered Geographic Information and Urban development. The first day was closed with a reception at UCL.



Technical presentations: Robert Laurini



Conference dinner

30th May: This day consisted of one plenary session and 6 technical sessions. The plenary session was devoted to the Olympic games. Several speakers presented how geo-information supported the security and safety during the games. The technical sessions were on Remote sensing (2) Urban development (1), Smart Cities and Big Data, Statistics and Geovisualisation (1) and 3D Modelling and Applications (1). The general impression

was that more and more applications are considering application with a 3D components. The need for correct and clean 3D data is increasing. The day was closed with the conference dinner in the Trafalgar Tavern in area of Greenwich.



Keynote Mike Worboys



Claire Ellul and UCL students at the UCL poster session

31st May: The day began with two parallel sessions on Disaster management and 3D Modelling and Applications. Afterwards in his keynote, Prof. Mike Worboys discussed the importance of indoor modelling and navigation. As human beings spend most of their time indoors, it is of crucial importance to have technology (models and applications) developed to serve ranges of applications was his message. The day was rounded off with two parallel technical sessions on Ontologies and data integration, and Transport. The conference was closed by prof. Massimo Rumor.

After the conference the Board of UDMS and Chair of ISPRS IV/7 hold a meeting to evaluate the event and decide on the place for the next event. It was agreed that conference was very well prepared. In the lunch area was organised a poster session of UCL student and staff work, which gave the participants to get an idea about the research carried out at the group of Claire Ellul. Another very good idea was preparing and providing back up student presentations. Several presenters could not obtain their visa on time, so they could not attend the conference. The local organisers, however filled the slot with presentations from master and PhD students. Such an approach is worth considering for any conference event.

The conference received about 60 papers which were all double blind peer-reviewed by at least two members of the Programme Committee. Two types of publications were prepared a CRCpress book ([Urban and Regional Data Management: UDMS Annual 2013](#)) and [ISPRS archives](#). The book contains 20 selected papers and the archives 27 papers. All the papers are suitable for different readers, for instance city planners, academics, students, policy-makers who are involved public administration and urban planning.

The organisers consider the conference a very successful event and are looking forward to the next one which will be organised in the autumn of 2014 in Ghent .

Claire Ellul, Sisi Zlatanova, Massimo Rumor and Robert Laurini