

Request for Feedback/Input for the Second Edition of:

The 3-D Global Spatial Data Model(GSDM):

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Philosophical Considerations

What is the motivation for promoting use of the 3-D GSDM? That question has several answers and I don't know which is the most important. To some extent all are applicable:

1. Given that geometry is my hobby and that I enjoy digging into the issues, I've devoted countless hours over a period of 50 plus years to development of the GSDM. I see the Second Edition as helping preserve that contribution for posterity.
2. The surveying profession has been very good to me. I've been able to earn an honorable living doing what I enjoy. I see the Second Edition as payback. My family has indulged my interests and I've learned to know many cherished friends. I hope to meet even more.
3. My loyalty is to the end user. I've enjoyed teaching surveying at the college level for 25 years. I take great satisfaction in learning of the successes and contributions of former students. Any measure of success in teaching is not prefaced on my command of pedagogical techniques, but on my understanding of the material, sharing the learning experience with students, and my aspirations for the surveying profession.
4. I've also come to understand better the difference between education and training. In the "real" world, productivity is essential. I do not contest that. But, I'll admit to being impatient with those who pay for an education and insist, "just show me what equation I should use." Education is more than learning to use equations. For myself, I am still pursuing a greater understanding of many inter-related concepts ranging from technical to scientific to sociological to philosophical. Promoting the GSDM involves all of those.
5. Financial – If my dreams were strictly economic, I am confident a way could be found to commercialize the 3-D concept successfully. I have no objection to becoming wealthy and currently enjoy the fruits of past labor. My primary goal is to facilitate the efforts of the end user (#3 above). I see implementation of the GSDM as just beginning the steep portion of an "adoption curve" and am overwhelmed to contemplate when and where the top of that curve will occur. I obtained the BURKORDTM trademark in 1997 for a reason. Intellectual property rights are to be respected and plagiarism avoided.
6. In my wildest dreams, future generations will recognize and honor the surveying profession as the originator, promoter, and implementer of the GSDM. That involves much more than being known for standing in the middle of the road looking through a telescope or sitting at a computer pushing the "least squares" button.