

SOLSTICE:

An Electronic Journal of Geography and Mathematics

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Deep Blue

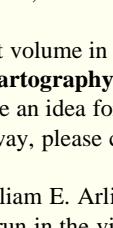


IMaGe Home



Solstice Home

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Final version of IMaGe logo created by Allen K. Philbrick from original artwork from the Founder.

VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 1; June, 2012

News

1. *Spatial Mathematics: Theory and Practice Through Mapping*. Sandra L. Arlinghaus and Joseph Kerski, forthcoming (c. 2012), CRC Press. [Linked video](#).
2. The work above is the first volume in a series of books to be published by CRC Press in its series "Cartography, GIS, and Spatial Science: Theory and Practice." If you have an idea for a book to include, or wish to participate in some other way, please contact the series Editor, Sandra L. Arlinghaus.
3. *Virtual Cemetery* with William E. Arlinghaus; an ongoing project that continues in development run in the virtual world in parallel with the trust-funded model of a real-world cemetery.

Articles

Click on the sun/cloud button to see a word cloud of the adjacent article!



[From Tissot to Google Earth: Sampling the Earth's Graticule](#)

Sandra L. Arlinghaus

and

Joseph J. Kerski

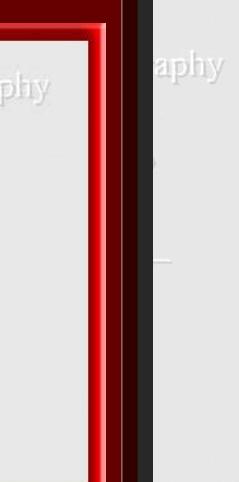


[Geosocial Networking: A Case from Ann Arbor, Michigan](#)

David E. Arlinghaus

and

Sandra L. Arlinghaus



[Visual Abstracts: Institute of Mathematical Geography](#)

Sandra L. Arlinghaus



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3. Awards

1.



2.



3.

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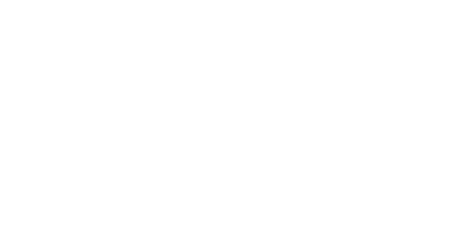
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Congratulations to all Solstice contributors.

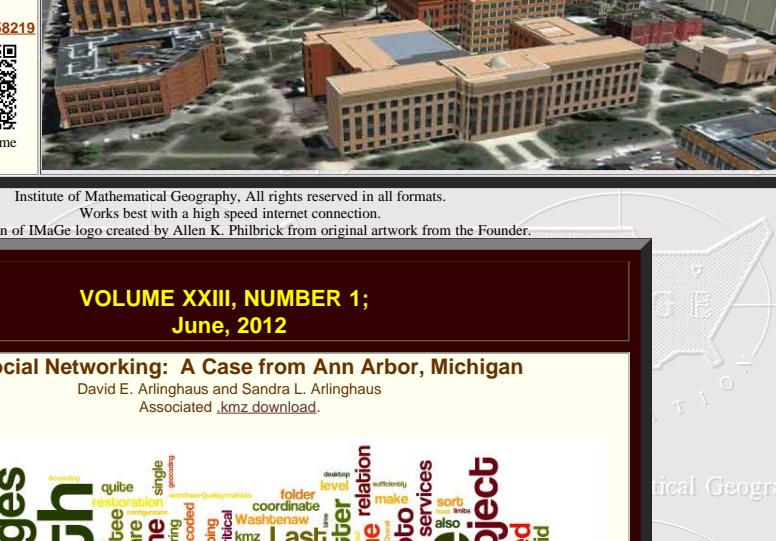
Remembering those who are gone now but who contributed in various ways to Solstice or to IMaGe projects, directly or indirectly, during the first 25 years of IMaGe:

Allen K. Philbrick | Donald F. Lach | Frank Harary | William D. Drake | H. S. M. Coxeter | Saunders Mac Lane | Chauncy D. Harris | Norton S. Ginsburg | Sylvia L. Thrupp | Arthur L. Loeb | George Kish |



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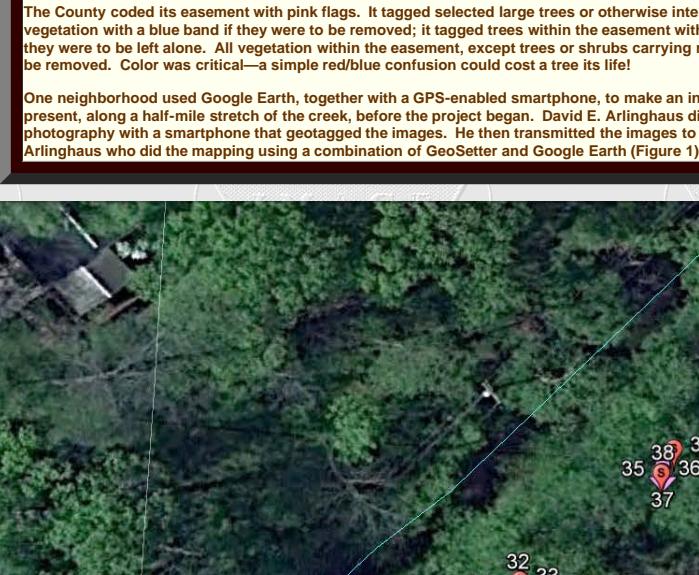
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Geosocial Networking: A Case from Ann Arbor, Michigan

David E. Arlinghaus and Sandra L. Arlinghaus
Associated [kmz download](#)



Social networking is an idea that is familiar to many of us: from Facebook, to Twitter, to LinkedIn, to a host of others that come and go. More recent, however, is the idea of "geosocial networking" or "collaborative mapping." According to Wikipedia (2012),

"Geosocial Networking is a type of social networking in which geographical services and capabilities such as geocoding and geotagging are used to enable additional social dynamics. [...] User-submitted location data or geolocation techniques can be used to enable networks to connect and coordinate users with local people or events that match their interests. Geolocation on web-based social network services can be IP-based or use hotspot triangulation. For mobile social networks, texted location information or mobile phone tracking can enable location-based services to enrich social networking."

Recently, Washtenaw County, Michigan embarked on a major stream bank erosion control project. When that project entered heavily forested residential lands adjacent to a creek, environmentally-sensitive residents quite naturally became concerned for the trees that will be destroyed or disturbed. The project is still on-going and the geosocial network described below remains in place.

The County needed its assessment with pink flags. It tagged selected trees in areas of otherwise interesting vegetation with a blue band if they were to be removed; it tagged trees within the easement with a red band if they were to be left alone. All vegetation within the easement, except trees or shrubs carrying red tags, were to be removed. Color was critical—a simple red/blue comparison could cost a tree its life!

One neighborhood used Google Earth, together with a GPS-enabled smartphone, to map an inventory of trees present, along a half-mile stretch of the creek, before the project began. David E. Arlinghaus did all the photography with a smartphone and geotagged the images. He then transmitted the images to Sandra L. Arlinghaus who did the mapping using a combination of GeoSetter and Google Earth (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Pink arrows mark flags showing County drain easements. Red balloons mark trees to be saved within the easement. Blue balloons mark trees to be cut.

The accuracy of the geotagging of the photos was limited by several factors. First, the software in the smartphone has limits. Second, the geotagging of the tree is actually the geotagging of where David stood to take the photo, not the tree itself. He attempted to stand at a consistent distance from trees to ensure precision (but that is difficult in a densely wooded area). The level of precision, however, was quite good—trees were in correct relation to each other and in close to correct relation to dwelling units.

The geotagged camera images were downloaded directly to a computer by plugging the smartphone into a recent Windows 7 desktop computer. All 81 images were stored in a single folder. That folder was then uploaded to the free software called "GeoSetter." From there, the geotagged images were batch-uploaded to Google Earth in a single operation (rather than entering each one individually). The GeoSetter software was able to take the underlying geocoded coordinates from the camera images, as well as the images themselves, and make them correspond to the underlying coordinate geometry in Google Earth. We made color decisions to correspond with the actual colors of tags used on vegetation.

Accuracy of registration of photo and Google Earth coordinates, using this sort of strategy was guaranteed. Hand placement would not offer that level of accuracy of registration. Overall, the results were sufficiently precise (although not accurate) to offer local residents a clear picture of what was going to happen in wooded areas. When the camera GPS coordinates were obtained, a photo of the tagged item was also taken. Figure 2 shows a photo displayed on the Google Earth surface pointing to the identified red-tagged tree. Figure 3 shows a similar configuration of photo in relation to Google Earth base pointing to the identified blue-tagged tree. These pointing associations are all accurate. Download the linked kmz file, open it in Google Earth, and you will see associations of this sort for all 81 trees marked by the County before the time of photographing.

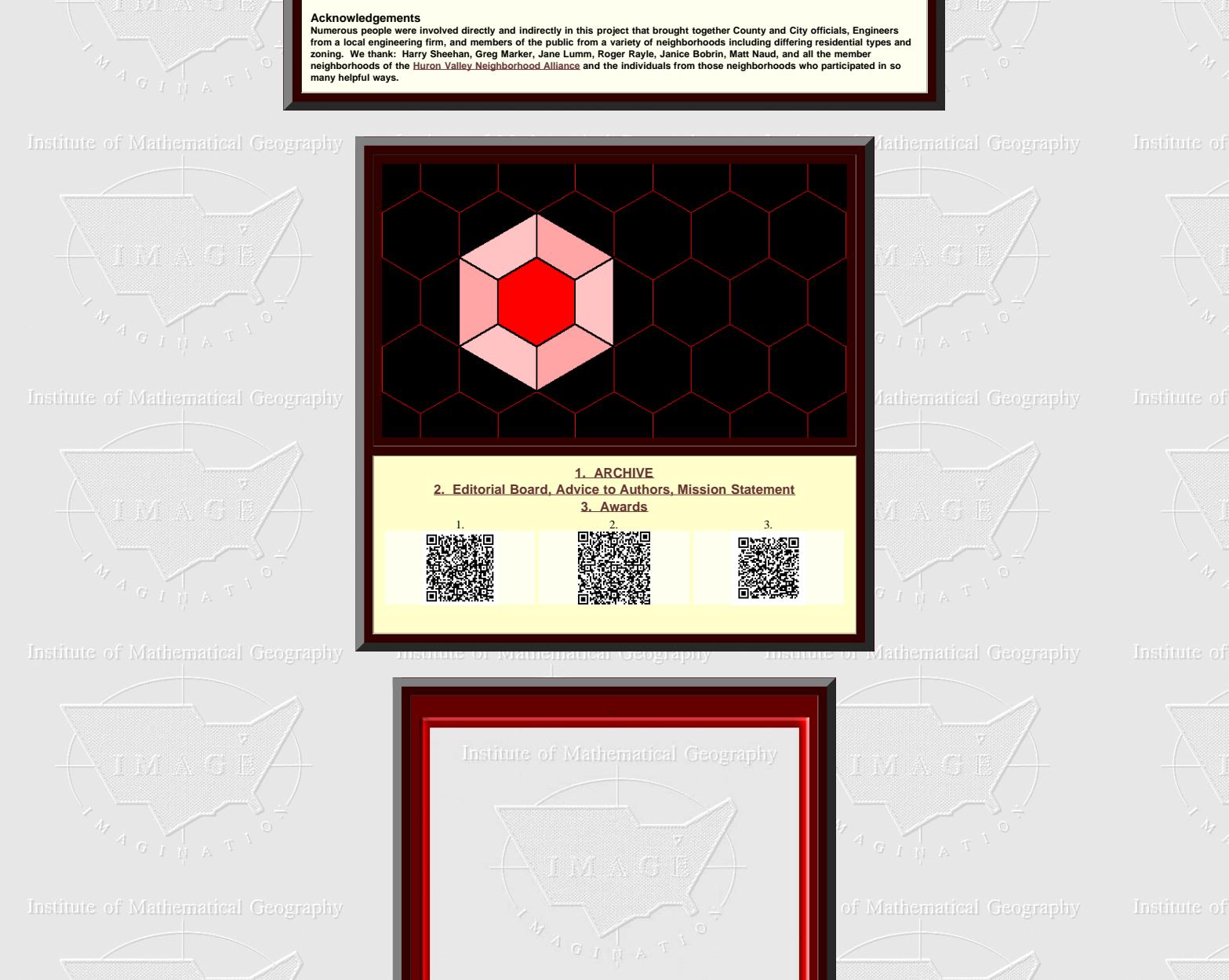


Figure 2. Photo mounted in Google Earth. Note that the photo has a pointer on it that points to the correct balloon location.

The neighborhood association established a tree monitoring committee. The committee was given a Google Earth file showing tree location and associated tag color. The easement was also geocoded. Prior to using the file, the neighborhood association president and the creator of the Google Earth display met with the lead County official and the lead engineer on the project to ensure a cooperative approach to file usage.

Subsequently, the tree monitoring committee used the information in conjunction with field-checking vegetation. Geosocial networking was, and is (through remaining tree restoration scheduled in late fall 2012), critical in developing a constructive relationship among the various parties adjacent to this well-meaning and successful environmental stream-bank restoration project.

References

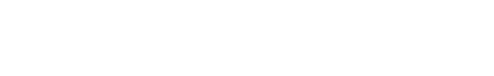
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Acknowledgments

Numerous people were involved directly and indirectly in this project that brought together County and City officials, Engineers from a local engineering firm, and members of the public from a variety of neighborhoods including differing residential types and zoning. We thank Harry Sheehan, Greg Marker, Jane Lumm, Roger Raye, Janice Bobrin, Matt Naud, and all the member neighborhoods of the Huron Valley Neighborhood Alliance and the individuals from those neighborhoods who participated in so many helpful ways.



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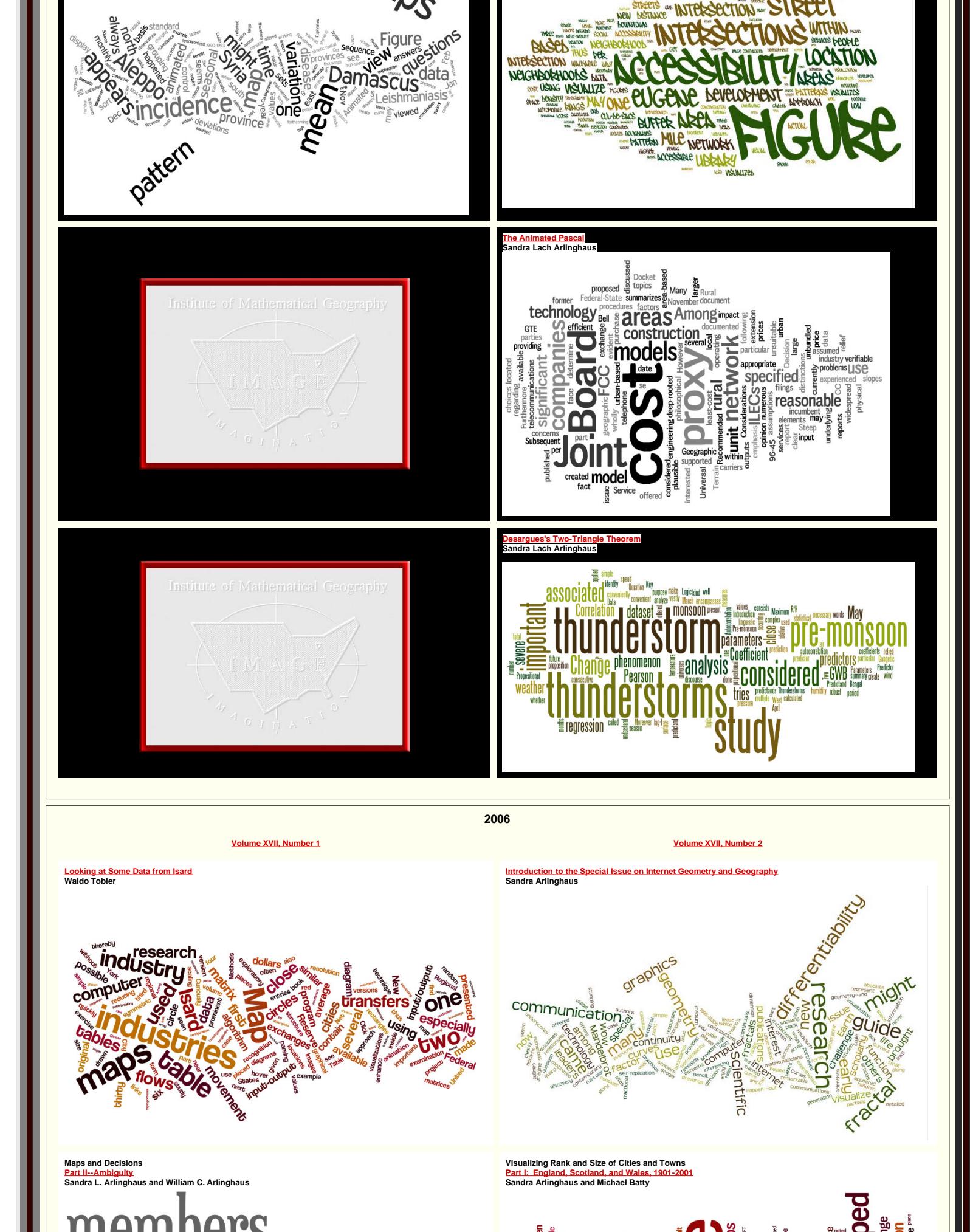
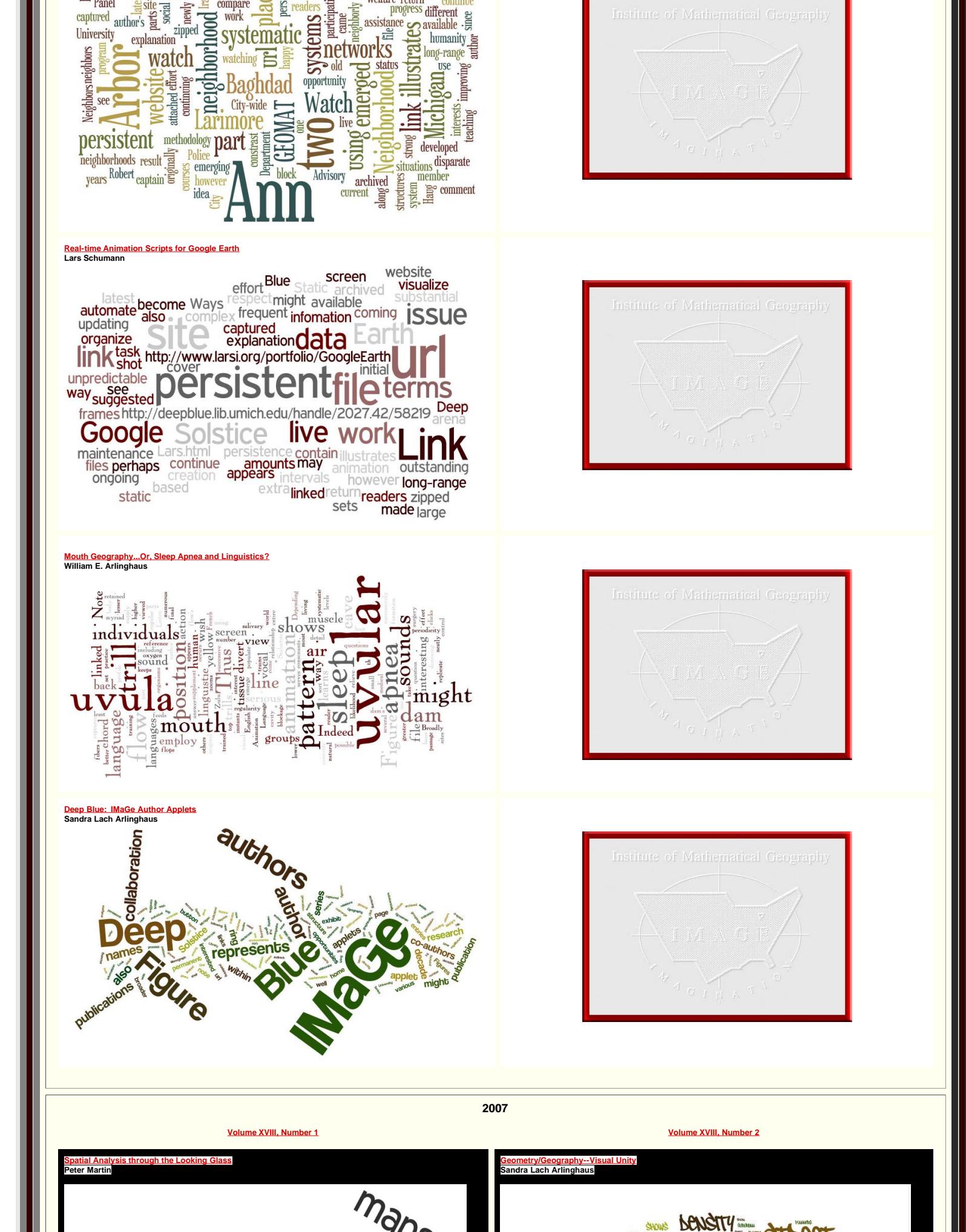
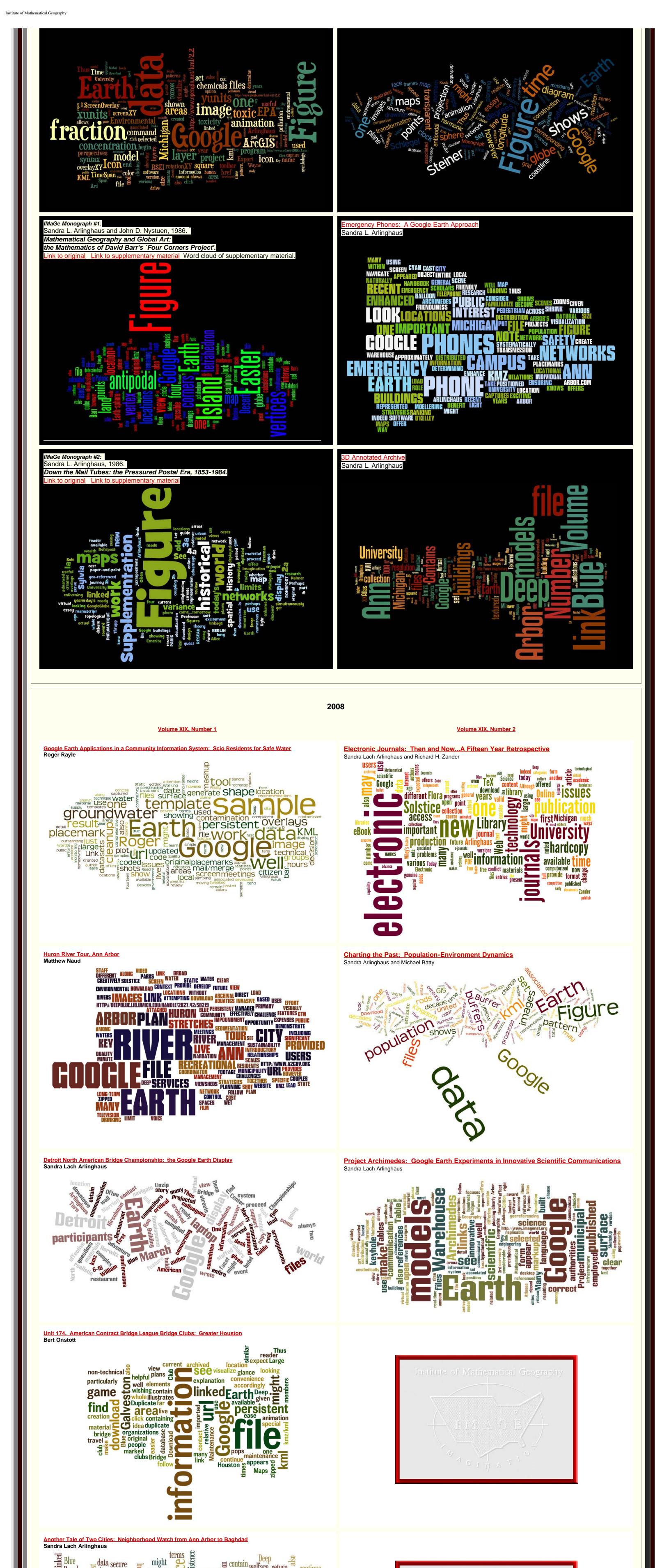
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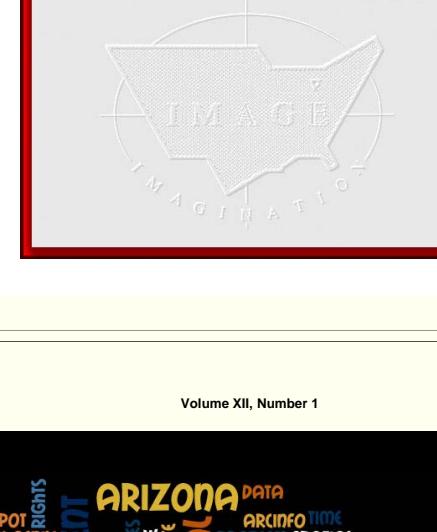
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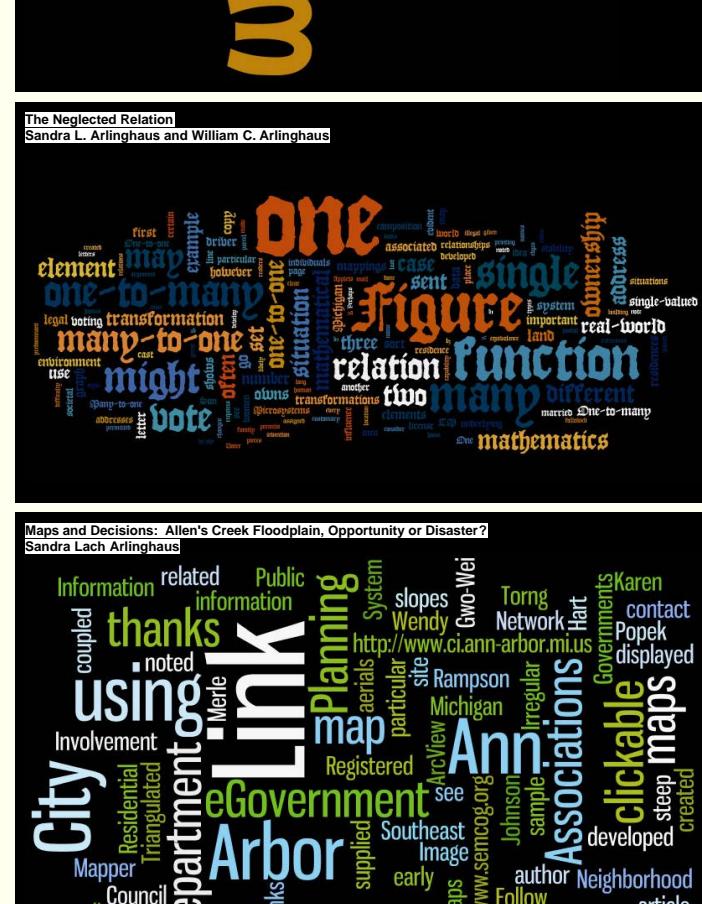


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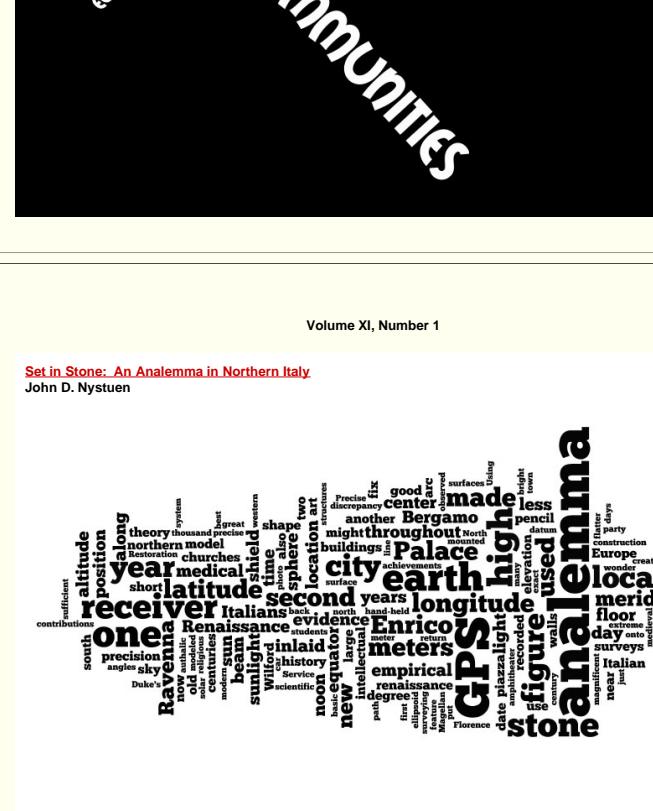
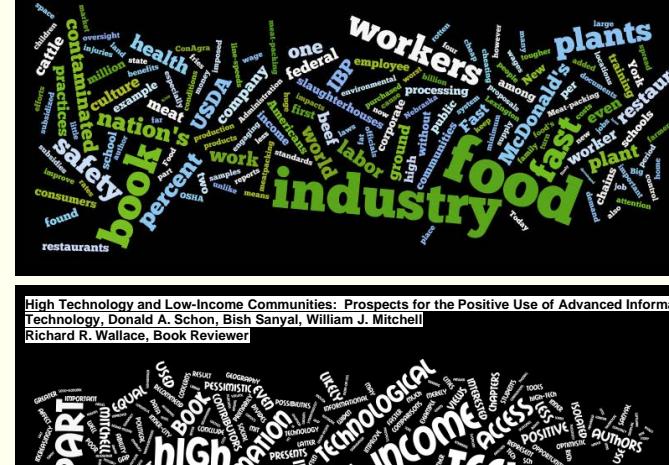


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What's At Home? Shelter for the Poor in Low



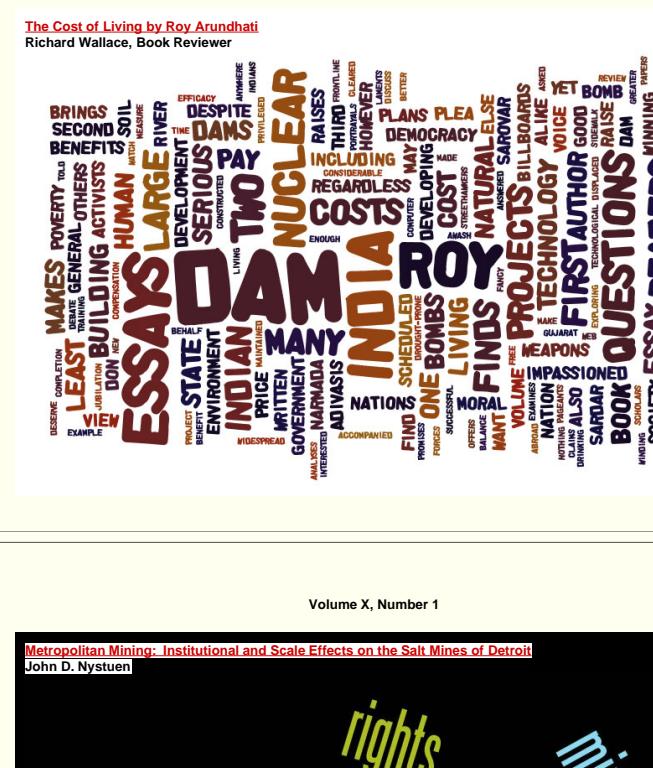
Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal



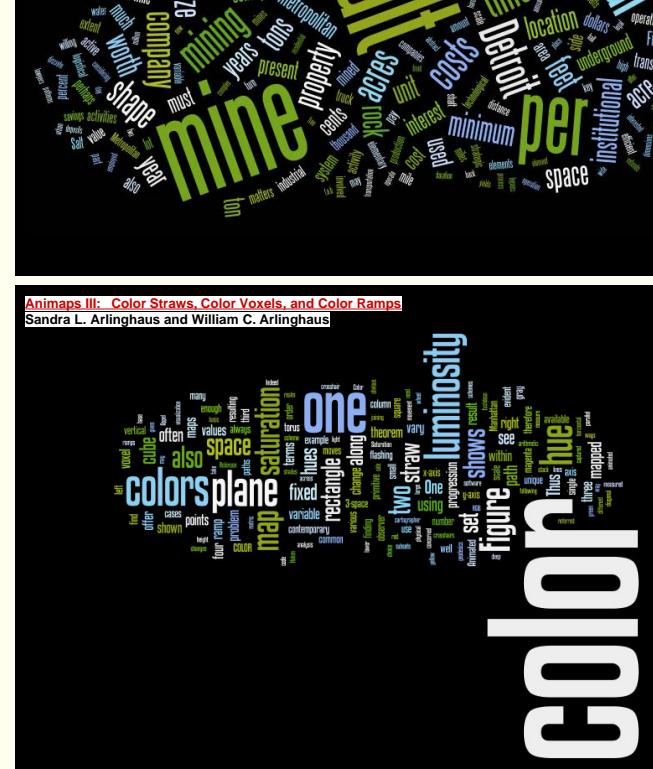
Personal Reflections on Solar Power



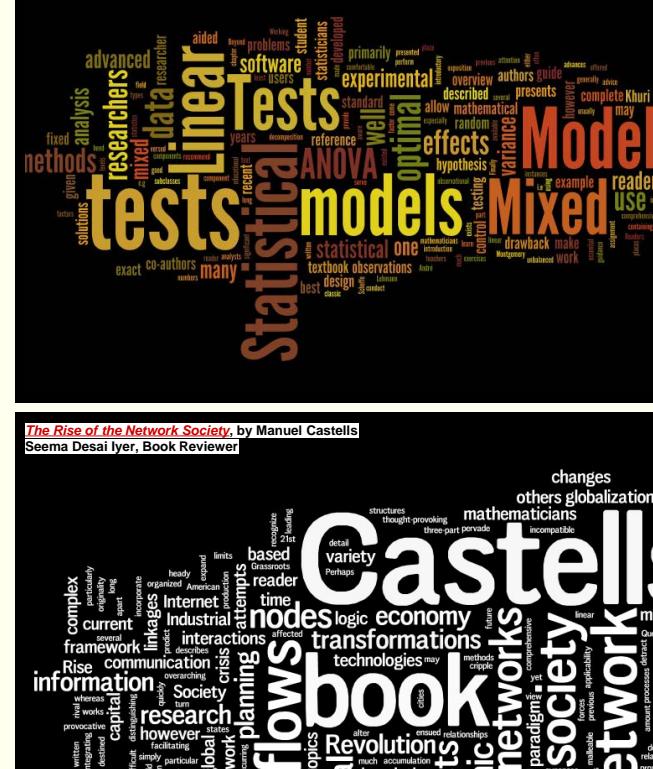
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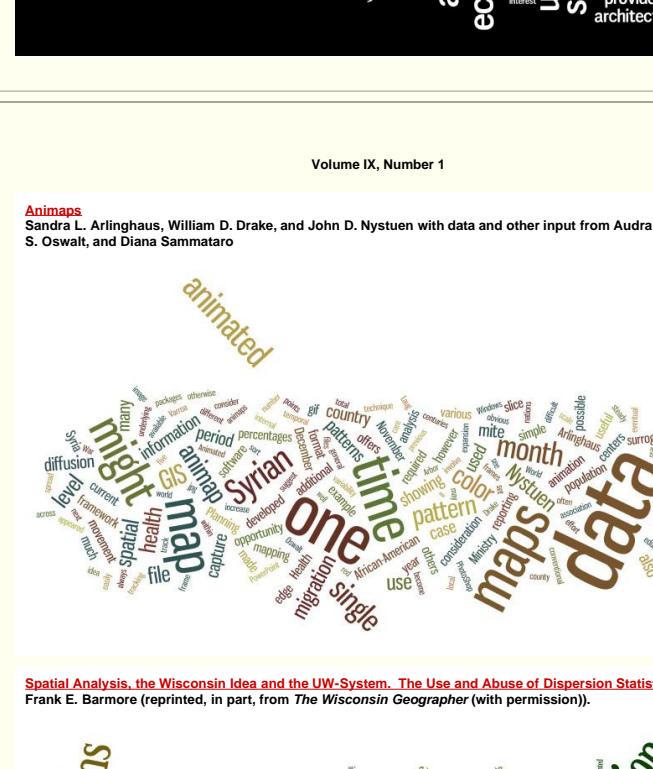
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Statistical Tests for Mixed Linear Models
Richard Wallace, Book Reviewer



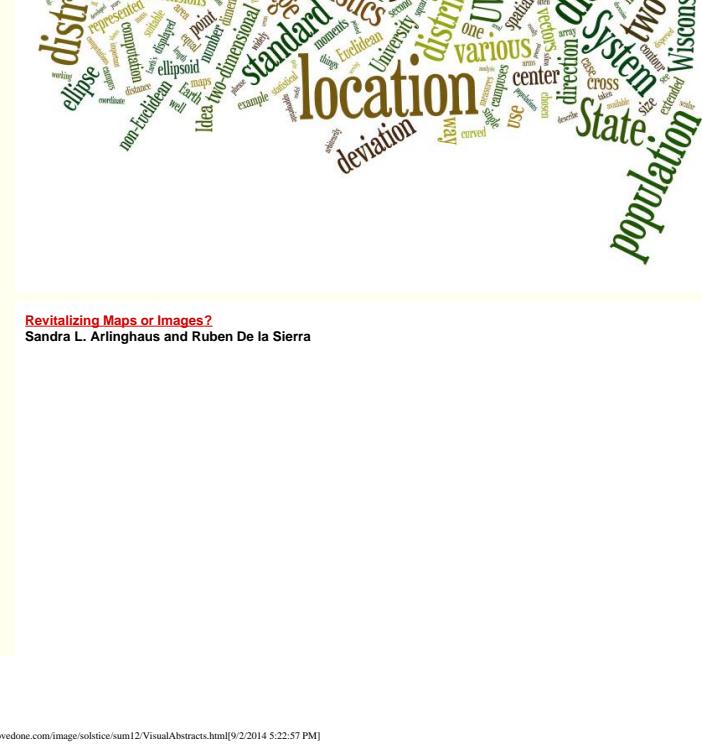
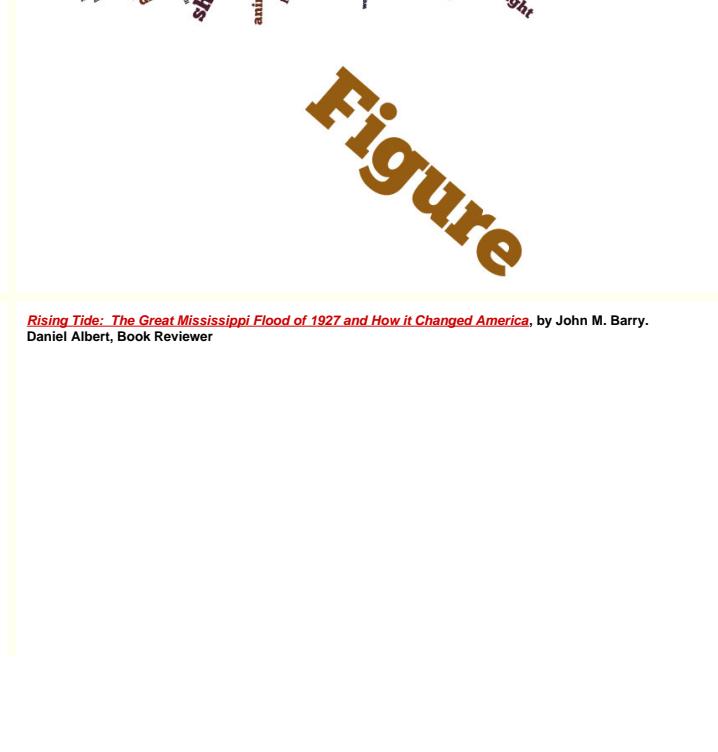
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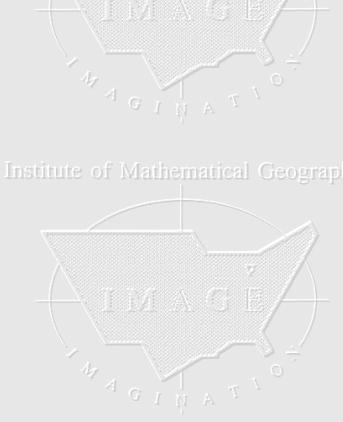


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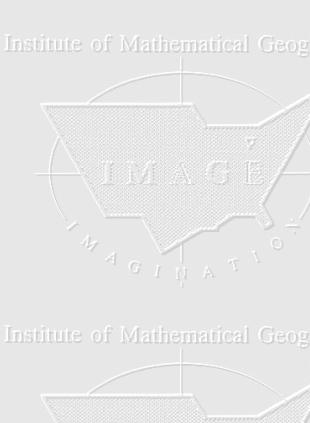
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