

BILLIG

Bilateral Lusophone Literature Initiative using GIS and Linguistics

Report: 2nd Training Course – Two-day advanced (follow-up) GIS course for Humanities and specifically for literature in ILOS, OSLO

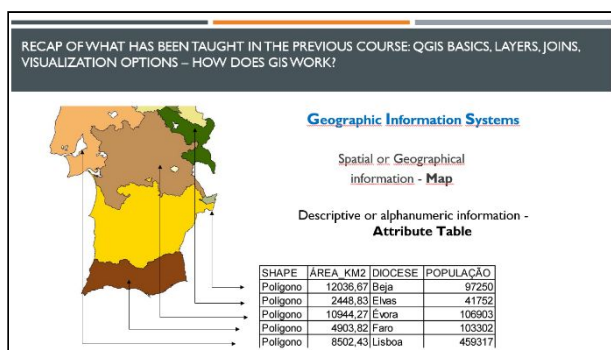
Participant researchers:
2020

Danielle Sanches, NOVA
Ângela Pité, NOVA

Dates: 5th – 6th February

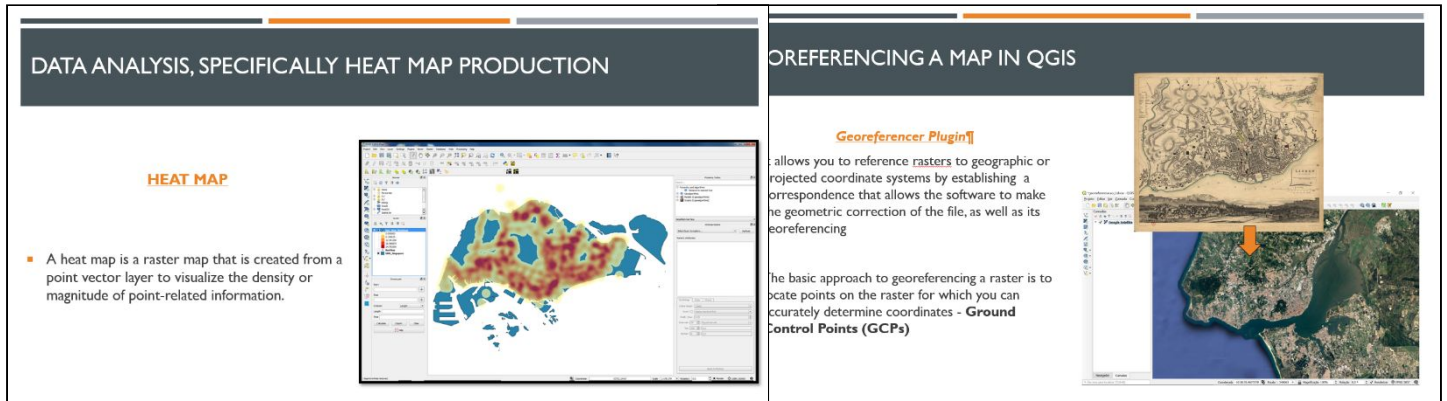
The two experts from NOVA gave a Workshop (2 days) at the University of Oslo providing an advanced training in GIS, specifically applied to the analysis of large literary databases. The various lectures focused on different spatial analysis tools that could be of interest for conducting broader studies in literature, geography, computational methods and humanities in general.

The first session functioned as a recap of what had been taught in the previous course, namely QGIS basics, layers, joins and visualization options, and was intended for participant that had not attended the first “Introduction to GIS” course, also part of the BILLIG Initiative’s activities.



Example of a slide with the introductory information

The second session started to focus on more advanced applications of GIS capabilities, like describing several ways for geo-locating places and addresses in the QGIS software using the MMQGIS and Geocoding Plugins and also performing some data analysis, specifically how to create a Heat Map. It was also explained how to proceed for georeferencing an image/old map in QGIS using the Georeferencer Plugin. These capabilities are of most value for studies dealing with textual and literary analysis, allowing for a different approach and perception of this data, as well as an interactive way of visualizing the results.

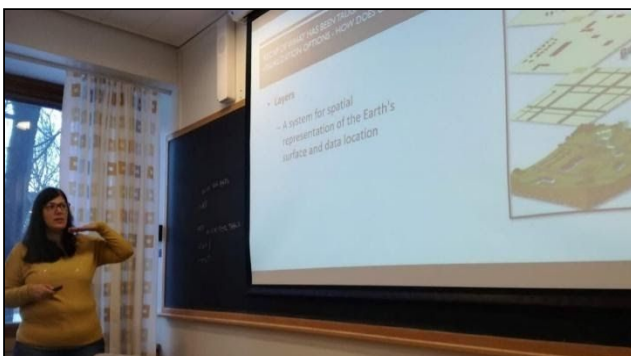


Example of the presentation's slides

On the second day, the lecture also covered temporal data analysis, which may also be of need in some literary analysis, focusing on how to perform spatial analysis and visualizations, for example using the TimeManager Plugin.

As part of the course, the application of GIS in some case studies was also analysed, showcasing some uses of these technologies in literary studies, namely in researches being conducted in Europe, USA and Brazil.

The final session of the course was dedicated to questions and discussion with the participants, and, as it was useful for the participants, also making them acquainted with (a free trial of) ArcGIS Online tool and the online spatial visualizations it offers, using the participant's own data.



Photos of the course

During the Portuguese researcher's stay in Oslo the second face-to-face meeting of the initiative also took place, in which the current development and further steps of the project were discussed. It was chosen a field related conference to send a paper proposal submission. The abstract for that started being written in that meeting as well.



Photo of the 2nd face-to-face meeting taking place

On the final day of their stay the researchers also attended a 5 hours course - "Introduction to LaTeX" - which was organized by ILOS, that provided relevant information about its functionalities and variety of end uses for several academic purposes.