

Working Group V/6- "Close range morphological measurement for the earth sciences"

A. State of science and technology working group topics

Spatial measurement of natural objects at close range continues to be an important application area for photogrammetry and laser scanning. The number of users/applications continues to grow, but many new users remain unaware of technical issues or indeed the activities/expertise within ISPRS. This growth has been fuelled by user requirements but perhaps more significantly, the availability of software and hardware technologies that are heavily marketed as "easy-to-use". This overselling has created some difficulties for some users!

B. Accomplishment of Working Group V6 during 2011

Membership is currently 93 with members distributed in 20 countries around the world, including Africa, South America, China, Japan as well as North America, Australasia and Europe.

The working group coordinated two technical sessions in 2011. Dirk Rieke-Zapp (co-chair) co-convened a full day session at the European Geomorphological Union in Vienna in early April, entitled "Digital Landscapes: Acquisition (close range measurement and laser scanning) to Quantitative Interrogation"

(<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2011/session/6522>).

Jim Chandler (chair) also convened a V6 session at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Conference

(<http://meridian.aag.org/callforpapers/program/SessionDetail.cfm?SessionID=11575>). This was held in April in Seattle, in the US, where it was felt that it was important to spread the ISPRS V6 message. It was pleasing that one of our American presenters is eager to reconvene at the AAG next year (see below).

C. Working group news

The main event scheduled for 2012 is clearly the Melbourne Congress where two sessions are currently planned. One of these is a "themed session" entitled "morphological change detection" and is being held in collaboration with ISPRS WG IV/8. The working group has also organised a keynote presentation from Prof Stuart Lane, although some uncertainty remains over the financial support offered to support this.

Finally, James Dietrich is coordinating a second V6 session at the forthcoming AAG annual conference, which is to be held in New York in February 2012

(<http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>).

Jim Chandler (Chair); Simon Buckley, Dirk Rieke-Zapp (Co-chairs),
Rene Wackrow (Secretary)
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