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It is good to keep in mind the scale and the associated degree of generalization newly emerging map at all points mentioned above.

CONCLUSION

The paper described the possibilities of boundaries representation in the new Academic Atlas of the Czech History and in historical maps generally. The emphasis was placed on the mutual cartographic distinction of current and historical boundaries and on the clear representation of boundaries in different types of surface. Shortly were mentioned also issues related to source data for the historic boundaries together with their possible solutions.

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CHATEAUX AND CASTLES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC: OLD MAPS AND PLANS PROCESSING

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ABSTRACT

Chateaux and castles are an important part of cultural heritage in the Czech Republic. The main focus of our project is to put together all the historical maps and plans of chateaux and castles as well as their historical photographs within the web mapping application. The emphasis is put on the surroundings of the main objects. There are many interesting buildings, parks, sculptures and churches nearby. All these objects can be found on historical mappings or other plan materials.

The processing of old maps is performed during the first phase of the project funded by the Czech ministry of culture. Old maps are collected and georeferenced. After that is the vector data model being created and fulfilled. All these maps and created data are prepared to be used in geographical information systems. Besides map material, 3D models of castles and chateaux can be created. All outputs of the project (georeferenced maps, vector data models, 3D models of castles, buildings reconstruction) are easily accessible by the web mapping application.

Keywords: old maps, georeferencing, cultural heritage, web mapping

INTRODUCTION

The project itself is based on a cooperation of five public institutions and it is aimed mainly on the research of historical photographs particularly of aristocratic families and therefore also their chateaux, castles and manors. One of the project goals is to gather and online publish old maps and plans of these objects (castles, manors) and create complex web mapping application accessing not only these old maps, but also located historic photographs. Old maps, along with historic photographs, views, paintings and text documents can offer us new views into the history of castles, manors and aristocratic families. The project deals with 60 chateaux and castles formerly in property of noble families and at the present times under the administration of National Heritage Institute (*Národní památkový ústav - NPLU*).

Various old maps and plans are being collected and processed to be usable for the web mapping application. Generally there are three groups of old maps related to the scale and map content. Floor and buildings plans are used to show chateaux interior. Cadastral and similar maps depict surroundings of castle and its closest economic background. Maps of Military Mapping Surveys and maps of domains compose last level representing the whole domain and wider economic and cultural background of the chateau. Much important information which are recorded only in text documents are

collected via archival survey. Subjects of interest are not only castle buildings, but also service yards (farmsteads), mills, sawmills, iron-mills, gamekeeper's houses, churches, chapels, important status and so on. Selected important objects on maps as well as object recognized by archival survey are entered into the vector data model. Close surroundings of castles on these selected maps are vectorized fully allowing a comparison of land-use and castle area development.

These above mentioned maps, plans and vector data create a frame for localized historical photography. Publication of all the data in the web mapping application facilitates thorough the view of a chateau and the comparison of situation in different periods of time.

SOURCES OF MAPS AND PLANS

There are various sources of old documents (maps) related to castles and domains at several institutions dealing with old maps, plans, photos, documents, etc. The vast majority of collected sources belong to public institutions, few to the private sector. Most of these sources can be divided into following categories considering the administrating institution or owner as well as the availability for project and state of deposition. The most important maps will be mentioned more thoroughly.

First category includes maps which can be used for any objects. Generally, it concerns well available national map series: Imperial Imprints of Stable Cadastre, other old cadastral maps, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Military Mapping Surveys, state derived map (*státní mapa odvozená - SMO5*), present cadastral maps, base maps (*základní mapa - ZM*), etc.

As one of the most important map source we use scans of Imperial Imprints of Stable Cadastre provided by Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (*Český úřad zeměměřičský a katastrální - ČÚZK*). These maps from the first half of 19th century in scale 1 : 2,880 cover almost the entire Czech republic, but even more the former Austria-Hungary. Due to their geometric precision and also graphic attractiveness the Stable cadastre maps are an excellent base layer for web application suitable also for vectorization.

Maps of three Military Mapping Surveys originated in between 2nd half of 18th century and end of 19th century in scale of 1 : 28,800 (or 1 : 25,000) are used as a base for overall depiction of aristocratic domains and their economic and cultural background. Their accuracy is quite surprising [1].

SMOS (state derived maps) in scale of 1 : 5,000 from early fifties of 20th century illustrate situation before significant changes later on. These maps are convenient pattern helpful for Stable cadastre georeferencing.

The following categories include maps which are not accessible for all these objects, so used maps are not the same for each object. Second category obtains sources which are under the administration of NPÚ, administrator of chateaux and castles selected for the project.

There are two main database system in NPÚ to manage old documents (maps, plans, views, photos). A CastIS is the information system to handle all the chateaux on all the objects of NPÚ. There are various information about the item, usually including a preview photo. Unfortunately, not all the subjects are in the database. State of work

differs a lot castle to castle as it depends on the person in charge. Another database, MIS (Meta Information System) is related to GIS. Records thus should have been connected to the reference points. Unfortunately, neither this database can be considered as complete. State of work depends on district department of NPÚ. Despite of going through these databases, there are many more documents which can be found. Therefore the archival survey is essential part of the work and many maps, plans, views and photos can be found straight in the castle archives. Another important source in NPÚ are central map and plan archive and archive of photographs.

Different kinds of documents can be found there. Important are plans of structural-historical surveys, indicating development of castle buildings. There is also a great number of historic photographs to be found.

Another category are maps and plans deposited in public archives (State Regional Archives, State District Archives, municipal archives). There is a great number of historical documents, including maps and plans. Unfortunately, just a small part of archival documents has been already digitized. Even worse some of the funds haven't been inventorized yet, due to misbehave and many organizational changes in the past. Nevertheless, these archives are an exceptional source of interesting maps and plans.

All kind of maps and plans can be found in public archives. The important maps are of domains, castle surroundings, parks, gardens and forestry maps. These maps record economic and cultural background of the castle. Old buildings plans, floor plans along with plans of structural-historical surveys from previous category are essential to show the development and the use of castle buildings and interiors.

METHODS

Undoubtedly, the most used source on spatial information of castles or chateaux contains maps and plans. As the aim of the project is to prepare data to be visualized in web map application, spatial data should be stored in a common reference coordinate system. Our method of maps processing is based on three phases: digitizing (scanning), georeferencing and data preparation for internet publishing.

Old maps and plans are scanned with appropriate values of resolution (at least 300 dpi) and color depth (usually 24-bit). If scanning of analog media is not possible (e.g. maps attached on wall) the only possibility is to photograph them. During photographing is necessary to keep in mind drawbacks of this method (especially some types of distortion). Scanned data are stored in lossless graphic formats, such as TIFF.

The very actual problem is georeferencing of maps. This process is very complex and can bring many problems. There are some recommendations that can lead to quality georeferenced data. First, data should be georeferenced in the same (or much relative) reference coordinate system in which it was created. It is important mainly if provinces or states are depicted on the map and the scale of the map is quite small. Then the differences between cartographic projections can be obvious. Second, the ground control points should be distributed well within the area. It is advisable to collect more ground control points than needed. Then, after choosing the transformation type, data can be adjusted and statistically tested.

The core of georeferencing process is a geometric transformation. There are many types of transformation, either global (with unique transformation key) or local (usually based on interpolation methods). The global transformation methods can hold some geometric parameters of the image and can be used together with statistical testing during adjustment. In fact, ground control points have some residuals after transformation and thus don't fit any more. The local transformation methods can distort the image locally and ground control points fit precisely after the transformation. For much of the used material within our project, the global transformation methods were used.

There is one more problem with georeferencing maps. If we have map series with many map sheets, it is desirable to create a seamless map. Map sheets can be georeferenced individually but they don't fit together. The classic methods use second step transformations, where map sheets are fitted together. Cajthaml [2] proposes the new method where all the transformation parameters are adjusted together with conditions of identity of adjoining edges of map sheets. This method was used for maps of First Military Mapping Survey. Similar method uses Molnar in area of Hungary [3]. Cadastral maps (Stable cadastre) were georeferenced separately, but continuing drawing of adjacent sheets was monitored carefully.

After proper georeferencing, the data should be stored in usable format for an internet presentation. Color depth should stay at 24-bit, raster format can change due to large amount of data in TIFF format. Georeferencing information can be stored in the file header of graphic data or in separate file (world file). If more complex transformation has been used (local transformation or higher polynomials) usually the data must be resampled as there is no standard method how to store outputs of these georeferencing methods.

When having all scanned data in common reference coordinating system it is time to prepare vector data model. The vector data has many advantages and therefore, for specific layers it is better to convert raster data to vectors. Nowadays vector data are usually stored in geodatabases. The database can store geometric objects (points, lines, polygons) together with their relations and attributes. In our project it was important to create data model which can be used for many different objects. The focuses of the project are buildings nearby castles' or chateaux' main buildings or buildings and areas somehow connected with them. Main attributes created in the model are types of buildings, year of their creation and purpose of their usage.

Vector data can be used not only for buildings and areas information. If we vectorized whole surroundings of the castle in different time epochs, we can observe changes of land-use during time. These changes can be studied together with the history of main object. For this type of analysis it is essential to control objects' topology and attribute domains for data consistency.

Besides 2D vector data model covering surroundings of the main objects, it is possible to create 3D model of selected buildings. It is possible when the building plans or other plan documentation is available. Photographs or film material can provide textures of non-existing objects. 3D modeling is very popular in connection with Google Sketch-Up technology. 3D terrain can be reconstructed as well [4].

Historical photographs or paintings can be used as supporting material as well. These types of documents can be georeferenced by reference point (localized). There exist

many old photographs of castles and chateaux with their surroundings. All these photographs can be localized and can be used in the internet application.

The best way how to present georeferenced maps, vector data model or supporting image material could be web mapping application. This kind of application should be simple and clear to be used by wide public. There are several main internet technologies that can be used for such purpose. Google maps API is simple and clear framework for creating such applications. But, it is not designed for using own raster data in the background. Other coordinate reference systems can't be used as well. Better solutions are presented by map servers (either commercial or free) and their graphical user interface (GUI) usually based on JavaScript.

The top modern methods of web map applications are based on cloud technology. The application together with data is stored in cloud (network storage running on specific hardware and software of the provider). ArcGIS Online can be mentioned as one of these methods [5].

CASE STUDIES

Actual results of project can be shown on two testing objects – castle Konopiště and chateau Slatiňany. Different maps were collected from several sources. Maps of Stable cadastre create a base layer and were vectorized too. The comparison of maps of Stable cadastre, vector model of cadastral maps from 1891 and present cadastral map can be seen on Figure 1a. Vector model of Stable cadastre overlaying present orthophoto is depicted on Figure 1b. Figure 1c shows vectorized floor plans with distinguished temporal origin (architectural style). Composition of 2nd Military mapping and map of domain with polygon delimitating domain is on Figure 1d.

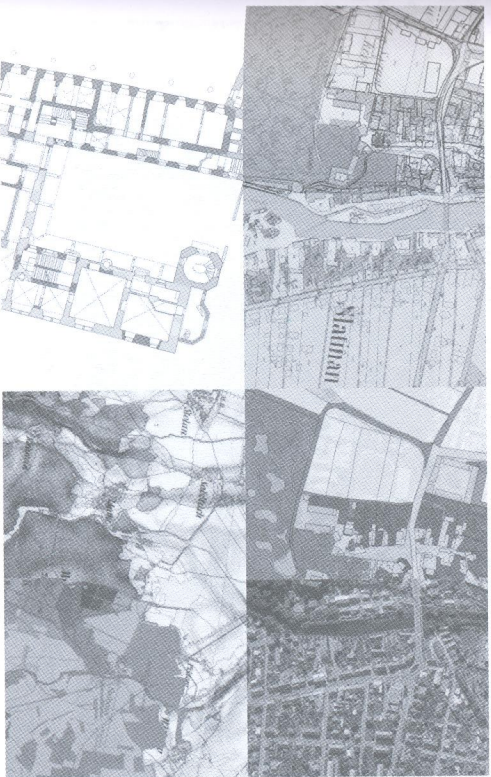


Figure 1 – Illustration of different processed maps – layers (numbered from left to right a, b, c, d)

Georeferenced maps, vector data and localized photos are being published on the Internet. Two technologies were used so far. Figure 2 depicts web application based on ArcGis Online. Example of an application based on ArcGIS for Flex is on Figure 3. Meanwhile the processed data from all the objects can be seen online at <http://gis.isv.cvut.cz/zamky>.

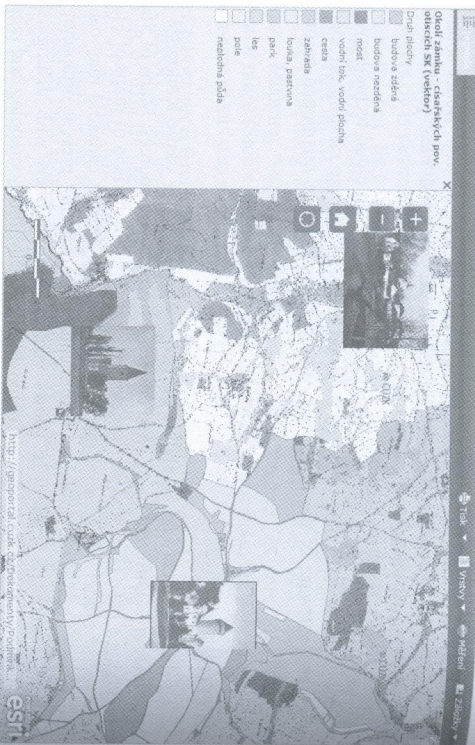


Figure 2 – Depiction of web mapping application using ArcGIS Online

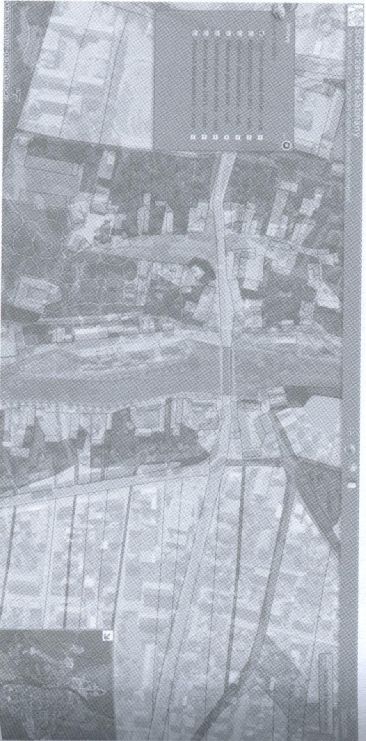


Figure 3 – Depiction of web mapping application using ArcGIS for Flex

CONCLUSIONS

The project makes accessible plenty interesting maps, plans, documents, views and last but not least also photographs to the general public interested in history, cartography, photography, castles and their aristocratic owners. The composition of different types of documents in the web mapping application makes available these documents not only as isolated archival items but also in much wider sense showing deeper relations. It brings new ways in the presentation of cultural heritage – castles, maps, photographs, etc. to the large public.

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