



GLOSSARY

This glossary has been developed by the digital-earth.eu COMENIUS network (2010-2013) in order to clarify terms frequently used in the discussion of geo-media in school education. Definitions are hold short and simple with the goal to meet teachers', teacher educators' and trainers' needs.

Digital earth

Digital earth was defined in 1998 by Al Gore as “[...] a concept [...] describing a virtual representation of the Earth that is spatially referenced and interconnected with the world’s digital knowledge archives”

Digital earth tools

Tools which allow to access and share geo-information. These are all sorts of geo-media or GIS software.

Geodata

Geodata is data including spatial aspects and components stored in a table or a database. Due to the spatial components the data can be georeferenced to a location on earth. Geodata is a resource for geoinformation.

Geoinformation

Abbreviation for geographic information. This can be data, text, images, videos etc. with a spatial component (location). Geoinformation is created by manipulating geodata and can be stored in a geo-database. Often, geoinformation and geodata are used synonymously.

Geo-media

Abbreviation for geographic media. Any form of media that incorporates or portrays geographical (location-based) information. This includes for example news, multimedia, telecommunications and social networks.

Georeferenced

Data or information with a spatial reference (geographic coordinates in different projections).

GIS

Abbreviation for Geographic Information System. Software to capture, process, analyse and visualise geodata in order to solve spatial problems.

SDI

Abbreviation for Spatial Data Infrastructure. National and international portals for geodata, metadata (=information about the data) and tools that are standardised and connected to each other.

Virtual globe

Digital 3D representation of the Earth, including the possibility to change the viewer's perspective and scale, and to share geoinformation.

Web 2.0

Dynamic internet concept that allows not only to use ("consume", Web 1.0) but also to add, collaborate and share ("produce") information in the cloud. Users are therefore often referred to as "prosumers". [Cloud computing: Data and tools stored at different virtual places (= in the cloud) and accessible via a network – the Internet - worldwide.]

Web-GIS

Website providing GIS functionality.