Building a Web Map Textbook: *A Contemporary Geography of Ethiopia*
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**Introduction**

Geography degrees are awarded at thirty Ethiopian universities, but an Ethiopian geography textbook was last published four decades ago. Since then, dramatic changes have occurred in agricultural systems, urban expansion, natural resource use and economic growth. Ethiopia’s population of nearly 100 million makes it the world’s 12th largest country. A new geography is long overdue. Our web-based textbook – *A Contemporary Geography of Ethiopia* – aims to support a newly implemented curriculum for all thirty Ethiopian geography departments. We are building the digital text with Esri’s Map Journal app, which facilitates an interactive map experience interwoven with long form narrative and unlimited color graphics. The project’s first phase was to create six chapters.

**Goals and Objectives**

1. To publish a new geography of Ethiopia
2. To facilitate collaborative authorship between students and professors in the US and Ethiopia
3. To demonstrate the capability of Esri templates and apps to construct a web-based academic textbook
4. To demonstrate the value of storytelling maps as a method for learning, teaching and doing geography
5. To illustrate the utility of a interactive, online, story-based text to a university curriculum in a developing country

**Methods**

A. Inventoried and cataloged geospatial data sets
B. Trained with Esri’s story map team
C. Built a book template using Esri’s Map Journal app
D. Complied, edited and storyboarded narrative content
E. Developed a suite of content using different apps
F. Constructed story boards for six chapters of the book
G. Designed an extensive series of interactive maps
H. Created a prototype chapter for critique and review
I. Published six chapters in Map Journal format
J. Provided feedback to the web app developers
K. Submitted a final report to the funding corporation

**Results**

Posted four major data sets as open sourced data
Published six chapters in Map Journals:
- Preface
- Introduction
- Ethiopian Geospatial Data
- The Rural Facilities and Services Data Set
- Population
- Vegetation

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