Publishing an Online Ethiopian Geography Using Interactive Web Maps and Storytelling Templates
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**Background:** This summer I am working on developing chapters in an interactive online book titled “A Contemporary Geography of Ethiopia”. The chapters we are creating in this book will be parallel to the homogenized Geography and Environmental Studies undergraduate program in all Ethiopian universities. These chapters are created in collaboration with Ethiopian geographers who have written much of the material for the chapters. While the goal of the extended project is to create a chapter for almost ever course, we are only covering three chapters this summer: Preface/Intro, Population, and Biogeography. There is a potential fourth chapter of geology. All of the chapters focus on data about and from Ethiopia. Since Ethiopian students will use it, having data about Ethiopia featured in the book gives students a sense of ownership and they are more likely to interact with data that is relevant to them. Having the chapters be interactive also encourages and inspires a deeper interaction with the data. The chapters will be available freely online, or on a mobile device, so they can be accessible to anyone who wishes to use them. We have support from ESRI for this project as well.

**Methodology:** In order to accomplish this book knowledge of GIS, arcgis.com, html formatting, and some awareness of other cultures is needed. The first two weeks of summer were spent learning about arcgis.com and all of its capabilities as well as reviewing the Ethiopian data that we had. We took a trip to the ESRI DC offices to brainstorm and learn about new things from ESRI that would be relevant to our project. After we got back from DC, we started storyboarding our first chapter on population, which set a formatting template that all other chapters will follow. Most of our final products are in a MapJournal format ([http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/app-list/map-journal/](http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/app-list/map-journal/)) A typical progression of creating a chapter is: 1) reviewing the narrative for the chapter 2) establishing the scope of the chapter 3) reviewing the data we have and need for the chapter 4) match sections of the narrative with datasets and graphics 5) creating, formatting and uploading the necessary maps to our arcgis.com account 6) creating a MapJournal and inserting the maps and narrative 7) tweaking and formatting the final product.

**Results:** So far we have completed the first chapter on population and are working on the other three chapters. Throughout this process, we have also catalogued all of the datasets we have and have made many of them available to the public. Some of these datasets include Ethiopian livelihoods data, rural facilities, and rural economy.

**Personal Benefits:** What I have learned this summer has exceeded my expectations in quantity and practicality. The extensive knowledge I have gained of arcgis.com and its capabilities will be very useful in what I hope to work on in the future. This project has given me a glimpse of what it is like to work with a developing country and GIS, including its joys and challenges. Having to figure out what issuing are common among datasets from Ethiopia and how to overcome them has made me more resourceful in my data processing. Overall, I am very thankful for the opportunity to work on this project.