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GPS and GeoPDFs—a New Way to View Historic Maps

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“Constellations of geo-positioning satellites circle the globe, enabling us to use GPS location services on our tablets or mobile phone, to pin-point where on Earth we are, on a map.

GeoPDFs or geospatial PDFs, are PDFs with added meta-data that relates a region in a digital document, to a region in physical space.

If the data about the latitude and longitude of the corners of a digitised historic map are added, then when viewed on a GPS enabled device, you can locate where you are on the historic map. This enables you to visualize the history of places in a whole new way.

This talk will explain and demonstrate GPS and GeoPDFs on a laptop computer, a tablet and on a mobile phone; demonstrate the ‘Terra Go’ add-in to Adobe Reader; demonstrate the Avenza app; talk about other software and map libraries; and suggest how, in the near future, you may be able to help add geo-coding meta-data to digitised historic maps in libraries.”

Ken is currently an Adjunct Teaching Fellow, teaching computer science and software engineering at Swinburne University of Technology, and is also an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, researching engineers in Australia before 1920. Ken is a long time VicGUM member, (1985) and has contributed many presentations to VicGUM and served on the VicGUM committee for many years.