

Essential Earth Imaging for GIS

Reviewed by Tomasz Mrozewski

Fox III, Lawrence. **Essential Earth Imaging for GIS**. Redlands, CA: Esri Press, 2015. 115p. \$59.99. ISBN 978-1-58948-345-3.

Essential Earth Imaging for GIS is a slim volume that serves both as a primer and as reference on the practices and principles of remote sensing. The book promises to cover "concepts and methods of image formation and manipulation that enable you to efficiently and effectively display, coregister, enhance, interpret, and delimit features from an image" (p. vii).

Written by a professor emeritus of GIS and remote sensing consultant, the style and the organization of materials are consistent with what you would expect in an introductory class on remote sensing. In eight chapters the book covers: an overview of imaging GIS; methods of remote sensing; the effects of the atmosphere; creating images from sensor data; displaying images in GIS software; generating 3-D data; image processing; extracting information from images. The clear and logical structure of the book guides the reader from the first principles of how remote sensing works to identification and delineation of features. Unlike the books on remote sensing in Esri Press' Making Spatial Decisions series, however, *Essential Earth Imaging* doesn't provide detailed workflow walkthroughs and is context-agnostic. There is a great deal of technical information about spectrums and resolution that could serve as useful reference material.

The book includes numerous full-colour sample images to illustrate concepts such as the output of different sensor types, atmospheric noise in different spectral bands, and comparison of colour composites. The illustrations are particularly useful for understanding the content without having any practical experience with the subject matter and without needing to follow along with GIS software and learning data sets - although, as with many Esri Press offerings,

Essential Earth Imaging comes with an 180-day trial of ArcGIS.

The only real issue with the book is, thankfully, more of an annoyance than a major problem: most graphs in the book lack scales and units on the Y axes (p. 9, 13, 26, 38). The omission is at odds with the level of detail present in the text (and in the X axes!) and means that these graphs are only useful to illustrate general trends rather than concrete information.

As an "accidental" GIS librarian without formal training, I found the book to be a fairly concise introduction to remote sensing and a valuable boost to my level of GIS literacy. I would recommend it as supporting material for courses in GIS and as reference material for researchers using earth imaging in their work.

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Glasgow: Mapping the City

Reviewed by Susan McKee

Moore, John. **Glasgow: Mapping the City**. Edinburgh: Birlinn Ltd, in association with the National Library of Scotland and University of Glasgow Library, 2015. 274p. £30.00. ISBN 978 1 78027 319 8.

Glasgow: Mapping the City is an annotated collection of about sixty maps of Glasgow, Scotland, covering the period 1596 to 1988. The maps were selected for the stories they convey about the historical, social, economic, and political development of Scotland's largest city. Each map is accompanied by an article discussing the theme and also the background of the cartographers and surveyors. The author's purpose is to depict the relationship between individuals and the environment they live in,