

Expert Evaluation as Means of Promoting GIS Software Development

Bin Li¹, Qiming Zhou², Yuemin Ding³, Lin Liu⁴, Hanming Tu⁵, and Qin Tang⁶

¹Department of Geography, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858, USA

²Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

³Information Technology, Verizon, 500 Westchester Ave., White Plains, NY 10604, USA

⁴Department of Geography, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221, USA

⁵Premier Research, 30 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA

⁶Pointas Inc., 2367 127th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98005, USA

Abstract

The Chinese government invested considerable resources in developing the GIS software industry. Expert evaluation has been used as an important mechanism for assisting the distribution of R&D funds and to assess the performances of the funded projects. The expert evaluation serves as a resolution of the information asymmetry between the funding agencies and the GIS software developers. The formation of the expert committee, the formulation of the evaluation guidelines and the test questions, as well as the conduct of the evaluation contribute to the characteristics of the information obtained from the evaluation. Improvements can be made in these areas so as to enhance the quality of the evaluation and to generate positive influences on the behavior of the software developers. Meanwhile, decision makers should be aware of the advantages and limitations of the expert evaluation.
