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Sub-theme: Dissemination and visualization

Adopting Web-based GIS system as a modern method of Official Statistics dissemination by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

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Recently, Geographic information system (GIS) technology has become an integral component of many dissemination systems on a very wide range. As a result, Web-based GIS applications have become an essential tool for disseminating geographical information in digital map format on the internet because of their platform independence, interactivity, and wide accessibility.

This paper briefly focuses on the Web-based GIS dissemination system used by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). This trend of dissemination was first adopted in 2006, as the need arises for up-to date statistical data related to various indicators and different statistical divisions.

It also shed more light on some of these applications, like the Geographical Database and Interactive Atlas, both form an applicable and easy way for users to explore all kind of data offered by PCBS in different presentative methods depending on visualization techniques, using either graduated colors maps, charts or symbols, in a way the user can decide depending on a list of statistical indicators and statistical divisions.

A list of illustrative figures are going to be included of how statistical data of numerous indicators can be transferred into interactive maps that match every statistical number with its geographical source for which it leads the user to mainly understand, deduce results and hence come up with the right decision. Also, there will be a case study from PCBS experience through the last decade in using GIS technology and how it manage to evolve it system of dissemination since the last census in 2007 and follow up with the latest technologies. Especially, the wide preparations for the third population, housing and establishment census 2017 that still in progress.

The paper will assess the Palestine experience in terms of pros and obstacles, recommendations and lessons learned from the experience in the use of this technique in the field of statistical work, especially in exceptional circumstances faced by the State of Palestine.

The results of this paper will aim to draw the attention of public sector in general and private sector in specific to the great importance of using these types of web based applications as well as the benefit of them that lies basically in reducing the gap between these two sectors. Also the urge need for offering a permanent and renewable information source, using the maps as a presentation tool.

Data sources for this paper are based on the official web links for the Geographical database and Interactive Atlas provided by PCBS.

Key words: GIS, Web-based, Visualization, Interactive maps, Dissemination.