



New York State Geographic Information Systems Conference Silver Anniversary

**Keynote Presentation
Monday, October 26, 2009**

Duane F. Marble

Professor Emeritus of Geography and Natural Resources,
The Ohio State University Faculty member, The Center for Mapping, The Ohio State University

GIS: Lessons from the Past and Thoughts on Our Future

Today, computer-based applications of geographic information science and technology are common in many areas of human endeavor. Spatial, and increasingly spatial-temporal, factors are recognized as decisive factors in many phases of personal and societal planning and decision-making. This stands in sharp contrast to the situation prevailing several decades ago when the role of spatial factors was poorly understood and the limited availability of spatial data and tools for spatial analysis and visualization severely restricted our ability to deal with spatial problems on any effective, operational level.

As a result of the adoption of the new modality based upon GIS and geographic information science we have seen many significant changes in human society. These changes continue, and at an apparently accelerating pace. The history of GIS has been one of continual adaptation to change and we need to recall the relevant lessons learned and consider how they may help us in understanding and structuring future developments.