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Suggestions for developing geospatial collections in Greek academic libraries

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Presentation Overview

- Problem Statement
- Research methodology
- A model for developing a geospatial collection
- Conclusions



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Problem Statement

- The need for geospatial information.
- GIS users have not been approached in Greek library environment.
- The lack of academic libraries so far to deliver geospatial collections and GIS services to their patrons.
- Academic libraries should provide added value services in the society.

Our thesis

Greek academic libraries should play a key-role to the management and dissemination of geographical information and support GIS users and all patrons in utilizing geographical information. Additionally, they should become leaders to the collection and management of locally produced geospatial data for research and educational purposes.



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But what is really happening in Greek academic libraries regarding geospatial information?

- Are there any geospatial collections?
- Are there patrons that need such an information?
- Are they satisfied from their interaction with their libraries?
- What are the reasons preventing the development of such collections in Greece?
- What a library should do to develop a geospatial collection?



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How did these proposals derive? (1)

Proposals presented in this study are the result of a
six stages user-centered methodology:

1. Initially we studied the international literature to identify previous studies in the field
2. At Stage2 we conducted an interview/questionnaire addressed to the GIS experts.
3. At Stage3 we proceed to a website research to all Greek academic libraries in order to identify whether academic libraries have developed geospatial collections and GIS services fulfilling their users' informational needs.



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How did these proposals derive? (2)

Proposals presented in this study are the result of a
six stages user-centered methodology:

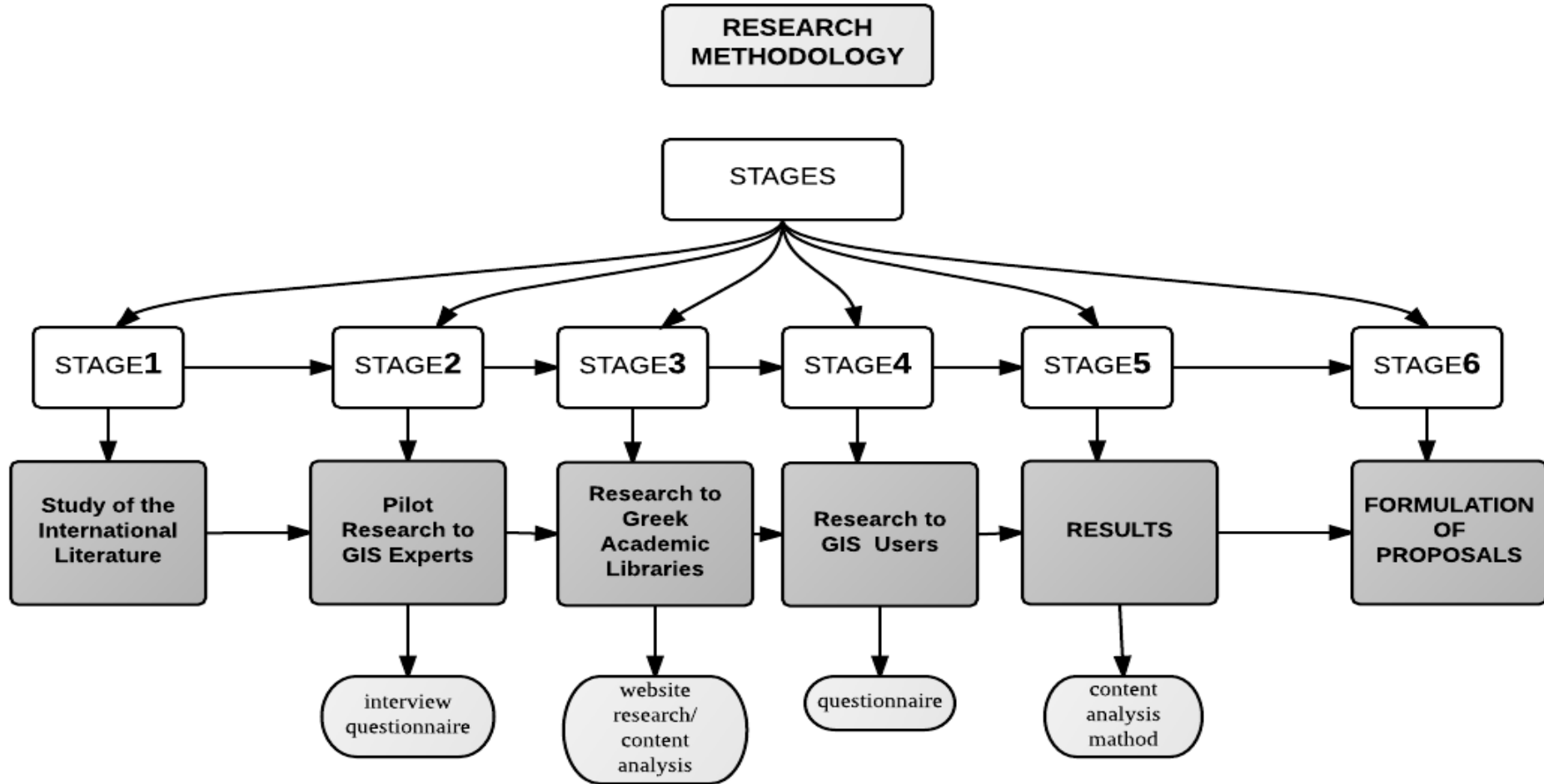
4. At Stage4 the aim was to collect GIS user's opinion regarding the current situation in Greek libraries.
5. Results of the above studies were grouped using content analysis method at Stage5.
6. Finally, the outcome of the above methodology was incorporated in the proposals presented at Stage6 (Fig.1).



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Fig.1





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Reasons preventing Greek academic libraries from developing geospatial collections according research results

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS (STAGE3)

- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of national or European programmes

GIS USERS' OPINION (STAGE4)

- Lack of policies
- Lack of users' interest

- Data issues
- Economic issues
- Lack of co-operations
- Lack of librarians' skills



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Developing a Geospatial Collection (1)

1. Detection of user needs
2. Administrations' commitment
3. Policies
4. Librarian's training through:
 - ▶ Library's initiatives
 - ▶ Librarianship departments in the country
 - ▶ Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists
5. Data Acquisition
 - ▶ Use of public available data
 - ▶ Purchasing data from commercial vendors
 - ▶ Investigating and locating free access sources
 - ▶ Locally produced data



Developing a Geospatial Collection (2)

6. Use of tools for managing geospatial data

7. Technological infrastructure

8. Open Access

9. Cooperations

- ▶ Department/s of the parent organization
- ▶ Other libraries
- ▶ Organizations that create geospatial information
- ▶ Heal Link Consortium
- ▶ National Library of Greece

10. User's education and support

- ▶ Introduction to geospatial concepts
- ▶ On demand assistance
- ▶ Designing instructional sessions
- ▶ Written instructions
- ▶ On line training
- ▶ GIS demonstrations
- ▶ Data searching
- ▶ GIS integration into non geospatial curriculum



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Developing a Geospatial Collection (3)

11. Communication of geospatial collection at library's patrons

- ▶ Classical channels (e.g. website, e-mail lists, posters, newsletters, brochures)
- ▶ Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, blogs, wikis, Flickr)

12. Collection and Services Evaluation

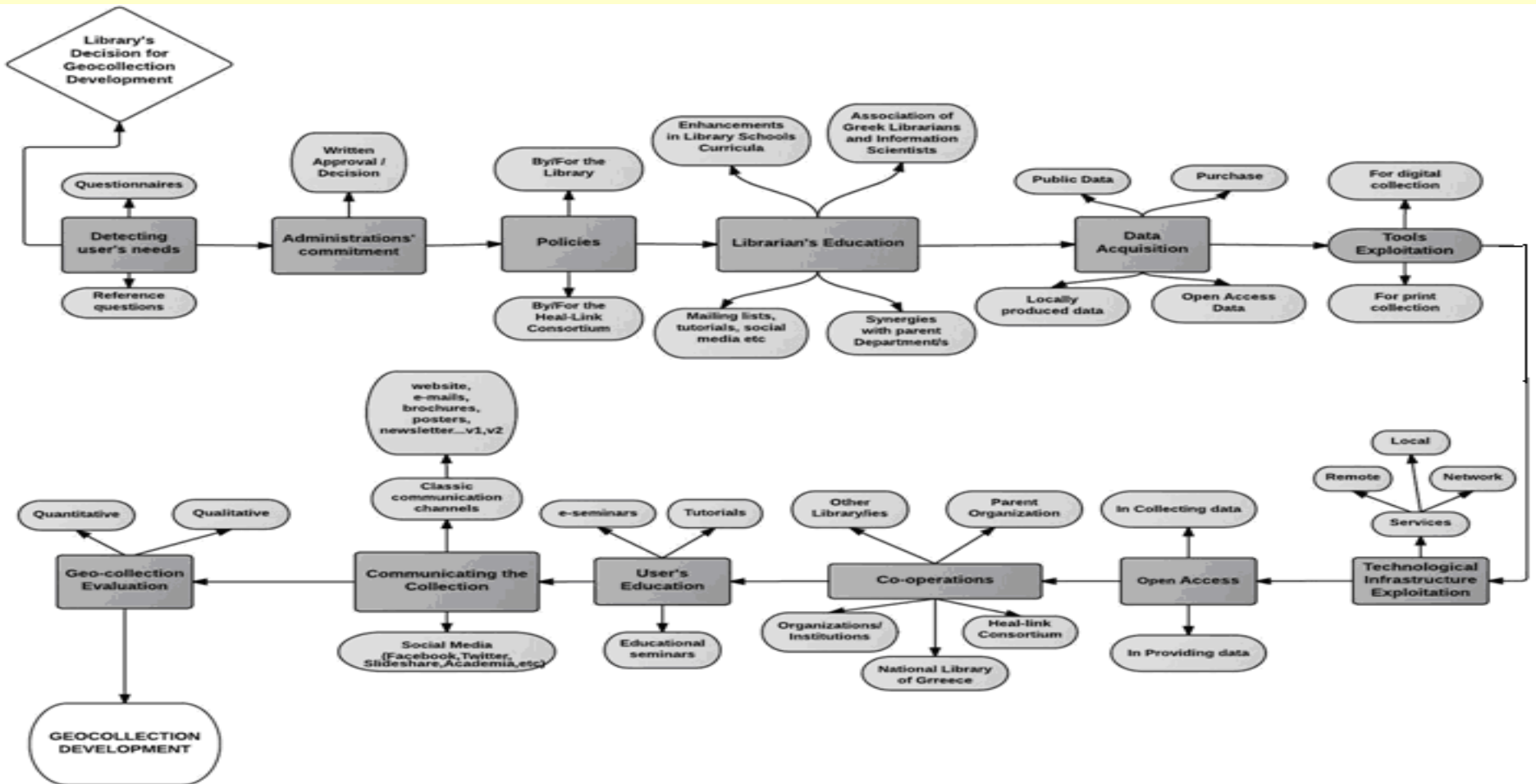
- ▶ Quantitative (circulation statistics, reference requests, webpages statistics, interlibrary loan statistics)
- ▶ Qualitative (surveys, focus group)



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The Geospatial Collection Development Process





Conclusions (1)

- The geospatial data claim their place in academic libraries user's informational needs so, libraries are obliged to find ways for these users to be served.
- The geospatial collection development policy is a dynamic, multilevel procedure which involves many stakeholders (personnel, faculty administration, patrons, library partners).
- The model of geospatial collection development we propose was based in three key-factors: users' perceptions, open access and cooperations (the use of last two limit the cost required for the development of a geospatial collection).
- We suggest policies as the issue which requires adequate research and comes as a potential need for all libraries that decide to enhance geospatial data in their collections.



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Conclusions (2)

- The proposed geospatial collection development model aims to cover the gap not only to the Greek librarianship literature and provide guiding instructions to those librarians concerning geospatial collection development in an academic environment.
- The study aims also to raise awareness among the librarians of the country about the geospatial information and its promotion through various actions.

“a GIS collection is not built over a month or a year but matures over time”

(Florance, 2006)

Greek academic libraries have reached the maturity level required for turning their attention to the geospatial information and we hope that our suggestions will become a strong aid in their effort.



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Thank you!

Suggestions for developing geospatial collections in Greek academic libraries

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Presentation Map

E. Haussard. *Map of Ancient Greece, Graecia Vetus (Macedonia, Thessaly, Epirus, Achaia, Peloponnesus) Graecia Vetus ex schoedis Sansonianis desumpta, in qua Macedonia, Thessalia, Epirus, Achaia et Peloponnesus* (1752). Scale not given.

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c5/Graecia_Vetus_Map_of_Ancient_Greece.jpg