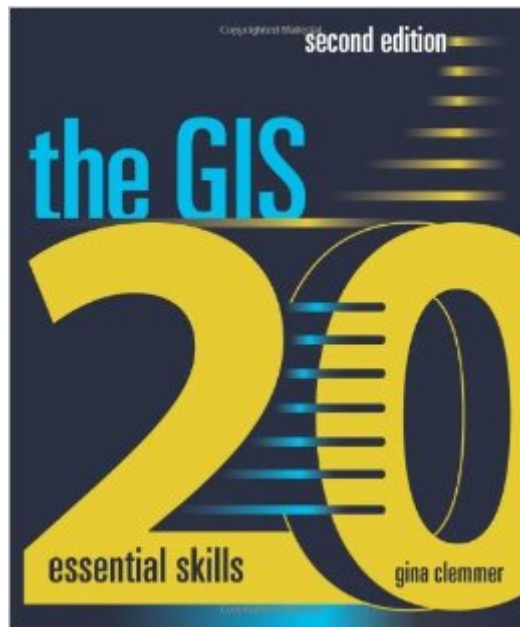


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# The GIS 20: Essential Skills



## Synopsis

The GIS 20: Essential Skills presents step-by-step instructions, illustrations, and practical tips on how to perform the top twenty skills needed to successfully use a geographic information system (GIS). These skills include finding and editing data, querying GIS maps, creating reports, and sharing and publishing your maps. The second edition offers nine bonus topics to further advance your skills, exercise data on the accompanying DVD, and ArcGIS 10.1 for Desktop software (180-day use) to work through the exercises.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #255,282 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Cartography](#) #2173 in [Books > Textbooks > Reference](#) #8460 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering](#)

## Customer Reviews

The GIS 20 is a very good textbook, but I felt need to express my negative opinions of it. To read the product description, you are lead to belive that this book will help you transition from a previous version of ArcGIS (referring to "as-needed reference" in product description). There are changes from ArcGIS 9.3 to ArcGIS 10, but nobody moving from an old version to the new version would need this book as a reference. I have TWO majors problems with this book:1. The software included with this book will not install on a 64-bit system. I am running Windows 7 64-bit and have no problem installing ArcGIS. The software that comes with this book continuously pops up with errors while referring to a 32-bit system (5 errors).2. I hate reviews that judge other reviews, but I have to point out that the first good review of this book was posted on 09/18/2010. That review was posted 2 weeks before this book was actually released, and I am certain that it had to be a "weighted" opinion.This book is a decent overview of general applications within ArcGIS, but is far from making you a GIS specialist. If sticking with ArcGIS, I would suggest ESRI "GIS Tutorials 1, 2, & 3". If you

know of ESRI, and you are pursuing other GIS possibilities, I would suggest "Open Source GIS: A GRASS GIS Approach" or "Desktop GIS: Mapping the Planet with Open Source Tools". If you are looking for a good overview of Geographic Information Systems, Quantum GIS has a great FREE tutorial on their website.

This book is useful for individuals who have some GIS training but are still beginners. The book is also useful for more advanced users who need to brush up on the skills they have not used in a while. This is one of the few GIS books I have found that goes over the steps for uploading an Excel file into ArcMap. The book also provides excellent information on incorporating the U.S. census data into one's GIS research or project. I am a PhD student in Geography who has spent hundreds of hours in front of the computer analyzing data in ArcMap, but I still forget some of the most basic GIS procedures; this book has helped me tremendously during the times when I can't remember information learned during my introductory GIS classes. I highly recommend this book if you are a student who has been asked to complete an independent GIS project. This book can help you get started and fill in some of the basic GIS principles that may not have been covered in your lectures. I gave the book 4 stars instead of 5 because the book lacks an index as well as information on other GIS references (non ESRI references) and/or helpful GIS related websites. Lastly, the book is approximately 1/2 in - 3/4 in thick and light weight, which makes this book easy to transport.

I purchased the book to study for an upcoming test. I had planned to finish it in 5 days. I was surprised to see that it was not a long book and easily finished it in 4. The book is well written and laid out with just the right amount of color here and there. That is, it is not garish and hard to look at but rather inviting. The illustrations are very good. The chapters are concise and to the point. Chapter 8 caused some problems though and therefore I was unable to do the problem. Nevertheless, because of the quality of writing, the fact that it is not long and overly detailed, it is an excellent quick reference. I will keep it and refer to it from time to time, knowing that I will not have to kill a whole day to review some basic procedures.

As books covering ArcGIS 10 are generally not available right now this one is worth considering. Novices and even experienced ArcGIS 9.x users may benefit from it. Enough has changed between versions 9 and 10 to make this book a handy resource, although online help built into ArcGIS will assist experienced users solve most problems. There are step-by-step solutions for the 20

"essential" tasks/skills with data and exercises to provide hands-on practice. The book's instructions with illustrations are generally excellent. Think of the book as a condensed cookbook. That aspect of the book is satisfactory. Here is my one complaint -- there is no index -- but that is my quibble. Nevertheless I have amply received my money's worth. Although more expensive the GIS Tutorials 1,2 and 3 from ESRI Press provide much more extensive coverage of the subject areas and I highly recommend them. Note that ESRI Press has since published a second edition of this book.

This book is heavy on hands on examples. She gives you simple, step-by-step instructions that leave you with the basic skills to get around ArcMap. I took a GIS class a few years ago and have not used it since. When I found that I needed to refresh my skills for a project I picked up this book. After a week of doing the exercises I could do more GIS than I ever saw in a University class. It is very useful for the casual user.

It's great up until chapter 8. Then it all falls apart. I keep getting errors every time I try to use an Address Locator. It turns out this is a common problem and your 180 free trial doesn't come with support so it's a pain in the \*\*\* to try and fix it. I still haven't been able to work 8-10 because of this issue. If you have a full version of ArcGIS then this is probably a good book for you, but don't buy it if you or your school doesn't have ESRI support or a customer number, because ESRI won't even try to help correct their problem unless you've spent a lot of money on their product.

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