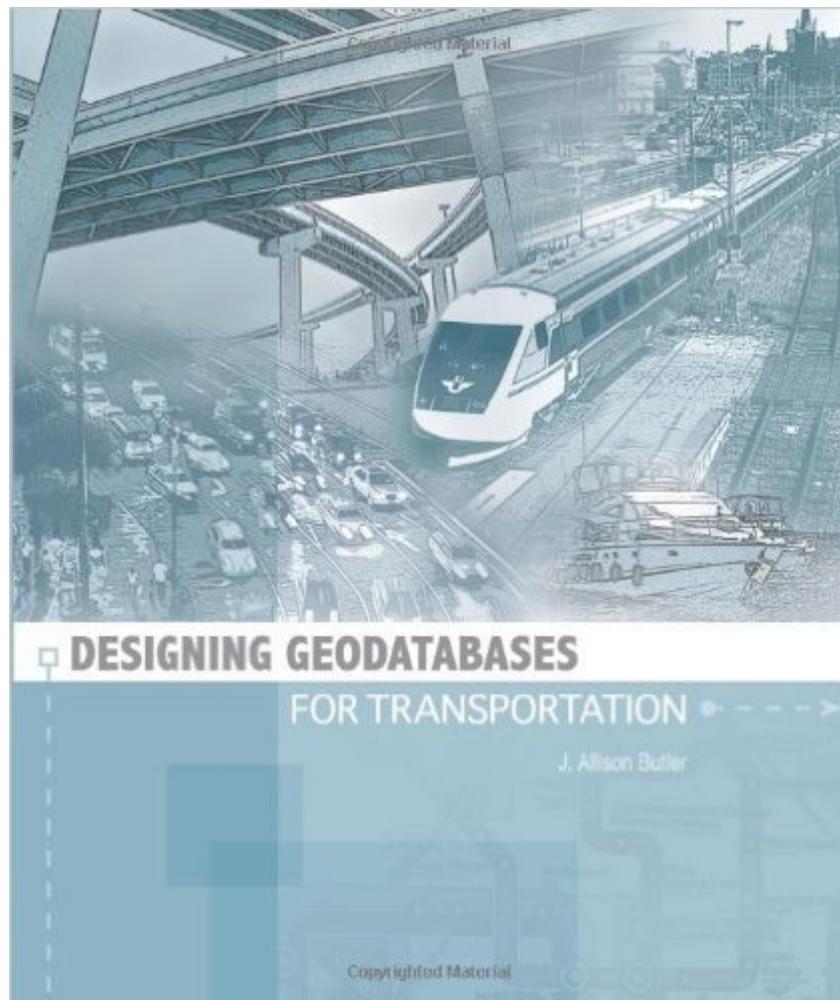


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Designing Geodatabases For Transportation



Synopsis

Designing Geodatabases for Transportation addresses the development of a GIS to manage data relating to the transportation facilities and service commonly organized around various modes of travel for accurate and reliable data exchange. Transportation involves several modes of travel, and although the details of each mode can be quite different, this book demonstrates how all follow a basic conceptual structure. That structure consists of an origin, a destination, a path between the two, and a conveyance that provides the ability to move along the path to establish a common data structure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first of its kind, Designing Geodatabases for Transportation is likely to remain the best of its kind. Al Butler has violated several "rules" of technical writing:^{*} He has opinions, isn't afraid to express them, and does so in an engaging, conversational style enlivened by war stories and thinking outside the polygon. Most technical texts have no discernible voice and read as dull as dirt (apologies to soil scientists).^{*} He pragmatically and mercifully separates "need to knows" from "nice to knows", steering the reader around minutiae only a true nerd could love; yet retains that deeper content in unobtrusive places. Many technical works overwhelm the reader with information, providing no indication of relative importance.^{*} He manages to make ArcObjects comprehensible to the non or new programmer by providing simplified object model diagrams.^{*} He demystifies the

arcana of internal ArcGIS data types, relationship classes, and other poorly explained (elsewhere) geodatabase concepts.* Most importantly, he maps geodatabase structures to their counterparts in relational database theory. The more you understand the relational database foundation of the geodatabase, the better you'll be at designing them--this section alone makes the book worthwhile. If you're a database person adding the Geographic to your Information Systems background, this book will greatly aid your transition. As for the transportation content, it's all there--linear referencing, dynamic segmentation, traffic counts, HPMS, editing and publishing data for State DOTs, network datasets and even geometric networks (typically not used for transportation purposes), the evolution of GIS transportation data models, etc.

Books on the geodatabase tend to be oriented toward the introductory side (quite often geared toward teaching basic geodatabase concepts over a 16 week semester) or written at a level that is not attainable to the GIS novice. Designing Geodatabases for Transportation reaches well beyond the introductory level to provide a thorough explanation of the geodatabase, however it also takes the time to create a foundation based on fundamental geodatabase concepts. At 461 pages Designing Geodatabases for Transportation probably shies away from being a weekend read to brush up on the geodatabase before launching into a project, but it is a solid reference for someone looking to trudge through the material prior to setting off on a geodatabase project. The author (J. Allison Butler) breaks the book down into three sections (Basic geodatabase design concepts, Understanding transportation geodatabase design issues, and Enterprise-level solutions and modal data models). While not suited to someone new to GIS, Butler presents a resource that allows those with a comfortable working knowledge of GIS to begin working on applied geodatabase design. Overall, Design Geodatabases for Transportation is laid out in 18 chapters and could be used in an intermediate or advanced level GIS course (although it's important to note that the book does not have tutorials and doesn't come with the almost standard evaluations copy of ESRI software). Designing Geodatabases for Transportation allows the reader to get comfortable with the idea of transportation in GIS. It also allows reader to expand their knowledge in how the geodatabase can be incorporated into their data management plans.

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