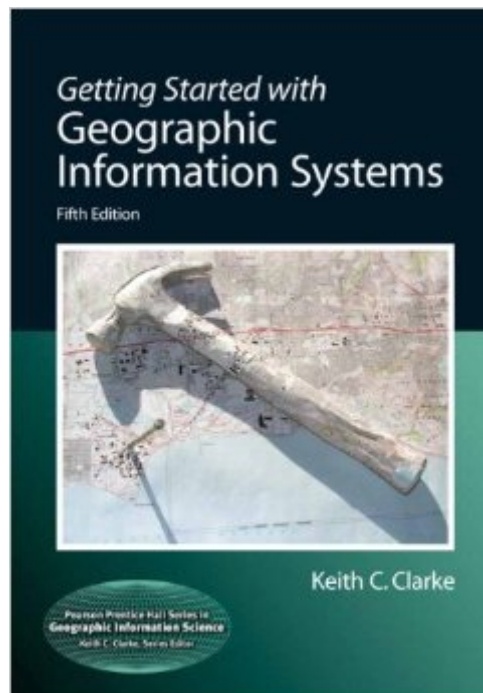


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# Getting Started With Geographic Information Systems (5th Edition) (Pearson Prentice Hall Series In Geographic Information Scien)



## Synopsis

This text puts the high-tech field of geographic information systems within reach for students like you. It provides a basic, non-technical, and friendly introduction in one convenient source. It examines the basic GIS material that is traditionally found throughout the Geography curriculum—e.g., in Cartography, GIS spatial analysis, and quantitative methods. Clarke's learn-by-seeing approach gives you clear, simple explanations, and an abundance of illustrations and photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am currently a student in a GIS class at a college, and I actually like to read. But I find this book really tough to understand. I looked at the other reviews that and strongly agree with the guy that said it gets really tough to read really fast. The first chapter was good, the second chapter was tough but still OK, but by the third chapter, I was just lost and had to go hunt down other books to supplement this one. I am guessing that the only people who rated this book reasonably well are teachers. And honestly, I can see why because it presents a lot of information. But definitely not in a way that is accessible to students. What good is that information if the student can't understand it? My recommendation would be to stay away from this book unless you are forced into reading it.

This book is an excellent introductory text for courses at the community college or university level.

Also useful for people who just want to know what this new field of GIS is all about. Or for high school teachers would like to integrate GIS into their classroom and need a greater understanding of the basics of geographic information systems. You can see a complete description of the chapters at the Prentice Hall homepage.

I'm a student currently working through a GIS course using the 5th edition of this book. Frankly this book is an abysmal text to understand. What gives me the most trouble is the language and prose used in this book. Yes the author packs a lot of information into the text. Yet each section is a jumbled mess of information presented in a rather organised manner. Each section runs on in a unorganised manner for several paragraphs disregarding logical, chronological, and thoughtful flow. If I didn't have 4 years prior experience with GIS I would be totally lost and confused by Clarke's text. Even with that experience I'm often left befuddled by how Clarke presents the subject matter. If you're looking for a clear and concise text to introduce students or yourself to GIS: Please look elsewhere.

I re-read the book now that I know more about the subject of GIS. The book told me lots more than some of the others I have recently read. I really enjoyed the interviews with people actually involved in GIS.

A first class introduction to the world of GIS. Clarke uses clear diagrams and simple language to get the point across. New material mixed with old makes this textbook a must have for all classrooms in the United States.

Clarke's *Getting Started with GIS* has been a staple of the Introductory GIS student's diet for well over a decade. One of the grand masters of Geographic Information Science, Clarke is an authoritative and experienced voice. Unlike other texts that are too parochially associated with one software package, this text is broad enough to be applicable to any GIS class, regardless of software. As in previous editions, Clarke insists on one lengthy chapter that introduces students to cartography, coordinate systems, projections, and geodesy before delving into the nuts and bolts of GIS itself. This text is also replete with numerous, and very up-to-date, websites that offer free data, free software, or GIS community opportunities. Clarke is very current not only with the latest trends of GIS, both with stand-alone software as well as online sources and community, but also devotes an entire chapter to explore the future of GIS. This is excellent preparation for a student looking

towards eventual GIS employment. Also, his new chapter on Terrain Analysis is very welcome as it explores not only DEMS but also TINs and contouring. Finally, ignore other reviews that say this text is out of date because they are referring to an OLDER version of this textbook, NOT this new one, which addresses the very items they are complaining about. It is very misleading to associate those criticisms with this new text. I teach GIS at the University level and have used this text to great effect. Therefore, this book is highly recommended as a broad and authoritative Introduction to GIS.

Cartographers and GIS analysts are supposed to be experts at the visual display of quantitative and qualitative information with solid explanations of such. This book and its author fall WAY short of that mark. Here are some of the reasons why: 1.) Figure captions are printed in such a small font size as to make them nearly impossible to read. This leaves one thinking the figure and its all too brief explanation must not be all that important. 2.) Many of the illustrations and photographs are printed in such a low resolution that they are of little value. 3.) Sketches are usually poorly drawn and fail to make clear the point at hand. 4.) None of the key terms within each chapter are highlighted in bold font as is common practice for just about any introductory text. There's no excuse for this. 5.) The write-up in each chapter is bogged down with useless background information that only a PhD-level grad student in GIS might need to know. 6.) Chapter summaries were originally drafted as a "bullet style" list, but they're actually printed as a compacted mash of words with NO clearly visible beginning or ending. In other words, the bullets appear in the form of something resembling a lowercase "o" and each bullet point is strung together in one LONG paragraph-like block. Alright, that's enough... I'm done wasting my time on this book.

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