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Subject: Re: Mapping question...

Posted by [James B Guthrie](#) on Mon, 11 Jun 2001 19:56:55 GMT

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Guillaume Dargaud wrote in message <3b24e6b1@news.ColoState.EDU>...>

> You end up with a tiny sahara, but large tropical zones...

> How would you go to do something like that...?

> I have seen it done before, but don't know what this kind of mapping is

> called.

It is called a cartogram. The population based one is called an isodemographic map.

The manual form is accomplished by calculating a unit representation for the smallest mappable entity. (Say 10,000 people). Then you create the shape that encloses the largest number of entities in that unit for the map. (For population in Canada, that would be metro Toronto). You give this the "correct" shape enclosing the total area in units that it approximates. You repeat the process for successively smaller reportable areas. Then you try to fit the new maps in place relative to the first (largest) item. You may find that you have to distort the dimensions of smaller units that abut larger ones. (So for example, Missasauga abuts Toronto in the expected place). If you do that, then you have to reduce the perpendicular dimension so that the area is unchanged, even though the shape is.

Repeat, working outward from the larger objects, and allowing for enclosure in other "superior" shapes (say Ontario Province) which are also proportionally sized and positions.

You might find an automated version of such mapping through a search on "cartogram" or "cartograph".

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