From the Editor...

by Barend Köbben

Welcome to this issue of the OSGeo Journal, comprising twelve research papers selected from the submissions to the Academic Track of FOSS4G 2013, the global conference for Open Source Geospatial Software, which took place in Nottingham (UK), from 17 to 21 September 2013.

FOSS4G is not an academic conference. The core audience has always been the people who make up the *open source communities*: The people that develop, create and craft the open source geo-spatial software. The actual applications are the glue which binds the community together; the aim of the FOSS4G community is to enable and enfranchise anyone to harness the power of geo-spatial software, regardless of their economic status. To acknowledge this, and to not create an isolated, exclusive, part of the conference, we scheduled presentations of the papers clustered with other, non-academic, papers based on subject matter. By this, we hope to have generated attention for academic input in the community and to cross-pollenate with industry, developers and users.

This year, the Academic Track motto was "Science for Open Source, Open Source for Science", and we made an effort to gather papers describing both the use of open source geospatial software and data, in and for scientific research, as well as academic endeavours to conceptualize, create, assess, and teach open source geospatial software and data. We hope that the papers in this issue reflect that idea.

We thank the reviewers (listed on the imprint page at the end of this issue) for making the Academic Track possible.

Barend Köbben, ITC–University of Twente

FOSS4G2013 Proceedings Editor OSGeo Journal
http://osgeo.org
b.j.kobben@utwente.nl

Contents of this volume:

From the Editor... 1

FOSS4G 2013 ACADEMIC PAPERS **2**
A New Zealand case study 2
Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia 13
GIS for All: Exploring the Barriers and Opportunities for Underexploited GIS Applications 19
Web–based Participatory GIS with data collection on the field – A prototype architecture . 29
Taarifa 34
OSM–GB 41
Using Free and Open Source GIS to Automatically Create Standards-Based Spatial Metadata in Academia 51
Gestural Interaction with Spatiotemporal Linked Open Data 60
AEGIS 68
A new GIS toolbox for integrating massive heterogeneous GIS data for land use change analysis 78
Open Source in accessibility analyses 90
Bytecode unification of geospatial computable models 103

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Editor in Chief:
Landon Blake - sunburned.surveyor AT gmail.com

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Mail contact through OSGeo, PO Box 4844, Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada, V2G 2V8

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