Getting started with ArcGIS

There are a wide range of resources available to help you learn how to use ArcGIS software. The amount of time required depends on which product you are using (to decide which one you need see the help sheet titled *What is ArcGIS?*). ArcGIS online is simple to use and fairly intuitive with little instruction needed, ArcGIS Desktop will require a significant time investment to learn, and ArcGIS Explorer is somewhere in between.

ArcGIS Explorer and ArcGIS Desktop are installed on computers in the Bodleian Map Room and the Training Room at the Radcliffe Science Library. ArcGIS Online is web based.

# Oxford University Courses

## ArcGIS Explorer: An Introduction

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/itlp/courses/detail/TMPD>

A 3-hour introductory course taught by Bodleian Library Map Room staff in conjunction with Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS).

## ArcGIS Explorer: Intermediate

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/itlp/courses/detail/TMPE>

A 3-hour course taught by Bodleian Library Map Room staff in conjunction with Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS), extending the knowledge gained in ArcGIS Explorer: An Introduction.

The course handbooks and exercise files for both ArcGIS Explorer courses are available to download from <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/central/oucs/itlp_courses/portfolio> under *Mapping Analysis* (Oxford Single Sign-On required). It will help if you are able to attend the courses, but the exercises are written such that you can work through them on your own if necessary.

## ArcGIS Desktop: Making maps, geoprocessing and introduction to spatial analysis

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/itlp/courses/detail/TMPF>

A course consisting of four 3-hour sessions which is taught by Bodleian Library Map Room staff in conjunction with Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS). The course covers the mapmaking aspects of ArcGIS Desktop and introducing analytical functions.

# Online Resources

## Esri Training

<http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm>

Free web courses and seminars are provided by Esri, the manufacturers of ArcGIS, covering a wide range of topics. Web courses include exercises using ArcGIS and exam questions you can complete to test your understanding of the material presented. Training is available for ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Explorer and ArcGIS Online. You will need to sign up for an Esri Global Account (which is free).

[Getting started with GIS (for ArcGIS 10)](http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=catalog.webCourseDetail&courseid=1911) is a 9-hour web course likely to be of particular interest.

## ArcGIS Resource Centre

<http://resources.arcgis.com/en/home/>

The resource centre contains user forums, video tutorials and help pages for all ArcGIS products. The getting started pages in the help section give you more information about the different ArcGIS products and how and why you might want to use them.

## GIS Dictionary

<http://support.esri.com/en/knowledgebase/Gisdictionary/browse>

Come across a term you don’t understand? Esri provide a free online GIS dictionary.

## ArcGIS Explorer: A basic guide

A guide written specifically for Bodleian Libraries users and aimed at complete beginners to GIS which will help you quickly make a simple map and print it or save it for inclusion in another document.

It is available to download from <http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/geography> (cartography tab) and is also available in hardcopy in the Radcliffe Science Library Training Room.

# Books

There are a large number of books on GIS held at the Radcliffe Science Library. Search [SOLO](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/index.html) for a specific topic or browse the G 70.212 section. The following are a selection of books you can use to teach yourself ArcGIS Desktop 10.

## The GIS 20: essential skills

By Gina Clemmer, 137 pages

Available in the RSL at shelfmark: *G70.212 CLE 2010*



Aimed at GIS beginners with little time available to learn ArcGIS, this book is an easy-to-understand guide to twenty ArcGIS Desktop skills you are most likely to need to master. Chapters are independent so you can complete all of them as a short course in ArcGIS or individual chapters covering just what you need to know for your project. All the exercises can be completed using your own data, data available from the web (which you are directed to) or data on the CD-ROM accompanying the book.

## Getting to know ArcGIS Desktop

By Tim Ormsby et al., 584 pages

Available in the RSL at shelfmark: *G70.212 GET 2010*



A comprehensive first course in ArcGIS Desktop 10. Each chapter includes an introduction and step-by-step exercises using data on the accompanying CD. Can also be used for reference if you are looking for instructions for a specific task.

## GIS tutorial 1. Basic Workbook

By Wilpen L. Gorr and Kristen S. Kurland, 415 pages

Available in the RSL at shelfmark: G70.212 GOR 2010



A comprehensive first course in ArcGIS Desktop 10. Each chapter includes step-by-step exercises and end-of-chapter assignments that pose real-world problem scenarios that you must solve on your own using data on the accompanying CD. Can also be used for reference if you are looking for instructions for a specific task.

## GIS tutorial 3. Advanced Workbook

By David W. Allen

Available in the RSL at shelfmark: *G70.212 ALL 2011*

Although aimed at the intermediate to advanced ArcGIS user you may find it useful for reference if you are looking for instructions for a specific task, such as creating a custom legend.