

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Beyond automated cartography

- 1. GIS – a spatial information system that is designed for data management, mapping and analysis.**

- 2. There are four features of a GIS that make it a very useful tool to geographers.**
 - a. It allows data to be manipulated. There is a data base of locational information plus instructions allowing the production of specialized maps. It helps us answer all the “What if ...?” questions.**

 - b. It is interactive. As one or more variables are changed, all other data will change accordingly based on pre-programmed instructions.**

 - c. It helps us to create standardized models. Capability Models look at the physical attributes of an area in conjunction with an activity. Suitability Models assess an area for a particular use.**

 - d. It helps us to create geographic simulations or “Smart GIS”. It recognizes a situation based on a model, it reacts to it based on another model and then, sends out instructions based on a third model.**