EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY   Be a part of something BIG.

DATA ANALYST - GIS
JOB OPENING ID 337744

JOB DESCRIPTION

IPUMS makes the world's largest collection of population and health survey data freely accessible online. Thousands of researchers use these data worldwide, and you can contribute to the development and enhancement of this public good.

We seek a data analyst skilled in geographic information systems (GIS) to join our diverse team of research and information technology professionals. We are looking for a smart, technically-minded person who enjoys working with data. Diversity and inclusion are core values of our organization. We aspire to create a team that represents the diversity of our city, our region, and our world, and to create a space that encourages and embraces inclusiveness, equal opportunity, and respect. We strongly encourage women and members of under-represented groups to apply.

The current opening is for work on the National Historical Geographic Information System (IPUMS NHGIS – nhgis.org). NHGIS provides summary tables and time series of population, housing, agriculture, and economic data, along with GIS-compatible boundary files, for years from 1790 through the present and for all levels of U.S. census geography. The primary responsibility for this position is to help lead our effort to digitize all 1980 and 1970 census block boundaries. The work will also include a range of tasks involving GIS data development; user support and outreach; and various additional initiatives for NHGIS and other projects at IPUMS or the Minnesota Population Center.

The environment is highly collaborative, and you will work closely with research scientists, data analysts, student research assistants, and software developers. We are constantly pushing the boundaries of data processing and dissemination methods, and there is considerable opportunity for initiative and creativity by all members of the research staff.

The position will report to David Van Riper, Director of Spatial Analysis at the Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation (ISRDI - isrdi.umn.edu). ISRDI includes the IPUMS Center for Data Integration, the Minnesota Population Center (pop.umn.edu), the Life Course Center (lcc.umn.edu), and the Minnesota Research Data Center (mnrdc.umn.edu). The Institute supports the work-life balance of our staff with 40-hour work weeks and flexible work hours. The University also offers excellent health insurance, retirement benefits, and tuition assistance. IPUMS encourages and supports staff training and development.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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RESPONSIBILITIES

You will be involved in all stages of the development, documentation, and dissemination of IPUMS NHGIS data, with an emphasis on our geospatial data for geographic information systems (GIS). For the primary responsibility of digitizing 1980 and 1970 census block boundaries, you will work with a team of undergraduate student assistants to edit existing shapefiles to align with block records present in published data, referencing paper block maps. In your role, in addition to doing some of the editing work, you will guide the assistants and check their work, prepare base data for editing, and coordinate the acquisition and distribution of library materials. Additional tasks include preparing and updating other GIS data for NHGIS or other projects, developing scripts to automate some data production, preparing metadata and documentation, and testing website functionality. You may also help prepare/give public presentations on campus or at professional conferences to disseminate information about NHGIS or other IPUMS projects.

Annual salary range: $40,000 - $48,000, commensurate with experience.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required:
- A bachelor's degree or a combination of related education and work experience to equal 4 years
- At least six months of experience and/or coursework using GIS and spatial data
- Excellent computer skills & ability to learn new information technology
- Strong written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills
- Strong attention to detail

Additional selection criteria:
- Experience using one of the IPUMS databases or other large-scale census or survey datasets
- Experience with programming or scripting (especially Python or R)
- Experience with a data development project
- Experience with project coordination
- Degree in a social science or other field where census data are directly applicable
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as a member of a diverse team

Please detail in your cover letter your experiences with data and GIS, including relevant courses, internships, and jobs.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please apply using the University of Minnesota's online employment system humanresources.umn.edu/jobs and search job opening ID 337744. You may also apply directly using the following link: jobsearch.cla.umn.edu/337744. Application requirements include a resume, and a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications in the position. Questions concerning the application process may be addressed to Mia Riza, HR & Operations Manager, at isrdi-jobs@umn.edu.

Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.