Final Project Peer Review 2

Mapping Impact of the U.S. 2020 COVID-19

By Fan Lan

In this project, Lan selected the most serious public health issue in the world at this point in time. COVID-19, officially confirmed last December in Wuhan, China, has rapidly spread around the world and now the U.S. has the largest number of confirmed virus cases. In particular, many national governments tried to identify and analyze the status of infected citizens through web mapping. This web mapping could help local citizens prepare for infection.

The design and layout of the project web site were simple and neat. What I like about this project is that the interactive map displays the real-time status of COVID-19 infections. In addition, Lan showed the proportion of confirmed cases and deaths by distinguishing their colors. In the map, readers can see that COVID-19 is serious in the eastern states and that the State of New York has the largest number of cases and deaths. I think that it could have been a better COVID-19 map if Lan presented the total number of confirmed cases and deaths in the U.S. Moreover, because this novel virus has an unprecedented transmission speed, displaying the past records of COVID-19 can be an effective way to supplement this project.

Next, I wondered why Lan separately expressed the population density map. According to Lan's explanation, population density seems a factor in explaining the transmission rate of the epidemic. Therefore, if Lan combined the COVID-19 cases map with the population density map, it could have been a more effective COVID-19 map. Furthermore, this is a minor issue, but Lan did not arrange the legend labels.

Nevertheless, Lan's project reminded me of the way of using real-time data. Considering that lots of public organizations and institutions offer real-time and interactive data, utilizing API will allow me to show much more diverse data through interactive maps.