What is GIS?
Simply put, Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer mapping package. It assists in analyzing spatial data and creating its visual display.

When should I use GIS?
Maps can rapidly convey spatial data in an intuitive manner. They can also illustrate relationships that may be obscured in other formats (e.g. a table or a chart).

What is the Mapping Service?
Waldo Library offers a custom mapping service to all University faculty, staff, and students. University members may collaborate with the Maps Coordinator to create maps to include in journal articles, dissertations and theses, or other research projects. Members who are proficient in ArcGIS may make an appointment to use a map room computer.

How do I use the service?
• First, contact the maps coordinator to discuss what you have in mind, whether GIS is a good solution, and what a realistic time frame might be.
• Second, gather and format the data you wish to map.
• Third, set up an appointment and visit the map room to create your map.

What are the limitations?
Map creation can be constrained by lack of available data (either by the researcher or by the institution). WMU will strive to attain needed data, but availability or cost may prohibit some projects or extend their time frame.
Possible Subjects

- Economics
- Marketing
- Political Science
- Public Policy
- Sociology
- Public Health
- Archeology
- All other topics with spatial attributes

Contact Information

Hours
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.