

Site Selection for Public Libraries in Shiraz Using a Geographic Information System

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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of this paper is to examine the geographic distribution of public libraries in Shiraz, and to determine the best location for the construction of public libraries.

Methodology: In this study, data was collected through literature reviews, through observations and interviews, and by using geographical maps. Collected data were imported into the Arc GIS software. By using layer combination, the geographic distribution of public libraries was examined and the patterns for establishing public libraries in Shiraz were designed.

Findings: Results reveal the poor condition of Shiraz public libraries in terms of their geographic distribution, and provide patterns for establishing public libraries throughout Shiraz at neighborhood, district, region and city centre levels.

Originality/Value: Using public libraries is an indicator of cultural development for any society. Library use is dependent on ease of accessibility. The rapid development of our population has made the need for accessibility to public libraries more vital and intensified the importance of locating public libraries carefully and correctly. This study assists in the site selection of public libraries in Shiraz and provides a pattern for the establishment of public libraries which would be very valuable.

Keywords: Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Public libraries, Site selection, Shiraz.