



**NOTICE OF
UNIVERSITY ORAL**
GEODESY AND GEOMATICS ENGINEERING

Master of Science in Engineering

Nyaladzani Nkhwanana

Wednesday, December 16, 2009 @ 1:30 pm

Head Hall – Room E-11

Board of Examiners: Supervisor: Dr. David Coleman, GGE

**Examining Board: Dr. Sue Nichols, GGE
Dr. Jane Fritz, Computer Science**

Chair: TBA

**Assessing the Credibility of VGI Contributors and Trust in their
Contributions**

ABSTRACT

This research examines existing trust approaches in online systems, and determines the degree to which they can be applied to assessing the inclusion of specific Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) entries in authoritative databases. It goes further to examine the use of a reputation system in order to distinguish reliable from unreliable contributors.

Three approaches were selected, and they were compared and analyzed to determine their suitability for use with VGI. The results show that none of them could be directly adopted and used for VGI in authoritative databases without refinement. From each of the approaches selected, it was shown that each possesses attributes that may be useful for use with VGI. For example, Wikipedia regularly publishes featured articles on the front page, and the same could be useful to VGI projects, to show appreciation to reliable contributors and also showcase the quality expected.

Findings of this research suggest that administrators of the institution collecting data should be responsible for making verifications of contributions and making final decisions on the data that is adopted for map updates. A registration system that requires an email address is recommended, because it allows for communication with contributors, and it can be used to track and discover reliable contributors.

Faculty Members and Graduate Students are invited to attend this presentation.