

Project title	Urban Spatial Systems: A Multidiscipline Modeling Perspective For Collaborative Decision Making May 2001
Student name	Danjuma Ibrahim Nkwenti
Advisor	Dr. Habib Alshuwaikhat

Abstract

Urbanization and Urban Systems are increasingly grappling with problems of rapid technological evolution and complexity of spatial interactions. The problems result from their interdisciplinary nature, lack of a coherent body of theories and idiosyncratic research orientations. This study sets out one option for addressing such problems. The first part surveys concepts that have characterized interaction of urban spatial systems to date. The second part establishes a conceptual model to operationalize emerging planning and development concepts, and to conceptualize technology-driven developments. The third, and final part demonstrates its applicability, through qualitative and quantitative analyses, web interfaces, and the rational mechanism of a GIS hub. Conclusion of the study suggests the model could be resource-effective in fostering collaboration as well as lending direct application of concepts that have at best been illusive, especially in organizations and municipalities where it matters most. The study recommends that mechanisms for implementation be put in place through institutional curriculums dealing with holistic planning concepts, organized conferences and symposia that will foster exchange of resources and research activities, and thus delimit idiosyncratic approaches to solving urban problems.