

## THE USAGE OF ONLINE MAP SERVICES IN EXPANDING OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WHEN TRAINING IN EARTH SCIENCE

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The article discusses the possibilities of using geoportals as the main source of open digital cartographic data for the development of spatial thinking and skills among students. Insufficient attention is paid to the development of spatial thinking skills among students. Definition of the concept "geoportal" is given. An analysis of a number of regional geoportals in terms of their content with spatially distributed natural resource data is made as well as the variety of tools provided for working with these data. Conclusions about geoportal recommended for use by students to consolidate their skills in working with geospatial data are made.

**Keywords:** geospatial data, spatial thinking, students, professional skills, online map services, geoportal, digital maps

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