

**David J. Cowen** is former chair of the Department of Geography, co director of the Center for GIS and Remote Sensing, and a Carolina Distinguished Professor of Geography at the University of South Carolina. He is the 2005 recipient of the ESRI Lifetime Achievement Award in GIS. He chaired the Mapping Science Committee of the National Research Council for six years, is a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences and a member of the NRC Board on Earth Sciences and Resources and the Board of the Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute. He is also the current chair of the NRC Study Committee "Land Parcel Databases: A National Vision". Since 1967 his research and teaching interests have focused on the development and implementation of geographic information systems in a wide range of settings. During his thirty six year career at the University of South Carolina he directed the College Computing Center for twenty-two years and served as Interim Vice President for Computing. He established one of first academic programs in GIS and has directed forty five master's students and eleven Ph.D. students. He has held several important positions including being the president of the Cartographic and Geographic Information Society, the US Delegate to the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographic Information Systems and chair of the Association of American Geographers Geographic Information Systems Specialty Group. Dr. Cowen earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Ph.D. degree in geography from Ohio State University in 1970. Throughout his career he has been involved in scores of projects relating to a wide range of topics including decision support systems, economic development, school performance, land use changes and real estate. He has written more than 70 research papers and book chapters and participated in funded research projects valued at more than \$7,000,000.