



Hydro Status of Now

Description

The original aim of the project was to explore issues related to water, especially water use and availability – „Where do we get our water from? How are we using it? And how much are we using?“

From the outset we were interested in an open process where we could discuss, share and develop the ideas together with our collaborators. We were interested in the relationship between water availability and consumption data hoping to show the status of sustainability on a global scale. The search for data on sustainable use of water was more than difficult, often lacking and difficult to calculate, and therefore hard to show in a visualisation. On the other side, physical availability and use of water is easier to show but does not highlight the problems of access and real shortage people face in many countries.

During the workshop we worked on both levels and experimented with several visualisations. One of them (see picture above) shows a comparison between availability and consumption data in a matrix. By comparing both information the visualisation shows much more than just a relation between resources and usage. It raises questions of political relations, contrary patterns in neighbouring countries possibilities in water trading.

Authors

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Technologies

Illustrator, Processing, SQLite (for the database), ActionScript

State

The project resulted in a number of experimental, static visualisations related to physical water availability and use. We also made available a document explaining what we covered in the two week workshop and some of the issues we encountered.

Links

<http://www.hydrostatusofnow.org>

[Wiki] http://wiki.medialab-prado.es/index.php/El_estado_del_agua_de_ahora_%28Hidro_status_of_now%29