Abstract

When choosing a doctor, diplomas and hospital affiliations are reliable indications of competence. The eminent medical practitioner is easily distinguished from the quack on the street. But how do you judge a good GIS provider? What are the criteria? Is a computer programming expert preferable to a cartography major? Does a geographer outpace them both? Is experience more important than certifications and degrees? When did "caveat emptor" become the operative phrase for those soliciting GIS services? This paper explores the issues of liability, standardization, and credibility facing both GIS providers and their prospective clients as the GIS industry proliferates.

Mary Johnson
Remington & Vernick Engineers
Technical Writing
232 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033-1907
USA
Phone: 856-795-9595
Fax: 856-795-1882
E-mail: Mary_Johnson@rve.com

Kevin Zelinsky
Remington & Vernick Engineers
Drafting/CADD/GIS
232 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield 08033-1907
USA
Phone: 856-795-9595
Fax: 856-795-1882
E-mail: Kevin_Zelinsky@rve.com