FOREWORD
By Matt Ball

Joe Berry's "Beyond Mapping" column in *GeoWorld* magazine is its longest-running column, and, with a monthly frequency, it's also the most expansive. Joe's well-articulated spatial-analysis exercises convey his passion and genius for solving spatial problems. His accessible and instructive language has made "Beyond Mapping" *GeoWorld's* highest-rated column for quite some time.

Joe's enthusiasm for the subject shines in this content, and his infectious enthusiasm goes well beyond his written work. Joe's presentations and workshops on map analysis and modeling always garner rave reviews. As the leading spatial-analysis evangelist, Joe is determined to help people understand how to make the most of their spatial information. This book is a necessary foundation to turn your spatial data into actionable information.

This volume goes well beyond the printed page, with analysis software and hands-on exercises on the accompanying CD-ROM. The exercises are tailored to each topic with a progressive line of instruction for easy comprehension. Also, the disk contains links to additional readings and resources for course instructors. The entire package should serve to entertain, enlighten and instruct you on map analysis.

Analysis Represents the Frontier

To date, GISs are used primarily to create and manage large databases of spatial information. GIS practitioners create inventories of Earth information related to their specific discipline, whether it's utility infrastructure, parcel information, public works, emergency management, land use, natural-resource management, agricultural or other information. The body of digital-mapping data has grown considerably, and the number of people that have access to such information has grown exponentially, but analysis is a very small part of the work being done.

Data creation and management tools have benefited from a steady investment in development, but the same can't be said for spatial-analysis and modeling tools. As digital reality becomes more authentic, the potential to better understand this reality will come to the foreground, and more time and effort will be spent on modeling and analysis. We've only "scratched the surface" on the explanatory and predictive powers of geospatial technology.

The foundation in spatial analysis that this book represents will put you on a path to better understand and leverage spatial information. As the various spatial data sources become more and better interconnected, modeling and analysis tools will unlock new levels of spatial understanding.