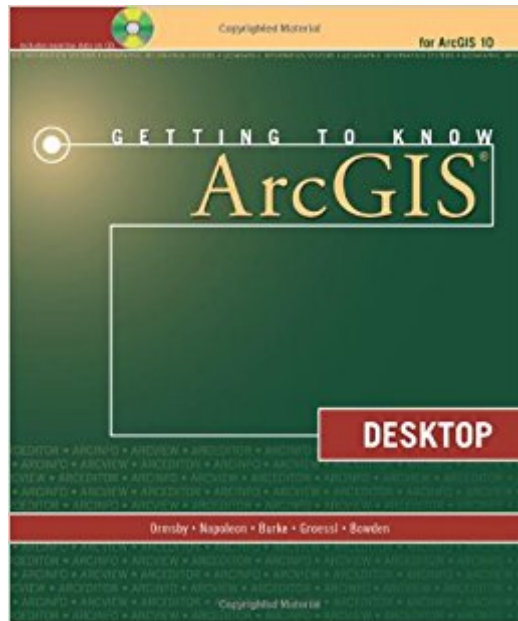


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# Getting To Know ArcGIS Desktop



## Synopsis

Getting to Know ArcGIS Desktop introduces principles of GIS as it teaches the mechanics of using ESRI's leading technology. Key concepts are combined with detailed illustrations and step-by-step exercises to acquaint readers with the building blocks of ArcGIS® Desktop including ArcMap®, for displaying and querying maps, ArcCatalog®, for organizing geographic data, and ModelBuilder®, for diagramming and processing solutions to complex spatial analysis problems. Its broad scope, simple style, and practical orientation make this book an ideal classroom text and an excellent resource for those learning GIS on their own. A data CD for working through the exercises and a fully functioning 180-day trial ArcGIS® Desktop 10 software is included.

## Book Information

Series: Getting to Know ArcGIS

Paperback: 592 pages

Publisher: Esri Press; 2 edition (August 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1589482603

ISBN-13: 978-1589482609

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 1.2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 106 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #243,798 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Graphics & Multimedia > GIS #49 in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Visual Basic #63 in Books > Computers & Technology > Graphics & Design > Computer Modelling > Remote Sensing & GIS

## Customer Reviews

Tim Ormsby works in product development at ESRI. Eileen Napoleon is an educational specialist at ESRI. Robert Burke is a senior instructor and technical writer at ESRI. Carolyn Groessl was a technical writer for ESRI Press. Laura Bowden currently works in GIS education at ESRI.

This book is 592 pages of ArcGIS tutorials. If you like tutorials, then this is the book for you. These tutorials will walk you through anything you would ever want to do with ArcGIS, in painful detail. I was new to ArcGIS before reading this book, it's a complex and powerful program. This book is

meant to be read cover to cover, unlike most software manuals & books where you can just jump to what you need to learn. So,... if you need to learn ArcGIS then this book is for you, but if you just need to learn specific tasks/ tools/ functions this is probably not the book that you want.

I reviewed this title several years ago and highlighted the excellent training material and structure it provides. My view on that remains. However, this book has literally 99% the same content and structure of the earlier editions, so if you are looking for new material you will be disappointed. The software changes relating to the training examples are largely cosmetic, one or two modified dialogs and toolbars. Nothing of substance. Also, there is no requirement to purchase this book to obtain the 180-day evaluation software (which is ArcGIS 10 Editor version). Indeed, it is no longer bundled with the book, you have to download the 3.9Gb file, but you also get the evaluation key, so this latest edition is unnecessary. My advice is, save yourself a whole lot of money, buy an older version and obtain the software via download. There is so little change to the book you will not be disadvantaged. currently (Dec 2010) has used editions from \$17.13. ESRI Press could have provided an 'update' pdf of changes, but I doubt it would have got beyond a page!!

lanO - UK

This book is well written but is not so practical to use because installing the trial software is almost impossible and all the exercises are based on having the program installed. If you already have access to the software then this is a great investment otherwise I would make sure you have it before buying this book. Also, good luck getting the 180-day version that they advertise in the book, you'll be lucky to get the 60-day version (you don't need to buy book for that) that will only be available through their website. Keep in mind the book only directs you to their website for any information on downloading trial software. Was finally able to install the trial software and worked well and expired on the last day of course so I'm unable to continue practicing.

Good book and cheap

I am in my first year of a landscape architecture program. I am currently taking a course that is a whirlwind tour of the multiple software programs employed in the profession. While I certainly have the smarts to learn these software programs, it doesn't come easy nor quickly. Our intro to ArcGIS was spotty, confusing, way too fast, and terribly frustrating. Many people are fine using computers, but many, like myself, lack that inherent fascination with the machine, which I believe the "fast learners" have. I quickly got behind in our assignments. This book was a godsend - I cannot say

enough good things about it. Some of the book IS very fundamental, such as the sections that explain how to edit and move about the data tables: anyone familiar with Access or Excel already knows how to do this. HOWEVER, I found it very encouraging to find concepts I WAS familiar with - it lessened the burden of having to learn the unfamiliar stuff. If you are struggling with GIS - buy this book!

Despite it being a requirement for several of my classes in school, I think this is a really helpful book to learn the basics of ArcGIS. I would recommend it to others if they have access to Arc. It is all step by step instructions to help you learn the different tools, features, and uses of ArcMap. Sometimes it seems pointless because you're not really producing anything, just following steps, but if you can understand what you're doing and why you're doing it and are able to apply it outside of this book then it works great.

This program teaches the user how to use different functions of ArcGIS through the use of exercises. This may be great for some, but it left much to be desired for me. I would have preferred to have an explanation of the tools and a picture of what they looked like, and then tried to use them myself. After going through the whole book, I feel as if I did not learn much, because the explanations of "why" were so rarely given. And the data was already loaded from a cd. Instead of learning how to get data, a crucial point in GIS, we learned to click on "chapter 12 ex a" which is not helpful in the real world.

Excellent guide book. will show you the basics step by step. the revised version still has the screen shots of the old version which is at times confusing, but the text is updated. If you are a bit more versed than first-timer, just skip to the step that you are not familiar with. But I found, it's always best to review even the basics and follow steps from the beginning. This way you make good habits. I went from ARc GIS 3.x to 10. So I appreciated the nuances of the details in steps.

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