GIS

Tips & Tricks

Giving Credit where it is Due

For those who have been following this column, you know that one of my mantras regarding GIS-based cartography is “never accept the defaults.” This mantra extends to the use of pre-constructed basemaps. While I encourage my students to construct their basemaps from scratch, that is, publicly available GIS data, sometimes it is just too convenient to use a pre-constructed basemap and then add your relevant data directly to it. While that basemap may be cartographically pleasing and exactly what you need for your map product, it will generally come with the source and credits imbedded into the graphic. Remember that although it is absolutely necessary to retain that information on the map, the font, text size, color, placement, etc. may be inharmonious with your map. So...here is a tip on how to adjust the credits.

In ArcGIS Desktop

Typically, when you use an Esri pre-constructed basemap, the credits will appear in the lower right-hand portion of your map (Figure 1), as:

![Figure 1. Typical Esri Basemap Credit Display.](image)

To convert the credit text into editable text that you can adjust, from the Main Toolbar, choose:

Insert | Dynamic Text and choose the “Service Layer Credits” option (Figure 2).

![Figure 2. Path from the ArcGIS Desktop Main Menu Bar to alter the Basemap Credit Text.](image)

ArcGIS will select the Service Credits, reformat the text, and convert them into text. You will see the handles (Figure 3) around the text which you can now modify as you need for your map product. Of course, when you can update the text, it is a good idea not to alter the words or remove them completely from the map.

![Figure 3. Service Credits converted to Editable Text in ArcGIS Desktop.](image)

In ArcGIS Pro

The process is much the same in ArcGIS Pro. In a Layout Window (Figure 4) containing the Esri basemap,

![Figure 4. ArcGIS Pro Layout Window with Esri Basemap showing Service Credits.](image)

Select the “Dynamic Text” dropdown (Figure 5) and scroll down to choose “Service Layer Credits”.

![Figure 5. Dynamic Text dropdown in ArcGIS Pro.](image)
Clicking on the credits on the map will select the text (Figure 6), which you can now adjust for your map.

And it is that easy to update the service credits for your basemap.

Figure 6. Dynamic Text shown as an Editable Feature in ArcGIS Pro Layout Window.

Just a quick note, Esri has moved many of the basemaps to Mature Support (https://www.esri.com/arcgis-blog/products/arcgis-online/announcements/reminder-raster-basemaps-moved-to-mature-support/), including the World Dark Gray and the World Street Maps. That means that these maps will no longer be updated or revised. These maps are being replacing with vector versions to provide for faster rendering. If you have these basemaps in your map documents, you might want to check to make sure that you are using the most up-to-date versions.

Send your questions, comments, and tips to GISTT@ASPRS.org.

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