Erin Mutch is the director of the Spatial Analysis and Research Center (SpARC) at University of California, Merced (UC Merced). She supports project development, grant applications, and research support campus wide for projects needing spatial analysis support and implementation. Mutch has also developed and conducted workshops and training for UC Merced students, faculty, staff and off-campus partners and provides consultation to faculty and student research projects. Mutch completed her MGIS at Pennsylvania State University in 2007, with a capstone focus on Geographic Information System (GIS) enterprise implementation for new and growing organizations.

Perspective

The mission and goals of SpARC is to be the hub for spatial science, research, analyses, education, visualization, spatial data archiving and access to spatial science software. Our focus is to enhance our ability to support spatial data archiving with the collaboration with the UC Merced Library and are currently developing projects archiving historical maps, and integrating historical data into an accessible GIS. My challenge is to manage spatially pertinent research data, maintain data quality and integrity through documentation and data archiving through coordination with our library staff. In addition, we are working with faculty and students in implementing geospatial software applications that minimize the need for software training while enhancing research and visual communications. As the nation’s first doctoral research university of the 21st century, our goal is to utilize spatial analysis applications to integrate and support data archiving and provide spatially oriented portals to access library information.