Erin Mutch is the Director of the Spatial Analysis and Research Center (SpARC) at University of California, Merced (UC Merced). She supports campus-wide project development and research support for projects needing spatial analysis support and implementation. Mutch has also designed and conducted workshops and training for UC Merced students, faculty, staff, and off-campus partners. Mutch provides geospatial consultation to faculty and student research projects for various departments across campus. She assists UC Merced librarians in identifying databases, data management options, archival map scanning and strategic planning. Previously she worked in GIS private consulting for more than 15 years and has her MGIS degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Perspective

My focus at SpARC is to enhance our ability to support spatial data archiving by collaborating with the UC Merced Library. We have developed projects which included the archiving historical maps and integrating digitized vector and raster historical data into an accessible geographic information system. My challenge is to manage spatially pertinent research data, maintain data quality and integrity through documentation and data archiving through coordination with our faculty and library staff. In addition, we are working with faculty staff and students in implementing geospatial software applications that minimize the need for software training while enhancing research and visual communications. Our goal is to utilize spatial analysis applications to integrate and support data archiving and provide spatially oriented portals to access library information. Another challenge we have identified is the duplication of data creation and the lack of standards and metadata in storing data sets which could be shared and enhance future research.