Handout for April 2021 Newsletter
Mapping the Economics of Information in GeoFRED®

Purpose.

1. Create a country-level geographical map of internet users.
2. Edit the map by modifying its legend and color.
3. Interpret the information displayed in the map.

Pedagogical Rationale. This assignment requires that you first search for data online, select a particular series, and display it in the form of a geographical map. Next, you will edit the format of the map. Lastly, you will interpret the economic information displayed in the map. These tasks will develop your proficiency in searching for, transforming, and interpreting data.

Grading. Your grade will be determined by (a) how precisely you complete the search and transformation data tasks and (b) how accurately you interpret the data.

Steps to Search for and Transform the Data.

1. Access https://geofred.stlouisfed.org and click on "Build New Map."
2. Click on "Choose Data" and under "Data:" search for "Internet Users."
3. Select "Frequency: Annual," "Units: Per 100 People," and "2017" as the date.
4. Click on "EDIT LEGEND" and select from "Interval Method" the option "Equal Interval."
5. Click on "CHOOSE COLORS" and under "Divergent" select the right-most color scheme (tagged "spectral").

Discussion Prompts. Answer the following questions:

1. Examine the map you created. Name three countries where fewer than 20 of every 100 persons have access to the internet.
2. Compare the map you created with this map of constant (also known as real) gross domestic product (GDP) per person by nation: https://geof.red/m/qB8. How does the level of GDP per person relate to the fraction of the population with internet access? Is there a direct or an inverse relationship? Explain your answer.
3. Compare the map you created with this map of the percentage of the population age 25 and older with incomplete and complete tertiary education (also known as a college education): https://geof.red/m/qB9. How does the percentage of the population with a college education relate to the fraction of the population with internet access? Is there a direct or an inverse relationship? Explain your answer.