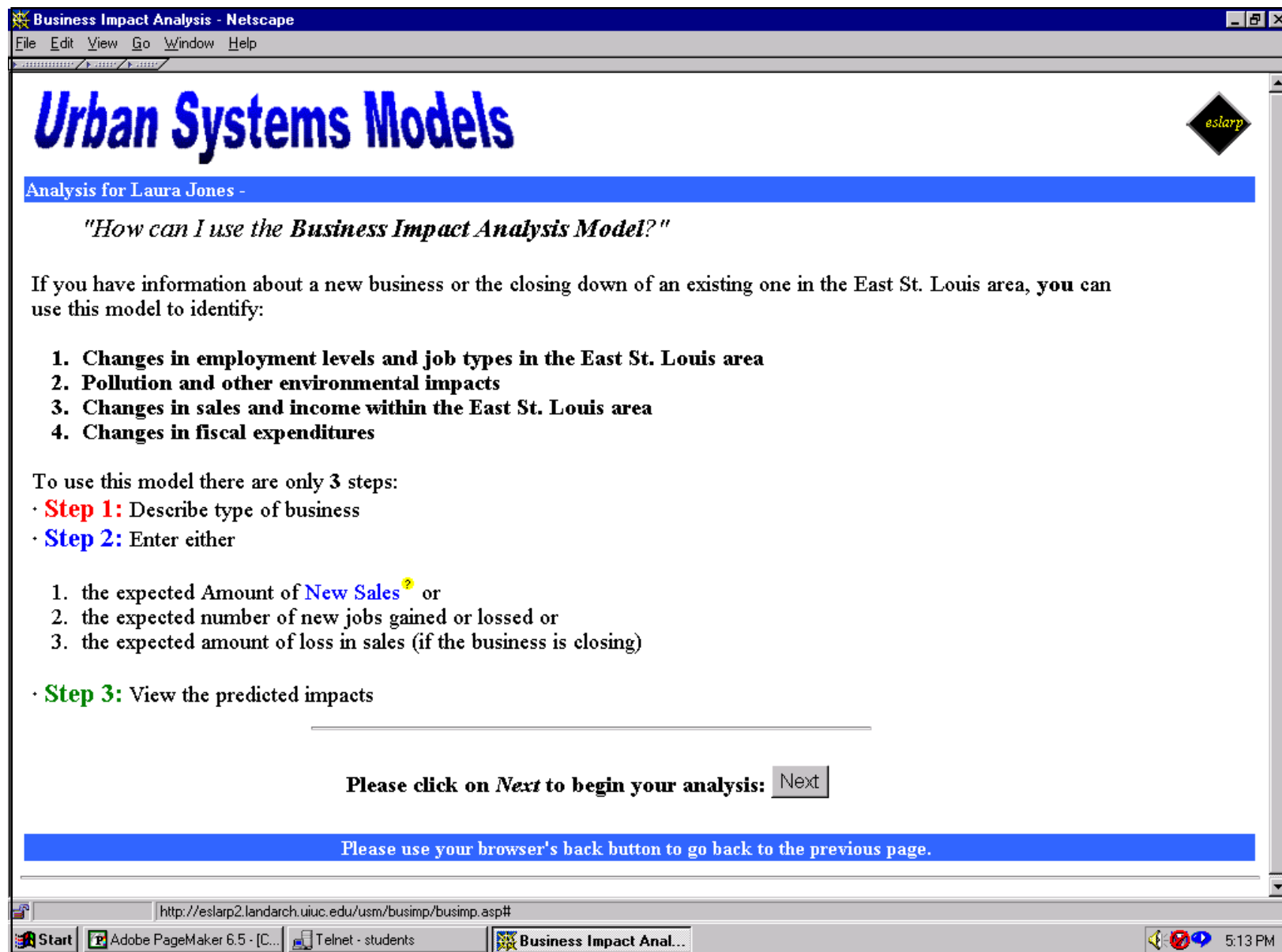


Urban Systems Modeling on the World Wide Web



Internet technologies are used to extend the boundaries of participatory action research. The Urban Systems Modeling [USM] project aims to provide ordinary citizens and community organizations access to sophisticated urban models on the World Wide Web.

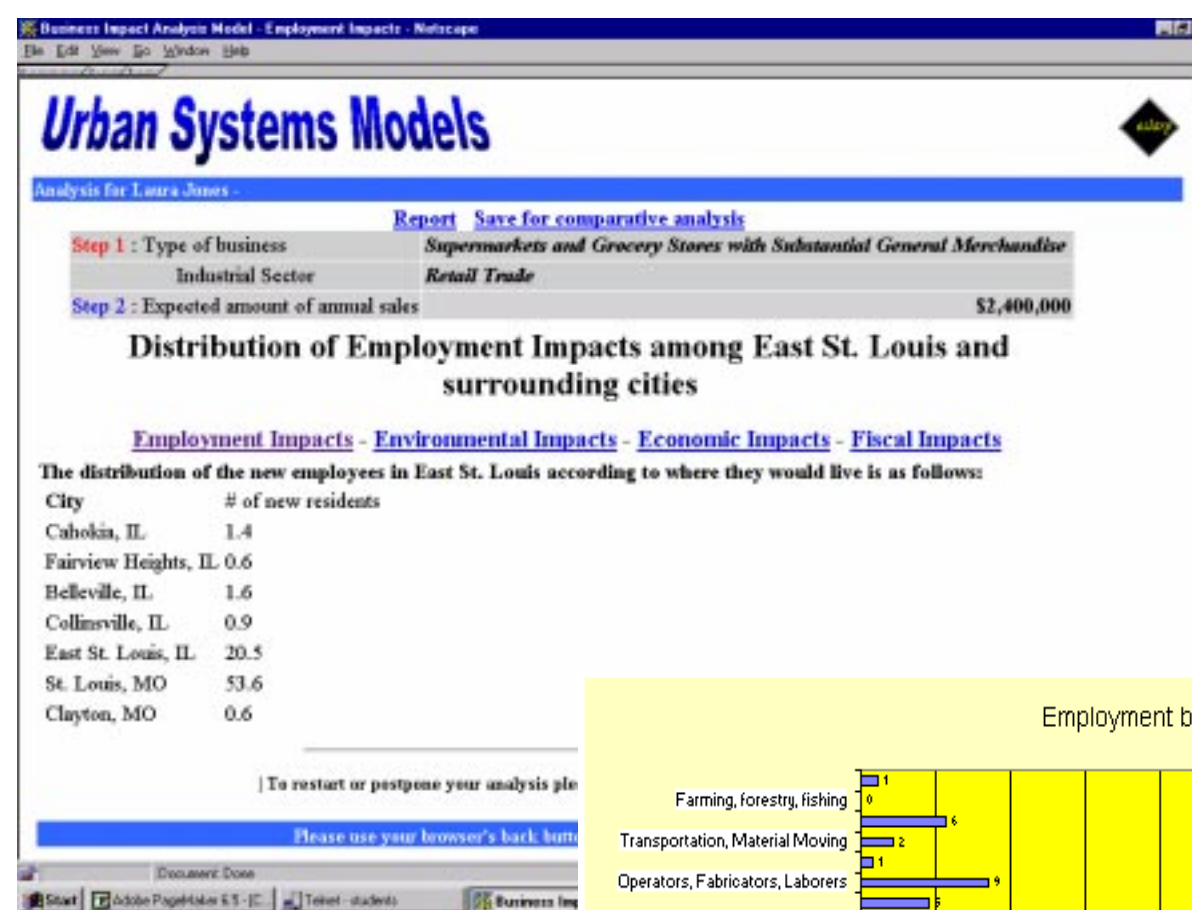
The first model analyzes the impacts of development in East St. Louis. It predicts employment, income, sales, pollution and fiscal impacts of any industrial or business change in the city.

Users input the name of the new business and the change in sales or employment

USM carries out the analysis in three steps. In the first step, it asks for the name of the business that is being opened or closed.

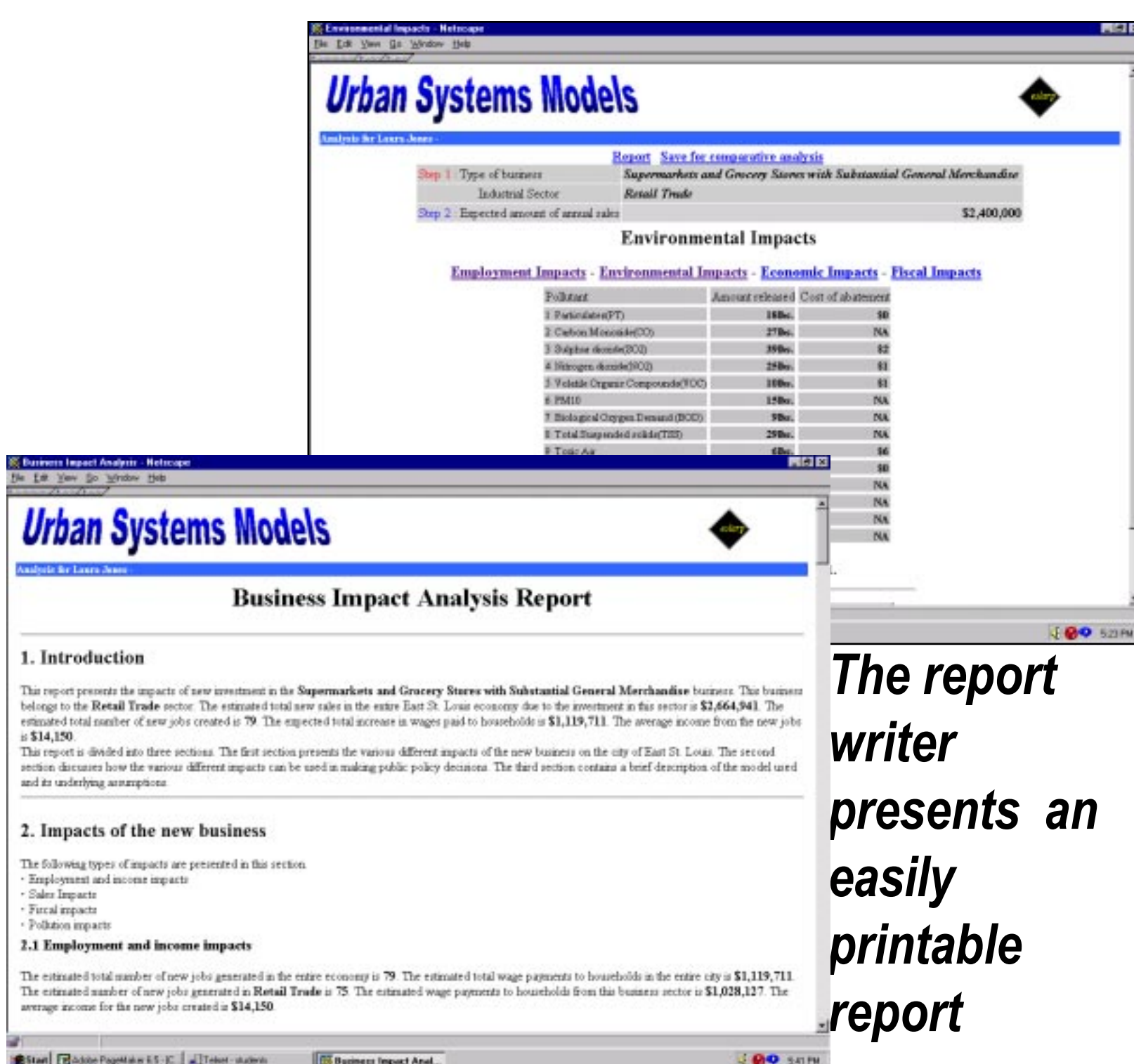
In step 2, the user is asked to input either the change in annual sales or employment due to the new development.

In the final step USM calculates the various impacts. Employment impacts give the number and types of jobs generated, the average wages and the top ten sectors in terms of new jobs. A new feature also distributes the new employees according to residential location in East St. Louis and surrounding communities. Other predicted impacts include income, sales, pollution and fiscal impacts.



Fiscal, employment and pollution impacts

Spatial distribution of impacts - the latest development



The report writer presents an easily printable report

USM also has a report writer feature. The user can select the different impacts that they want included in the report. USM then prepares the printable report with these impacts. In this sense, USM does a real time analysis for the user.

Users in East St. Louis found the model easy to use and useful to them in analyzing different developments in the city. They also identified various limitations and areas of further development.

At ESLARP, we are trying to meet the needs identified by the citizens of East St. Louis, and developing new features that will make USM a more useful public policy and planning tool for the citizens and community organizations in East St. Louis.

