Definition of map overlay *(from: http://www.statemaster.com)*

"Map overlay" is the combination of two separate spatial data sets to create a new output data set. It is used in assessment procedures in order to combine the values of different datasets, in order to identify the areas that are the most vulnerable to (or the most suitable for) the development of a certain project or plan.

The following article illustrates an example of intervisibility assessment using the map overlay method:
Magaudda et al., "Infrastructures and landscape", in Real CORP 2008 - International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society, Schwechat, 2008