base line

a newsletter of the Map and Geography Round Table

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base line is an official publication of the American Library Association's Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT). The purpose of base line is to provide current information on cartographic materials, other publications of interest to map and geography librarians, meetings, related governmental activities, and map librarianship. It is a medium of communication for members of MAGERT and information of interest is welcome. The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the American Library Association and MAGERT. Contributions should be sent to the appropriate editor listed below:

EDITOR:
Patricia A. Seavey, 5602 E. 6th St., Tucson, AZ 85711 Tel: 602/790-5312 E-mail: pseavey@ccit.arizona.edu

PRODUCTION MANAGER:
James A. Coombs, Maps Library, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO 65804-0095 Tel.: 417/836-4534 E-mail: jac324f@smsvma.bitnet

CATALOGING EDITOR:
Katherine Rankin, 3189 Brazos St., Las Vegas, NV 89109 Tel.: 702/895-3062 E-mail: krankin@nevada.edu

COMPUTER INFORMATION EDITOR:
Melissa Lamont, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT Tel.: 203/486-6128 FAX: 203/486-3539 E-mail: hblad@uconnvm.ucon.edu

NEW BOOKS EDITOR:
Anita Oser, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723 Tel.: 704/227-7316 E-mail: aoser@wcuvax1

NEW MAPS EDITOR:
Elaine Clement, Earth & Mineral Sciences Library, 105 Deike, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802 Tel.: 814/865-3694 Bitnet: exc@psulas.bitnet or exc@psulas.psu.edu

SMALL COLLECTIONS EDITOR:
John Crissinger, Library, Ambassador College, Big Sandy, TX 75755 Tel.: 903/636-2182

CONTRIBUTORS:

(BH) Brenda Howitson, Boston, MA

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MAGERT OFFICERS:

CHAIRPERSON:
Nancy J. Butkovich, Physical Sciences Library, 230 Davey Laboratory, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802 Tel.: 814/865-3716 E-mail: njb@psulias.bitnet or njb@psulias.psu.edu

VICE-CHAIRPERSON:
Margaret Brill, Public Documents and Maps Dept., Perkins Library, Duke University, Box 90177, Durham, NC 27708-0177 Tel.: 919/684-2380 Internet: msb@mail.lib.duke.edu

SECRETARY:
John Stevenson, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Tel.: 302/831-8408 FAX: 302/831-1046 E-mail: John.Stevenson@mvs.udel.edu

TREASURER:
Mark Thomas, Documents/Microtext Reference, Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-5000 Tel: 409/845-5741

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:
Steve Rogers, Map Room, Ohio State University Libraries, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall., Columbus, OH 43210 Tel: 614/292-6175 E-mail: srogers@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu
FROM THE CHAIR

Actually, I haven’t seen much of my chair lately... or my office either! It’s been an extraordinarily hectic fall semester so far.

The Midwinter schedule should be appearing somewhere else in this issue. I think it’ll be an interesting conference.

I’m still accepting volunteers for Local Arrangements for Chicago. (I know more about Chicago than I do Philadelphia, but that isn’t saying much!) MAGERT NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Nan

ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

The ALA Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) Map Cataloging and Classification Committee met at the ALA annual convention on June 25, 1994, in Miami Beach. This is the second part of my report on that meeting. The first part appeared in the August 1994 issue of baseline.

The proposal from the Library of Congress to change the way atlases are classified was discussed. The problem with the part of the G schedule for atlases is that there is no room to expand the numbers to cover new countries. Also, the Cutters are getting very long to fit in new editions. Cartographic agencies are being bought up by larger companies, so the number of different author Cutters is diminishing, making the numbers even harder to fit in. Triple Cuttering also causes atlases on certain topics to be intermixed with general atlases. There is a proposal to file the atlases with two Cutters first and then the atlases with three Cutters next, but that only works in a manual system and not in an automated system. Now in the atlas portion of the G schedule, the date of publication comes after the author Cutter. This makes the date part of the sorting structure.

One proposal to eliminate long Cutters and triple Cuttering is to use the map schedule for atlases, too, because in the map schedule, the date is already before the author Cutter, so there is room for expansion. In the electronic format, it is hard to distinguish between atlases and maps. LC is proposing to add some kind of word to the subfield b to indicate where the material is filed. Some examples of this would be shelf or folio or CD. As part of this pro-
posal, maps that file on the shelf or have accompanying material would be interfiled with the atlases. They may add drawer to the subfield b for maps. LC may eventually close their atlas collection and start over or reclass the atlases. LC has not definitely decided to go with this proposal. They are going to do a comparison of the maps and atlases schedules to see where there are holes. The cities of the world concept is valid in atlases but not in maps. It may be that not many changes would have to be made to the schedules to implement this proposal. LC would put the proposal out for comment in such places as MAPS-L before implementing it.

Reference work would be made easier under this proposal because it would only be necessary to look up one call number to find both maps and atlases of a particular area. The old call number would also stay in a field in the record. LC is running out of room in their atlas area and is getting rid of more than three copies of one atlas and is looking at even second and third copies to see if they can be gotten rid of. This space problem makes it hard to stop cataloging atlases the old way and start the new way. After format integration is completed, they might reclassify the atlases after a few years, or they might have a summer project to reclassify them, or they could outsource the project. If everyone in the department worked on the project full time, it would take ten weeks to complete, but no new cataloging would be done during that time. In 1976 there was a break where atlas numbers were restarted at an arbitrary point. Editions that cross that date are split. Most countries received new numbers then. The atlas schedule was started in the mid-1950s. It was fixed after twenty years, and now it is a problem again. LC wants to do more than a band-aid fix. These problems do not exist in the maps schedule. Betsy Mangan hopes to have this proposal done by the end of the summer and to post it widely for comments.

LC is not a leader on cataloging digital material as it is not cataloging that material. This committee could discuss digital cataloging and what are the problems with it at Midwinter in order to propose AACR2 and MARC changes. Then Mary Larsgaard could send out a write-up of the problems before ALA’s annual convention where the rules would need to be changed.

Katherine
NEW MAPS

New Catalogs and Mailing Lists


Chalk Butte Inc. Digital Maps, 137 Steel Lane, Boulder WY 82923. The advertisement received showed part of a map titled "Michigan Peninsula Digital Landforms." The map is 43.5" x 35" and was produced from USGS 3 Arc Second Data (contributed by Linda Zellmer).

Historical base maps of Civil War Battlefields. MAPPRINTS are on 100 lb acid free text weight Mohawk vellum, signed and numbered. Retail is $24.00, Folded maps retail for $8.95 and contain copy about the Civil War campaign they map, as well as copy about 19th century and Civil War maps. McElfresh Map Co. P.O.Box 565, Olean, NY 14760.


Social Studies School Service, 1994. This catalog has sections on geography, as well as maps. Coverage includes books, videos, software, films, CD-ROMs, games, globes, model kits, posters, and atlases--to name a few items. Social Studies School Service, 10200 Jefferson Boulevard, Room 112,
Soviet geological and geophysical maps from the Russian Research Institute of Geology Moscow. Scales 1:48,000,000 to 1:1,000,000. Most focus on Earth's surface and ocean beds, some extend as far as the moon. Catalog available from The Cartographis Division of Four One Company Ltd., 523 Hamilton Rd., London, Ontario N5Z 1S3 Canada. e-mail four.one@dt-can.com, Tel. 1-519-433-1351, FAX 1-519-433-5903.


Elaine

**COMPUTER CORNER**

World Wide Web (WWW) and Mosaic are offering new opportunities for the distribution of spatial data. Included below are just a few of the numerous sites available.

The special collections unit at the University of Georgia has been scanning parts of the collection and making the images available through WWW. The scanning project includes a number of rare maps from the 1600 to 1870 period. Several maps are now available through the University of Georgia Homepage, located at: http://scarlett.libs.uga.edu Look for the Digital Picture Archives and then the Hargrett Library and Rare Maps.

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The University of Texas Library's Map Collection home page is located at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/Map_collection.html They have scanned a large number of State Department and Central Intelligence Agency Maps.

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NAISMMap is the FIRST interactive GIS on the web. NAISMMap allows the user to select data layers, order them, set their fill and outline colours, fill patterns, outline types, etc. A number of data layers are provided. The site also includes some wildlife range maps. NAISMMap uses a vector database from the Canadian National Atlas Information Service This version does not generate a legend. Find NaisMap at: http://head-smashed-in.ccm.emr.ca/naismap/naismap.html

*****************************************
The Image Sciences Division of NASA’s Johnson Space Center’s digital image collection is now accessible on the Internet. This collection includes press release and Earth observation images from the manned space program from Mercury to the present. All press release images (c. 9,000 image files) are currently available, but for Earth observation only the latest mission’s images have been loaded (c. 4-12,000 image files). These images can be accessed using the File Transfer Protocol (FTP), Gopher, and World Wide Web (WWW) information sharing protocols over the Internet. Each of these protocols will provide access to JPEG images (average 40k each) and the text files that describe them. They plan to load 200,000 more Earth observation images in the next year.

Find the images at:
   FTP://images.jsc.nasa.gov (login as anonymous)
   Gopher://images.jsc.nasa.gov:70/
   http://images.jsc.nasa.gov/html/home.htm

Further information regarding the availability of these images through the Internet can be obtained from the Customer Services Office in the Image Sciences Division. Contact Kevin Marsh at (Kmarsh@ja6.jsc.nasa.gov)

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Two more sites attempt to organize and access some of the key Homepages for spatial information. See: http://hpb.hwc.ca:7002/WWW_VL_Geography.html for selected geographic sites. Another site: http://Spirit.lib.uconn.edu/ArchNet/Topical/maps.html brings together sites for maps and information about geographic information systems.

Melissa

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new members:

William C. Divens, N. Huntingdon, PA
Steven P. Morris, San Francisco, CA
Yvonne J. Bode, Colgate, WI
C. Tara Sharp, Canastota, NY

Steve, Kathrine

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TENTATIVE MIDWINTER SCHEDULE

Saturday
8:00-9:00 Constitution/Bylaws Committee
9:30-11:00 Cartographic Statistics
11:30-12:30 Education Committee
2:00-4:00 Publications Committee I

Sunday
9:00-11:00 Executive Board I
SIG Task Force (If needed)
11:30-12:30 RBMS/GODORT/MAGERT Joint Committee on Rare Materials
Honors Committee
2:00-4:00 Publications Committee II
Cataloging and Classification Committee
4:30-5:30 ALCTS/CCS/MAGERT Map Cataloging Discussion Group

Monday
8:00-9:00 Orlando Conference Planning
9:00-11:00 Nominating Committee
11:30-12:30 Geotech Committee
2:00-4:00 CUAC

Tuesday
9:00-12:30 Executive Board II

Nan

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MIDWINTER MEETING
PHILADELPHIA, PA
FEBRUARY 3-9, 1995
The Committee for a New England Bibliography has been discussing in the past year the possibility of undertaking a bibliography of maps for the New England region. The Committee was formed in 1969 by a group of historians, librarians, and historical society members. Its first publication, Massachusetts: A Bibliography of Its History, was issued in 1976, followed by bibliographies for the other New England states. Two volumes were published in 1989, one on the New England region as a whole, the other containing additions to the six previously published state volumes, bringing each book up-to-date through 1988. Another volume is in preparation now. Before beginning work on these volumes, the Committee developed specific guidelines for what types of materials would be included in the work. We now seek to generate discussion within the map community on the various questions involved with undertaking these new project. Among issues the Committee has been discussing are: What is a map? Should the bibliography include manuscript maps or focus only on printed maps? What should the dates of coverage in the bibliography be? What level of detail is needed in the description of each map to make it useful? Perhaps a more basic question which has been discussed is whether a bibliography of maps of the New England states would be a useful tool for the map community.

The Committee would welcome the thoughts and comments of all of our map colleagues on these and other questions concerning this proposed bibliography. Comments may be sent to Brenda Howitson, State Library of Massachusetts, 341 State House, Boston MA 02133; phone: (617) 727-2595, fax: (617) 727-5819; e-mail: bhowitson@cwmars.mass.edu. We will report on our thinking and progress as we continue discussion of this project.

BH

Dr. Ira Lourie is studying the atlases of Alvin J. Johnson, 1860-1888. He has located only one atlas (1879) for the period 1875-1880. He would like the assistance of his map colleagues in locating other atlases. If you have any Johnson atlases from the 1875-1880 time period in your collection, or know of any in other collections, please contact Dr. Lourie at (202) 333-5998.

Pat