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http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/magert/index.cfm

Volume 29, Number 5
October 2008
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.

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Advertising Rates: For one issue: full page $100; half page $50; quarter page $25. Inside back cover, opposite “Great Moments in Map Librarianship”: full page $150; half page $80; quarter Page $40.

Send graphic or word processing file as an email attachment to the editor or mail hard copy to editor. Submissions will be re-formatted to the extent necessary to fit the size and proportion requested. Consider that the final size and proportion of a full page is 5.5 x 8.5 inches. Advertisers will be invoiced. Mail checks to the MAGERT Treasurer, payable in U.S. dollars to ALA-MAGERT.

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312/944-6780
Published by the Map and Geography Round Table
base line is published electronically six times a year: February, April, June, August, October, and December. Single printed pre-2008 issues of base line are available at a cost of $5.00 per issue, U.S. and Canadian orders; $7.00 per issue for all other foreign orders. Checks, payable to the American Library Association, should be mailed to Jim Coombs, base line Production Manager, Maps Library, Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO 65804-0095.

Members of MAGERT can access base line as a benefit of their memberships. Non-member subscription rates are $25.00, U.S. and Canada; $30.00 for all other foreign subscriptions. Checks, payable to the American Library Association, should be mailed to Peter Linberger, Subscription Manager, base line, Bierce Library, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-1709. Tel: 330/972-8230. Fax: 330/972-7225. E-mail: pl@uakron.edu

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FROM THE CHAIR
Carolyn Kadri, University of Texas at Arlington

Plans continue for Midwinter in Denver. Our tour will be at the Denver Public Library Map Division. Transportation to and from the Colorado School of Mines made that tour highly problematic for our Midwinter in January. We are still working to find a restaurant close to DPL where we can all congregate after the tour for “dutch” dinner. Details will be announced a little later. Tracey Hughes, Chair of the Geo-Tech Committee, is in the process of analyzing the results of the GIS Pre-conference Interest Survey and will have a decision by midwinter (or possibly before) on whether MAGERT should offer a pre-conference with a GIS topic at Annual in 2010 in Washington D.C., or offer a program instead. Mike Smith, MAGERT treasurer, is awaiting the latest numbers on our “bottom line” about which he expects to have a report soon.

Carolyn
October 2008

Rare, Antiquarian, or Just Plain Old:
Cataloging Pre-Twentieth Century Cartographic Resources

The Workbook used and issued to participants during the June 2007 ALA preconference on cataloging early maps and atlases is now available to purchase for $40. The Workbook includes illustrations and cataloging examples taken from sheet maps, atlas plates and atlases, focusing on early and pre-twentieth century cartographic materials. Elements of description, transcription, mathematical data and supportive research are some of the areas covered by the Workbook. The price includes shipping and handling.

Orders should be sent to Jim Coombs, MAGERT Publications Distribution Manager, Maps Library, Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO 65897 E-mail: JimCoombs@missouristate.edu

base line 29(5): 4
Susan Moore, Chair of the Interest Group, led a question and answer session in Anaheim.

*Does the map community have any cataloging guidelines for digital version of printed maps?*

The discussion focused on whether to provide access to digital copies using single or separate records in the catalog. The Library of Congress (LC) uses the single-record approach, cataloging the original, and adding the URL for the scanned map (field 856 - Electronic Location and Access). The record also contains fields 530 and 007 to mark the record that there is a digital surrogate available, and a few other fields for indexing and for American Memory display. Harvard University also uses the single record approach where the digitized image and georeferenced version of the image are provided as two separate 856 links in the bibliographic record of the original printed map.

Other libraries prefer the separate record approach where records are provided for both printed and digital versions of maps. When cataloging the digital version, a question was raised about whether to follow the pattern for other kinds of reproductions (i.e., describe the original, which in this case is the printed map, with a 533 note for the reproduction--the digitized map) or to catalog the reproductions and describe the original item using the formal “original version” note (field 534).

There were no existing standards for a consistent description of digital cartographic reproductions of various kinds. MAGERT CCC is setting up a Taskforce to recommend how to handle digital cartographic reproductions of various kinds. The draft report will be based on Cartographic Materials Manual. If you are interested in serving in this Taskforce, please contact Mary Larsgaard, the incoming Chair of CCC.

*How do libraries control second, third copies of cartographic materials?*

The Library of Congress uses field 051 to record copy specific information when there are multiple copies of antiquarian cartographic materials. The majority of other cartographic materials require only holding and item records to indicate that LC has two or more identical copies. Although it is a local LC note, field 051 appears in the public display with a distinct label (e.g. “Copy, Issue”) and is shared through the national utilities or other shared databases.

*When there are different copies of the same map, does one scan all copies? Does one scan both the front and back of maps?*

Some libraries selected the copy to be scanned based on the condition of the copy. It is recommendable to consult the Digital Scan Registry set up by the

*Continued on page 11*
Perhaps this isn’t really the place for what you’re about to hear. Ideally this column should offer some utilitarian gloss on this tool or that or otherwise call out some new mapping package or technology. But my anger grows and grows and the release of ArcGIS 9.3 has caused it to spew forth in a galewind of plaintive, melodramatic moaning. About metadata. And why it has been so obviously overlooked. Despite repeated emphasis from all parties of its importance to the management, sharing, and future of all geodata.

This frustration didn’t start with ArcGIS 9.3, naturally. It was burning slow as major GIS packages rolled out version after version and as new, promising GIS packages were developed and released into the wild that all failed, failed, failed to provide more elegant solutions for creating, editing, and managing metadata. Even with the understanding that ArcCatalog, in particular, automates much of the worst elements of metadata-writing (extents, resolutions, coordinate references, etc.), there are still many other elements that need human intervention if the data are really to be shared and reused once they leave the author’s desktop and are released into a world where the author cannot remember important details about a given dataset, doesn’t want to be reached and bothered about their data, or is dead (or otherwise unavailable).

Elegance rests in the eye of the beholder, perhaps, so I submit a one-act play that illustrates my problem.

***

Me: [bratty] You know what I think? These metadata tools do 10% of what they should.

GIS User: That’s absurd. Look at ArcCatalog’s editor. It’s fine.

Me: Really? When you add a column to a feature class in ArcMap, what do you have to do to write even the smallest little blurb about that column?

GIS User: That’s easy. I open ArcCatalog if it’s not open already, find that feature class, click the metadata tab, click “Edit metadata,” click “Entity Attribute,” click the “attribute” tab, use the little arrow to click through all previous attributes until my new one appears, then write in a little description of what the column will hold.

Me: Uh-huh. And how often do you actually do all of that?

GIS User: Oh, almost always.

Me: [accusingly] Really?

GIS User: Almost never.

Me: Okay, well maybe that’s unfair.
After all, how often does a GIS user really add a column to some feature class? Let’s say you’re using Model Builder to do some magic on a series of inputs.

GIS User: Oh, I love Model Builder.

Me: Yeah, it’s pretty great. So let’s say you’re doing a relatively simple Intersect and then a Dissolve. You feed it your two inputs, the output location, maybe adjust a couple of other parameters. At what point do you write your metadata for your new feature class that explains that it’s the result of an intersect of this and that, that it was dissolved on this column and another column was summed because ultimately the data were supposed to be used to accept incoming per-county data and smear them out across the road network?

GIS User: When do I write my metadata? That’s your question?

Me: Yes.

GIS User: Well, after. After the model runs.

Me: Even if you’re sort of busy or under a deadline and you’re running this model from within ArcMap, eager to take the result and get to work with the rest of your steps?

GIS User: Yep.

Me: So you open ArcCatalog, find your model output, write up a little abstract from scratch or add additional notes to the original, then click and tab your way to the attributes pane and write in little definitions for these new fields and such?

GIS User: You bet.

Me: Seriously?

GIS User: No, not really. Never, in fact.

Me: Alright, fair enough. Don’t feel bad. I’m no saint. I’m a self-hating librarian who would sooner, you know, listen to political debate reruns on NPR than write proper metadata.

GIS User: Is that true?

Me: [faltering] Well, sure. Most of it.

GIS User: Debates on NPR?

Me: YouTube, maybe.

GIS User: Debates on YouTube, then?

Me: [silence]

GIS User: Debates?


GIS User: Uh-huh.

Me: ...highlights.


Me: But my point, madam, is that software tools are supposed to counteract our laziness, and in fact their functionality should more or less be inversely proportionate to our laziness plus our distaste for something. So however unlikely we would be to actually do
something -- especially something as supposedly important as metadata -- that’s how function-rich, easy, and fun to use the software should be.

GIS User: A bit of a romantic, are we?

Me: I guess so.

***

And so on. The point being that metadata is woefully absent from most GIS workflows because the software that enables the workflow typically does not offer right-click or programmatic access to metadata actions. And while ESRI’s Metadata Editor component of ArcCatalog, the de facto leader as usual, is a capable and necessary utility, the fact that it’s so separate, isolated, distinct, and dare I say *unwelcome* within the rest of the software’s GUI suggests a sad, dark truth that we probably all have admitted to ourselves during those rare times when we can stand to look a little deeper into our own hearts. Maybe for you it happened late on a soggy, lonely Saturday night. Maybe during prayer, if you swing that way. Maybe it snuck in and silently stung your heart during an otherwise happy time. Who knows when, but this wearisome conclusion has probably come to us all at some point: only chumps and rubes really care about metadata.
And it’s no mystery. Metadata is hard to write (especially hard to write well); it tends to not pay off directly to the author (unless you’ve reached the big time and somebody else gets paid to write it); it constantly needs attention; it interrupts one’s groove; it requires a whole suite of indexers and databases and servers to make it useful outside of the editing or GIS environments; and lastly it’s just...so lame. Writing metadata is like selling concessions at a rock concert. Technically you’re part of the show, but...barely. Everybody knows the action is in ArcMap or Model Builder or uDig or MapWindow. And get this—metadata doesn’t even help you get your data into Google Earth or Maps. And what good is anything if it doesn’t help you generate some kml to friends and colleagues?

Oh, and about kml, the newly-minted OGC standard that—prior to being a standard—took a brutally complex format called GML, simplified it, and (surprise!) made a killer mutable, mashable, shareable format; there are no metadata in there, either. At least not in standardized markup like ISO 19115 or FGDC’s CSDGM. Technically, using the <ExtendedData> element in kml one can reference any arbitrary xml using a namespace declaration. One could presumably declare an ISO 19115 namespace and add a full, compliant 19115 metadata document to a kml file that fully describes the kml for any user that, you know, cared about such things. Or the same could be done for fgdc documents that you know are left behind by kml made from the data they once described. But guess what: nobody’s done it. A Google search (a Google search, friends!) for filetype:kml +extendeddata +fgdc turned up nothing. Zero point zero. The same search with 19115 instead of fgdc turned up two documents, though in both ‘19115’ was an attribute value.

Even though kml was never meant to be a fully self-documenting format, it’s becoming a very popular choice for data sharing and the issue will probably come up again. Either way there is a lot to watch for in the kml story, and perhaps that will be fodder for another day. It will hopefully suffice to say now, however, that in the stampede of data into shareable, transferrable, easily stylable kml, it’s no surprise that metadata are left behind and that’s because in this case the format itself is inconducive to self documentation.

But I digress. The problem is bigger than kml, certainly, and although I’d be happy to be almost indiscriminately angry, for now my ire is pointed at our software-making overlords.

Which may not be fair. I haven’t used or researched every GIS software there is. I don’t know, for example, how MapInfo handles the situation. Nor do I know how many remote sensing packages do metadata. And perhaps there are GIS packages out there of which I am not familiar that do fantastic things to integrate self- and user-documentation of data and processes and histories and rights and sources and deficiencies and everything else that should go into those little .xml addenda. But I doubt it.

There are a few ArcScripts that are meant to ease the pain of metadata work in ArcGIS. There are, in fact, many metadata software utilities and
modules that float around the periphery of the industry. More than one would expect, even, and not least among them is Peter Schweitzer’s (USGS) suite of metadata tools (mp, cns, xtme, etc.) that can compile on many platforms and run in a number of different ways (none of them altogether attractive, unfortunately). Even MapWindow, the fast-developing, open source upstart from Idaho State University’s Geospatial Software Lab, has gotten in on the act of bolting metadata editors onto the main product.
But none of these after-market modules or appendage editors can stand in for an integrated, committed metadata component to all appropriate stages of a workflow. Would it not be more, let’s see, indicative of a commitment to metadata and sharing and interoperability if everybody wasn’t relying on the kindly contributions of users to scrape together some tricks and widgets to help us with metadata writing and editing?

This kind of complaint raises the same question every time (and should): if it’s so important to you, why don’t you do it? A lot of librarians complain like Wilt Chamberlain romanced the ladies -- often, rudely, and indiscriminately. So it’s fair for us to be asked why we don’t solve our own software problems instead of waiting for software developers to do it for us. It’s especially fair for open source projects for which there is no discernible impediment to our participation. And to this question there just isn’t much of a response except...it’s hard. Which is unacceptable for obvious reasons. Or maybe our excuse is that librarians aren’t really in the software writing business, that to mess our hands with software development and interface-building is a misuse of our valuable library science genius and would necessarily cause us to neglect other duties.

Which is also true. But ask your local OPAC user if libraries should always just leave the software and interface development to vendors. And ask your GIS friends if they think the current state of data sharing is sufficient (they’re either liars or dolts if they say it is). And look around at the cool kids in the library profession. You’ll see complaining, complaining, complaining as usual, but you’ll also see software development, contributions to open source projects, and projects with products destined to be folded back into the shared toolset of the greater information landscape. In other words, if librarians really do care about the dearth of metadata being written (at least relative to the mass of actual geodata being produced and shuffled around), it’s probably high time we get ourselves some money, hire ourselves a couple of developers, and get to work. There are other things to complain about when this work is done.

* http://geology.usgs.gov/tools/metadata

** http://mapwindow.org

Continued from page 5

two map professional organizations [See below].

Few libraries scan both front and back of maps to review the mark of ownership for security reasons.

In order to avoid duplication of effort and to keep track of who’s scanning what, the two map professional organizations have created map scanning registries to track major scanning efforts. Here are the websites with more information: ALA MAGERT Map Scanning Registry (http://mapregistry.library.arizona.edu/cgi/index.pl) and WAML Scanning Projects Clearinghouse (http://www.waml.org/clearing-house.html).
ARTICLES WANTED

*Coordinates* is a peer-reviewed, open-access online journal.

*Coordinates* publishes articles on a wide range of topics related to cartography. Appropriate subjects include history of cartography, GIS, maps on the Internet, map reading and interpretation, and map librarianship.

*Coordinates* considers contributions from anyone, regardless of subject background or organizational affiliation.

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**SERIES A:** Original, peer-reviewed articles.

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Further information about publishing in this journal can be found on the *Coordinates* home page (http://www.sunysb.edu/libmap/coordinates.htm)
New Maps and Cartographic Materials,
Along with Other Items of Interest
David J. Bertuca, University at Buffalo
Libraries Map Collection

Welcome to Autumn! School’s back in session, thousands of minds working away at the problems of the universe, and many of them are looking for maps!

In this issue of New Maps, I am focusing on a selection of Web resources that may be of interest to you and your patrons, now or for future reference. I hope you enjoy the visit.

Maps


Valles Caldera National Preserve in Northern New Mexico is a beautiful place with a violent past. It sits in a large caldera (the crater is about 14 miles in diameter), which sits in even older and larger calderas, remnants of major volcanic explosions. In the caldera is Valle Grande, a beautiful grassy bowl, and one of my favorite scenic places.

The National Preserve covers the portion (89,000 acres) that was once a private ranch. Now it is a public area for hiking, fishing, camping, and horseback riding. This map shows many of the trails and features of interest to visitors and is designed to be folded and carried in the field.

Relief is shown by contours and spot heights. There is text included: “Using nature as our guide.” The map is beautifully rendered and would be of interest to hikers, nature lovers, and most likely geologists looking for a different place to visit. For more on the site, visit the NPS Web site: http://www.valles-caldera.gov/index.aspx.

Atlases


Toronto, like many North American cities, began as a small settlement that grew to epic proportions, changing the landscape and nature of the region. This atlas provides a historical study, using maps to show Toronto’s history and development. The book includes a long list of bibliographical references. It is a good book for historians, planners, urban geographers, Canadian Studies students, and for map enthusiasts.


A new publication, the Atlas discusses and documents air quality and air quality management throughout the World. Topics include history and
legislation, effect of urbanization on air quality, effects of population change, industrial and other activities, as well as climate and overall environment changes.

Also covered are: methods for analyzing long-range transport of air pollution, climate predictions from models of current activities, consequences of pollution on the environment, natural disasters and their affect on air pollution, as well as other topics. Maps and data show many of these topics in a visual way.

The book includes extensive bibliographical references and would be useful for high-school through adult learners.

**Picture Window Atlases Collection**

The following are juvenile atlases just released. All follow the same format, structure and quality of production. Each atlas follows the description of the first atlas below (I added the table of contents for the Polar Regions atlas as that differs from the others). All maps use the Miller cylindrical projection. The entire set would be good for a grade-school library.


This is a concise atlas for juvenile and grade-school learners that features maps and information about Africa and its countries, geography, ecology, population, customs, transportation, and economy.


Contents: Welcome to the poles and oceans — Antarctica — The Arctic — Plants of Antarctica and the Arctic — Animals of Antarctica and the Arctic — People of the polar regions — The five oceans — The ocean floor — Ocean climate — Atlantic Ocean — Pacific Ocean — Indian Ocean — Protecting the environment — Journey to the North Pole.


Books


Co-publishers: Royal Canadian Geographical Society. This work is “A professional resource to help teach six interrelated concepts central to students’ ability to think critically about geography.” It is a good book for teachers and those wishing to provide general education to those whose knowledge of geography and map use needs improving.

*Teaching With GIS*

http://www.esri.com/industries/k-12/education/teaching.htm

This is included as a book, despite the fact that it is really an online collection of documents and study aids, but seems to go with the previous title. ESRI has both a vested interest in geography and a genuine devotion to improving students and citizens everywhere through the use of GIS and mapping tools. Sample documents included here are:

- Geographic Inquiry: Thinking
- Geographically: Exploring Common Ground: The Educational Promise of GIS
- Explore Your World with a Geographic Information System
- Teaching Package: Explore Your World with a Geographic Information System
- Poster: Geohistorical Inquiry: Connecting Place and Time and Critical Thinking

It is a good site to send teachers and advanced students wanting to improve geography skills, and to introduce them to GIS as well.


The documentation of Antonson’s travels through Senegal and Mali on his journey to legendary Tombouctou [Timbuktu]. This is a work of non-fiction, giving both a description of modern Africa, and historical text. Bibliographical references add to this work.

It is an interesting work for African studies, and anthropology and history majors.

Barr, William. *The Expeditions of the First International Polar Year, 1882-
Polar Studies and Environmental Studies students, historians, and scientists with an interest in a history by a scientist, might find this work of interest. It might also be a good book for anyone interested in travel and exploration.

Web sites and Resources

International Year of the Reef 2008
http://www.iyor.org/

“The ICRI International Year of the Reef 2008 is a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them. All individuals, corporations, schools, governments, and organizations are welcome and actively encouraged to participate in IYOR 2008.”—Introduction.

With all the discussions on climate and environment, this Web site is a good one to view. International efforts to protect the World’s reefs are very important to us all and this site covers the science and life of this amazing habitat.

Marzipan Map of the European Union

People can create maps out of almost any medium and this map definitely shows it. The map is exhibited in the Szabo Marzipan Museum in Pécs, Hungary.

Birthplaces of Mississippi Blues Artists
http://webpages.charter.net/davidmmiller/deltabirths.htm

This map is the first in a prospective series of maps that will chart the growth of African-American music in America. Maps on the drawing board: Jazz and R&B Landmarks of Greater New Orleans, African-American Music Before The Civil War, The TOBA Circuit, Beale Street, Chicago Blues Spots.

The map lists famous blues musicians and shows where the individual was, and when, as well as what their most notable instrument (e.g., guitar, harmonica). It also shows the decade that each musician left for the North (or
This map is a wonderful resource for musicians and music-historians, as well as a model for cartographers wanting to display biographical data on any theme.

Jazz and R&B Landmarks of Downtown New Orleans
http://webpages.charter.net/davidmmiller/neworleans.htm

Also by David Michael Miller, this page highlights the locations in New Orleans relating to jazz and blues. It is a great resource that complements the above Mississippi Blues map.

Chicago Neighborhoods Map
http://orkposters.com/chicago.html

Posters and screen prints of major cities, showing each neighborhood typographically. Included cities: Boston, Brooklyn, Chicago, Los Angeles, Manhattan, NYC, and San Francisco.

Do You Say Pop? Or Soda?
http://strangemaps.wordpress.com/2008/08/18/308-the-pop-vs-soda-map/

Ask for a pop, soda, coke, or other soft drink term and you will get different things in different parts of the country. Here is a map that shows where each of these terms are commonly used. While you are there, enjoy the Strange Maps blog.

Florida Geographic Alliance (FGA)
http://fga.freac.fsu.edu

“The Florida Geographic Alliance (FGA) was established in 1987 with the support of the National Geographic Society of Washington, DC. The purposes of the FGA are to encourage the inclusion of more geography learning in the K-12 and post-secondary curricula. Geography is the only discipline that studies both the physical an cultural environments from a spatial perspective. It is a detriment to our students as well as to our society, from the local to the international levels, to omit this learning from our schools. Additional goals are:

teacher instruction as to the nature of geography, stressing its methodological character; instruction in teaching strategies; content instruction; development of teaching/learning materials; sponsorship of geography education workshops, institutes, conferences and individual instruction; instruction in the application of technology to geography teaching and learning; encouraging research in
The Web site provides a good model for anyone working to promote the study and teaching of geography, especially in K-12 classes.

**Free Maps**  
http://www.freeworldmaps.net/

Need a map in a hurry? These are not high-resolution images, but they are good for use in classroom and for assignments. Maps are physical relief, arranged by continent, then by country. Both levels are available to download as is.

**BoingBoing Blogsite**

On this blog, search for “maps” and you will find all sorts of great and unusual maps. http://www.google.com/search?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&domains=boingboing.net&sitesearch=boingboing.net&q=maps&btnG=Search. Below are several favorites:

**Kids Create Massive Lego Map of US**  
http://www.boingboing.net/2007/06/24/kids-create-massive-.html

As part of the 2007 World Children’s Festival in Washington D.C., LEGO set up an area adjoining the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum for kids to create individual mosaics that would become part of a basketball court-sized map of the U.S. The final map contained 9500 base plates and more than a million bricks.

**Satirical Maps of the First World War**  
http://bibliodyssey.blogspot.com/2008/08/dogs-of-war.html

Caricature maps have been around as long as people had a sense of humor or of parody. Here is a great collection of World War I maps of this type. Spend some time at Bibliodyssey when you are done. Search for “maps.”

**Atlas of Mexico**  
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas_mexico/index.html

If you are familiar with the *Atlas of Mexico*, published by the University of Texas at Austin Bureau of Business Research in 1975, then you know what is on this Web site. The publishers (UT Austin) scanned the contents of the book and made them available to view. The graphics are not the best, however if you need to locate maps of Mexico, showing various themes, this is a great site.

**African Countries Index**  
http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/suttonlink/afr_maps.html

This Web site contains links to maps from the magazine *White Fathers*
–White Sisters. The maps are available for use and provide a convenient size and simplicity for a variety of teaching applications. If desired, the original maps are in .eps format and may be obtained by sending an e-mail to the author: suttonlink@dial.pipex.com. Included are maps of Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

These are ideal for students needing small maps for reports or for projecting in class.

**Republic of China: Administrative Districts and Claims**

[Link to map](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:ROC_Administrative_and_Claims.jpg)

Do you want to see the areas that China includes in its domain? Here is a map showing China’s governed regions as well as those that it claims belong to it.

**Maps of Europe (Eupedia.com)**

[Link to maps](http://www.eupedia.com/europe/maps_of_europe.shtml)

From a site that is “Your Guide to Europe in English.” It is a list of useful and less-common maps:

Linguistic groups in Europe – Traditional religious majorities by region in Europe – Frequency of fair hair in Europe – Frequency of fair eyes in Europe – Predominant ethnic groups by region in Europe – Density of population in Europe – GDP per capita (PPP) in Europe – GDP per capita per hour (PPP) in Europe – Real productivity (GDP per capita per hour per worker) – Legal age to drink alcohol in Europe – Legal age to purchase alcohol in Europe – Ages of consent in Europe – Abortion laws in Europe – Smoking bans in Europe – Legal status of cannabis in Europe – Children well-being in Europe

**Fantasy Cartography: Because Sometimes You Need A Map**

[Link to blog](http://fantasymaps.wordpress.com)

“It happens all the time. You’re reading one of your favorite novels, and you wish you had a good map to use as a reference.” This blog-site contains a collection of maps from various fantasy and science fiction works, as well as for other literary styles, including “other goodies from literature, the Bible (not fiction), or television programs, movies, and video games.”

It is an esoteric collection, and the author is willing to add/consider other literary works to map. This is a nice place to visit and good to remember when someone is looking for a different type of map.

**Cartophilia: Maps and Map Memorabilia**

[Link to blog](http://cartophilia.com/blog)

This is a map-lover’s blog. The author shows collections of maps on stamps, postcards, advertising, coffee mugs, shirts, and other ephemera. He mentions these terms that you will appreciate: Cartophilia = Love of maps; “Carto” as in cartography = Cartophile = One who loves maps.

The author finds and posts map-related items for their aesthetic value. The blog title he notes is based on the newsletter *Cartomania*, by map-enthusiast, Siegfried Feller in Massachusetts, who is a pure cartophiliac.
Maps of War
http://mapsofwar.com/

A blog-site that has maps showing relationships between war and various themes, such as the March of Democracy (an animated map showing where democracy dominated as the world’s most popular form of government), and the History of Religion, showing how the geography of religion has evolved through time.

Other map titles include: Leadership and War – Which Presidents have led the United States into its deadliest wars, and Imperial History – Who has controlled the Middle East over the course of history, among others.

The maps are available as animations using Flash, WMF, or PowerPoint, or as static image files. All can be downloaded. It is a good source for study from high-school through adult and is worthy of viewing by everyone.

Google Lat Long Blog
http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/

This is the official blog/info site for news and notes by the Google Earth and Maps team. “Opening the door to geospatial data.” This blog is not only for Google Earth users, it also contains links and news on Web sites and cartographic activities from other sources. Included however are tips and information to make one’s Google Earth experience better. If you are into creating maps using this product, this blog is for you.

Have you ever wondered how your organization could add your geospatial data, such as aerial imagery or places of interest, to Google Maps and Google Earth? Maybe you’re using the Google Maps API and want to enrich our base map with your own data. Or perhaps you’d just like to expand the reach of your organization’s investment in GIS (geospatial information systems) by putting this data in places where people in your community are more likely to encounter it. You are not alone.

If you use Google Earth and Google Maps, or if you just want to know more on how they are being used, this is the place to visit.

Urban Mapping
http://urbanmapping.com/

Urban Mapping produces neighborhood data, mass transit data and geographic keyword research tools. It is a commercial site that provides maps, database help, and technology for showing or studying city-related themes. Included are:

   Neighborhood Database—Acquire neighborhood data such as boundaries, names and postal codes for over 2,700 municipalities;  
   Mass Transit—Obtain normalized data and services for over 50 mass transit systems in the US, Canada and United Kingdom;  
   Geo-Mods—Determine the best geographic keywords for obtaining local leads online;  
   Panama—An award-winning map that provides street locations, neighborhood boundaries and public transit information.
Featured Topic

Water, Water… Somewhere

The following Web resources pertain to world water supply and offer a good selection.

International River Basins of the World
http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/publications/register/index.htm

Water is a valuable asset to all life. It “is becoming acknowledged that water is likely to be the most pressing environmental concern of the next century. Difficulties in river basin management are only exacerbated when the resource crosses international boundaries. One critical aid in the assessment of international waters has been the Register of International Rivers—a compendium which listed 214 international waterways that cover 47% of the earth’s continental land-surface. The Register, though, was last updated in 1978 by the now-defunct United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.”—Abstract.

This is an online version of an article that appeared in the International Journal of Water Resources Development 15:4 (Dec. 1999). Though dated (the materials have been updated to 2002), the material covered is still good. The “International River Basin Register” lists the world’s international river basins, by continent. Each entry includes: basin name, total area of basin (sq. km), list of countries associated with the basin, area of each country within the basin (sq. km) and percent area of each country within basin.

Especially important is Table 4: International River Basins Register, which has maps of individual basins and is a great resource on its own. Additional data and links to other resources make this a good site for hydrologists and others studying water, environmental change, and related fields.

Vital Water Graphics (United Nations Environment Programme)

Water is becoming an extremely rare resource and efforts to improve water supply and quality require great effort on the part of nations and individuals. This web resource can provide material for study and for thought.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assesses and monitors global water resources and presents information on their use and management. This UNEP report provides an easily accessible resource on the state of the world’s waters. The publication contains an overview, maps, tables, and other illustrations showing the state of the world’s fresh and marine waters. It also shows trends and threats facing our water sources.

The maps and other images provide graphic details for anyone studying World water supply, or for students in environmental sciences. The maps are also useful to students in many other fields. Also included are links to relevant Web sites.
EarthTrends Environmental Information (World Resources Institute)
http://earthtrends.wri.org/

“EarthTrends is a comprehensive online database, maintained by the World Resources Institute, that focuses on the environmental, social, and economic trends that shape our world.” —Page.

This Web site is free to view/use but you must register after three uses. There is no charge for registration.

Research topics cover a variety of topics within the realm of environment and resources management, including: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems, Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystems, Climate and Atmosphere, Population, Health and Human Well-being, Economics, Business and the Environment, Energy and Resources, Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Agriculture and Food, Forests, Grasslands and Drylands, and Environmental Governance and Institutions. Each topic includes a searchable database, maps, country profiles, and tables of data.

Also included among the topics on this site is: Watersheds of the World (http://earthtrends.wri.org/maps_spatial/watersheds/index.php), a collection of watershed maps.

Water Services National Information System - (WS NIS)

This page is a collection of maps on water in the Republic of South Africa.

The maps were prepared by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa (http://www.dwaf.gov.za/) and provide a diverse look at South Africa’s water from many angles. For more maps on South Africa, use the Search box and enter “map.”

Water Portal (UNESCO)
http://www.unesco.org/water/

UN and other organizations provide diverse resources, including maps, relating to international water supply and methods for improving life through developing better water management.

The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

Here is a vast collection that includes: Water Photo Library, Water Library, Water Links, Facts and Figures, all searchable by theme or region. Also included are: “Water Talks” a section with water-related proverbs, Water in Different Languages (the word), and Myths and Stories relating to water around the World.

Scientific and technical articles and other resources are available here, as well as links to external sources, such as the International Glossary of Hydrology
http://www.cig.ensmp.fr/~hubert/glu/HINDEN.HTM

Watershed Profiles: Africa (World Resources Institute)

Another fine site for maps and data on water, the Watershed Profiles

base line 29(5): 22
provide materials on watersheds of the world, including ecological value and vulnerability. Based on 1998 study data.

Additional maps and charts are available for resources other than water: http://www.wri.org/charts-maps.

2008 World Water Week in Stockholm
http://www.worldwaterweek.org/

This conference was held in August and focused on World-wide water resources. The site contains mostly information about the conference, its exhibitors, presenters, etc., but also will be good to remember to learn about next year’s conference on August 16-22, 2009, when the theme will be “Accessing Water for the Common Good.”

Map of the United States

“Interesting United States Maps, presented by Wasauna Steam Showers and Bathtubs.”—Subtitle.

The title of this blog is a little deceiving since the U.S. isn’t the only subject of the maps presented here. Included are maps of a wide variety of topics, covering the entire World. Visit the site and look at the listing of maps available (right-hand column). Of course, there is this one: Shower Map: showing where to get a free shower anywhere in the country. It is not ready yet so you will have to wait.

Conclusion

Next time I hope to show some nice cartographic gift-giving ideas, post-election mapping, maps of energy resources, and other new and different maps from the creative world of cartography.—DJB

Rare, Antiquarian, or Just Plain Old: Cataloging Pre-Twentieth Century Cartographic Resources

The Workbook used and issued to participants during the June 2007 ALA preconference on cataloging early maps and atlases is now available to purchase for $40. The Workbook includes illustrations and cataloging examples taken from sheet maps, atlas plates and atlases, focusing on early and pre-twentieth century cartographic materials. Elements of description, transcription, mathematical data and supportive research are some of the areas covered by the Workbook. The price includes shipping and handling.

Orders should be sent to Jim Coombs, MAGERT Publications Distribution Manager, Maps Library, Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO 65897  E-mail: JimCoombs@missouristate.edu
OK GUYS, THIS IS THE MAPS LIBRARIAN. HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY. HE CAN EXPLAIN LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE; HE CAN EXPLAIN MAP SCALE AND PROJECTIONS; HE CAN EVEN EXPLAIN WHY FLUSHING WATER SWIRLS CLOCKWISE IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE AND COUNTER CLOCKWISE IN THE SOUTHERN!

QUIT PERPETUATING THAT MYTH! ITS THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE WATER ENTERS THE BOWL THAT DETERMINES THE DIRECTION OF THE SWIRL!