TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 From the Chair
4 From the Editor
5 MAGIRT Annual 2012 Schedule
6 On the Cataloging/Cataloguing Front
   ALCTS CCS/MAGIRT Cartographic
   Resources Cataloging Interest Group
10 Electronic Mapping
12 Virtual Meeting Reports & Minutes
   Publications Committee, 6/11 - 1/2012
15 New Maps and Cartographic Materials
38 Great Moments in Map Librarianship

http://www.ala.org/magirt/

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**base line** is an official publication of the American Library Association’s Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT). 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 MAGIRT 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 MAGIRT. Contributions should be sent to the appropriate editor listed below.

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[http://www.ala.org/magirt/]
Everyone I talk to these days seems to think that 2012 is just flying by and I must say that I agree. As of this writing we are only two months away from Annual, which will of course be here sooner than we think. Things are progressing nicely with our planning for Annual 2012: our meeting schedule is mostly finalized, our social events are set, and our program The Nuts and Bolts of Map Scanning: Building Your Map Scanning Toolbox promises to be outstanding. Further details about our Annual 2012 schedule and events appear elsewhere in this issue of base line and will be posted soon on the MAGIRT website and ALA Connect. I look forward to seeing many of you in Anaheim!

As we get closer to Annual, I would like to remind our members that MAGIRT needs you! Now is the time to start thinking about how you might get involved in MAGIRT in the coming year. We are looking for people who are interested in taking on leadership positions as well as serving on our committees and task forces. Can’t attend conferences in person? No problem! These days all of our committees conduct much of their business virtually. However you choose to participate, whatever you feel you can contribute, MAGIRT can use you. For more information about our committees and discussion groups, please visit our website at www.ala.org/magirt or contact me at hpritche@uga.edu. We look forward to working with you!

FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue I am very pleased to announce and welcome base line’s newest contributor, Carol McAuliffe, as Electronic Mapping editor. Carol is the Map Librarian at the Map & Imagery Library at the University of Florida. She recently developed and organized the program There’s a Map for That! — Maps and Tools You Didn’t Know About for our 2011 Annual Conference in New Orleans. As a reader of base line, you can look forward to future informative columns from Carol on Web resources, digital mapping and geospatial data. Be sure to take a look at her initial illuminating and engaging column about the Web portal, OldMapsOnline, which begins on page 10. Welcome to base line, Carol!

—Steve Rogers
MAGIRT Annual 2012
Conference Schedule

Friday, June 22nd
10:30AM – noon  Round Table Coordinating Assembly  Marriott-Marquis  Northeast
(Note: chair trio and treasurer only)

Evening  Baseball game – Angels vs. Dodgers  Angel Stadium
Please contact MAGIRT Treasurer Paige Andrew (pga2@psu.edu) for further details

Saturday, June 23rd
8AM – noon  Committee meetings – Membership, Program Planning, Education, Publications  Sheridan Garden Grove - Burgundy Room

1:30 – 3:30PM  Map Collection Management Discussion Group  Hyatt-Royal Ballroom A

Evening  Awards Reception  Catal Restaurant - Downtown Disney
RSVP required; further details about this event will be available by mid-May

Sunday, June 24th
8 – 10AM  ALCTS/MAGIRT Map Cataloging Discussion Group  Hyatt-Royal Ballroom A

GeoTech Committee  Anaheim Conv Ctr - 212B

10:30AM – noon  Cataloging and Classification Committee  Hyatt - Royal Ballroom A

GIS Discussion Group  Anaheim Conv Ctr - 212B

1:30 – 3:30PM  The Nuts and Bolts of Map Scanning: Building Your Map Scanning Toolbox  Anaheim Conv Ctr - 204C

Monday, June 25th
8 – 10AM  Executive Board meeting  Hilton - Coronado

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about our Annual 2012 meeting schedule, please contact MAGIRT chair Hallie Pritchett at hpritche@uga.edu.
ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT
Tammy Wong, Library of Congress

ALCTS CCS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, TX
Sunday, January 22, 2012

Identifying cartographic works and expressions

Louise Ratcliff, chair of the Interest Group, opened up the forum for discussion about topics relating to the cataloging of cartographic materials.

LC G&M brought forth several issues in RDA cataloging to the table so they could get some feedback from the community in order to make informed decisions.

One of the issues G&M is dealing with is the identification of cartographic works and expressions in the bibliographic record. In order to do that, clarifications as to what constitute a cartographic work and expression were needed.

Beginning November 2011, G&M RDA testers have continued to create RDA records. At the same time, LC is testing the impact of differentiating monographic works for 3-4 months to determine the impact on the workload. LCPS for 6.27.3 – Authorized Access Points representing an expression – currently scopes distinguishing expressions in access points only in a few categories: music resources, sacred scriptures, translations, language editions, and compilations. This is no change from AACR2 practice. So G&M is not required to distinguish between expressions. Does G&M feel the need to add cartographic resources as the 5th category in which LC will distinguish among expressions in authorized access points?

According to RDA and FRBR, scale, projection, and relief are content attributes of expression.

Min Zhang pointed out that the 8 ½ x 11 inch CIA maps of individual countries, often have simple titles with name of countries, like “France.” There are usually two types of maps for each country with the same title. One type shows political boundary and administrative areas, and the other type shows relief. Does G&M need to distinguish the two different expressions? In these cases, the generic titles are not good indications of the intellectual content of the maps.

In RDA and FRBR, if the same work is expressed more than once, one with relief and one without relief, or each expression has a different scale, then you have two expressions of the same work.
An agency then decides how it will bring out expression differences. Or it can decide that the different expressions are not very different, and does not warrant special treatment of authorized access point for an expression.

A possibility for the future would be:

If G&M thinks that relief, projection, and scale are so critical that the elements are needed in the authorized access point for an expression – to distinguish among expressions – G&M could consider adding cartographic resources as another category in 6.27.3. Thanks to Dave Reser from Policy and Standards Division (PSD) for providing assistance on the issue.

For example:
110 1_ $a United States. $b Central Intelligence Agency.
240 10 $a Pakistan (Relief)
245 10 $a Pakistan

In RDA, we will see more of the use of 130/240 with parenthetical qualifiers to break title conflict, and they are used in places that were not used before. It is up to G&M to make a local decision since LC is not following the RDA core requirements to differentiate all expressions of a work.

Tammy Wong pointed out that there is discussion among G&M testers and one of the colleagues feels that there is already too much data duplication in the record. Relief, scale, and projection are already repeated twice in the records, if they were to be used again in parenthetical qualifier, the same piece of information will be repeated three times.

Louise Ratcliff, raised a question of cataloging digital data with various data layers in the GIS environment. Are the layers considered as different expressions? If so, how are catalogers going to distinguish among them in the bibliographic records?

Susan Moore pointed out that her OPAC only displays a brief record. The title in 240 “Pakistan (Relief)” or “Pakistan (No relief)” might mislead patrons. Also her system does not allow searching for uniform titles 130/240.

Louise Ratcliff asked the group to take a straw poll on differentiation at expression level. Most of the participants did not favor differentiation at expression level by providing an authorized access point for an expression of cartographic resources.

Going back to expression differentiation, there are two scenarios of expression differentiation – no change in title proper and change in title proper.
**Single-part monographs: new title proper and revised, new expression**

The second scenario is when there is title proper change in the new expression. RDA has a new practice to use the title of the original work as the preferred title in 130 or 240.

6.27.1.5.: If the work is presented simply as an edition of the previously existing work, treat it as an expression of that work and use the authorized access point for the original work.

Transcribe the title proper on the resource in 245. Edition statement and other elements will still identify expression differences. The 130/240 tags collocate various expressions together when there is a title change in one or more resources by the same creator. However, how is one going to search for titles when there is a title change but not indicated on the resource? In LC, they are encouraged to do a quick search in the local database to find other resources by the same creator if one suspects that there are previous editions. In this scenario, adding a uniform title will be beneficial to users when they perform a Name/Title search, which can bring out various expressions together in one search.

Louise Ratcliff asked the group to take another straw poll to see if the group had a consensus, in regard to RDA, when cataloging atlases with monographic characteristics. If one suspects that there are previous editions, one will do a quick bibliographic search for a title change. If there is indeed a title change, enter 130/240 referring to the original title. Most of the participants favor providing 130/240 when there is a title change. In regard to whether we need a note to justify the 130/240, Min checked with PSD. While it is not required to justify the 130/240, PSD encourages catalogers to provide either unstructured or structured description to relate the expressions (500 or 775) optionally to help the user to understand the situation.

**Form/genre headings**

Paige Andrew raised a question on form/genre headings. He asked about LC policy of usage for the heading “Thematic maps.” Some libraries have been using genre/form heading “Thematic maps” for thematic maps not covered by other genre/form headings, but LC has decided not to use it. If LC has decided not to use one of its own genre/form terms, why have it at all?

Min Zhang explained that the genre/form term “Thematic maps” was approved so that it would serve as a collocation point for maps with a specific focus that isn’t brought out by more specific genre/form terms. However, LC has decided not to use it since the heading is not unique enough to apply, due to the size of the LC collection. G&M policy is to provide a genre/form term on all cartographic materials, sometimes the only term possible is generic heading “Maps.”
are some libraries that use “Thematic maps.” However, other libraries feel that generic “Thematic maps” is redundant and have chosen not to apply it based on their own needs, preferring instead the more general “Maps.”

Min Zhang explained that LCGFT remains a work in process. Questions or comments on genre/form headingss in general may be addressed to Janis L. Young at jayo@loc.gov.

**Relationship designators**

Several catalogers from the cartographic community during the RDA Test expressed concern about the existing relationship designators and the lack of other designators.

Susan Moore, chair of CCC, suggested the setting up of a Relationship Designator Task Force to examine the existing relationship designators for persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with cartographic resources and to determine if we want additional relationship designators in Appendix I in RDA. Louis Ratcliff, together with some participants, endorsed the idea and encouraged CCC to make a recommendation for the setting up of a Relationship Designator Task Force.

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**Wanted: Map Collection Management Discussion Group Coordinator**

MAGIRT is looking for a volunteer to serve as coordinator of the Map Collection Management Discussion Group. This discussion group provides a forum for discussion of and recommendations on issues concerning the acquisition and management of cartographic materials of various formats, in collections at different types of libraries. The coordinator is responsible for soliciting discussion topics and facilitating the discussion group’s in-person meetings at Midwinter and Annual. The term for this position is 2 years, starting with Annual 2012.

If you are interested in serving as coordinator of the Map Collection Management Discussion Group, please contact MAGIRT chair Hallie Pritchett at hpritch@uga.edu.
Exploring Old Maps Online

Oldmapsonline.org, which allows for the geographic searching of antique maps across multiple participating institutions, has recently been generating quite a bit of buzz and not just in map circles. I knew this was true when two librarians at my university emailed me to tell of this new online resource for antique maps. Maps have wide appeal, but let’s face it: a lot of our electronic mapping resources are not particularly user friendly for non-map folks. So it was with great curiosity that I looked upon the resource that my colleagues called “pretty neat” and “a promising tool.”

The portal, the result of a joint effort between the Great Britain Historical GIS Project at Portsmouth University and Klokan Technologies, is freely available to the public, and requires no login. My first thought as I opened up oldmapsonline.org was, “Wow, it knows where I am!” Immediately, the user sees a Google Maps API map viewer, which shows his or her general location. A column labeled “Instant Search Results” generates a list of relevant maps based on that location. Along with the thumbnail image for each map, the list includes the title, scale, date, and publisher/responsible party. When the cursor is placed over the thumbnail image the user is shown the extent of the map on the map viewer via a bounding box. In addition, moving within the map viewer instantly changes the results. Another feature allows the user to select the time period via a sliding bar under the search box. Overall, the intuitive and responsive nature of the geographic search makes this resource very easy to use.

Another option for exploring the database is through the search box at the top of the page. It is important to note that this is not a traditional keyword search, but instead one that will search for a specific address or location name on the map viewer. For those looking for a more traditional search method, the user may select the “Full Text” search option (above the “Instant Search Results”), which allows one to search by title or publisher.

Once a map is selected, the meta-data and a larger preview of map appear along with clear information about which institution holds the item in its collection. This helps to ensure that participating institutions get full credit for the time and money they put into scanning these rare items. Also, with one click, the user is taken directly to the full-resolution image on the hosting institution’s website. This leaves the responsibility of handing questions about meta-data and the use...
of images with the creators of the digital object. This frees oldmapsonline.org to focus on search functionality and ingesting meta-data from other intuitions rather than wrangling large image files and answering queries.

Central to the functionality of the website is the use of real world coordinates for antique maps. Its geographic search function is completely powered by the inclusion of these coordinates within the meta-data. It is extremely important that real world coordinates are used and not simply coordinates taken off the antique map, as different systems have been used throughout history and sometimes the maps show no coordinates at all. While many map libraries are working on including these coordinates in their antique map catalog records, it can be a slow process. One of the most innovative ideas to come out of the oldmapsonline.org project is to crowd source the task of assigning real world coordinates. The British Library was able to get these important coordinates for over 700 maps in one week rather than the months it was expected to take, using this method. More information about the British Library project can be found at http://www.bl.uk/maps.

There has long been a need to have one-stop searching for scanned maps with thousands of institutions around the world embarking on digitization projects. While attempts at a singular map scanning database or registry have been made, it has always been a struggle to get comprehensive buy-in across multiple
organizations. So far there are approximately 60,000 historical map entries in the oldmapsonline.org database, including the David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, and they are looking for more institutions to participate. Prospective institutions are given detailed and easy to understand instructions on how their maps can be included (see http://project.oldmapsonline.org/contribute). The ultimate success of oldmapsonline.org will rest in the hands of these organizations and whether or not they will be willing to participate. It is my belief that the ease of contribution, the intuitive nature of the geographic search, and the massive effort the creators have put into both promoting and disseminating information about the website will help to ensure its success. It seems that my colleague at the University of Florida is right, this is indeed a “very promising tool.”

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Reports from
MAGIRT Virtual Board & Committee Meetings

MAGIRT Publications Committee
Meeting Minutes July 2011 through January 2012

The Publications Committee met twice between the Annual Conference and Midwinter, and also a smaller Task Force met once.

August 17th minutes, conference call
Present Steve Rogers, Roger Knouff, Chris Kollen, Kathleen Weessies, John Olson, John Phillips, Jim Coombs

• Converting the website from MAGERT to MAGIRT: Scheduled to happen this fall. Extensive changes to the website are inadvisable between now and then, but we do want to update the information on the website about how to purchase our books

• Publishing Electronic Publication #10. Kathy Weimer would like to submit her history of MAGERT article to be published as an Electronic Publication, rather than as the final article in Coordinates. Kathy needs to make some edits and will submit it when it is ready.
• Task Force for assessing publications: The Board has asked the Publications Committee to form a task force to discuss and report any recommendations on restructuring MAGIRT publications. The task force will be Kathleen, Steve, John Olson, and John Phillips. We did discuss a bit various ideas about expanding base line to include some scholarly content, or to consider special issues with guest editors.

• Selling at the ALA Store: We must fill out some confusing forms to sell items at the ALA Store. Fees require us to raise the price considerably on the Great Moments book. We were losing money on each copy at $25 even when selling it from Jim’s office. So we recently raised the price to $30. To sell it online we will need to raise the price to probably $35.

Publications Task Force Minutes, October, conference call
Present Kathleen, John Olson, John Phillips

• The task force developed no recommendation on fundamental changes to base line, such as adding scholarly content. The issue of lack of editorial oversight is the main constraint.

• The task force did also discuss developing a procedure for receiving and processing drafts of Electronic Publications. This will be developed further. Kathleen will check MAGIRT bylaws to see if that affects our procedures.

January meeting (January 18, 4pm EST) Skype
Present: Colleen Cahill, Chris Kollen, Kathleen Weessies, Steve Rogers, John Olson, John Phillips. Jim C. could hear but couldn’t speak.

• Base line report (Steve Rogers): The last two issues have come out (October and December). There was a small issue with the cartoon, but with the electronic format, it was easy to overwrite the mistake to fix it. We are still lacking an Electronic Mapping Editor. Generally this person contributes to issues (not necessarily all issues) with whatever they find interesting in the world of electronic maps and geospatial data. This column can be whatever we want to make of it. The Publications Committee is open to proposals and ideas from the membership.

• Website report (Colleen Cahill):
  Our uploaded documents should be accessible compliant (an ALA initiative and an all-around good idea). Colleen is not able to do this as she doesn’t have the software to convert Adobe Acrobat files. The Publications Committee will require authors to submit any future Acrobat documents already converted. There is a wizard within Adobe Acrobat Professional. Perhaps the committee should issue guidelines or
instructions on how to do this. Steve volunteered to convert some of the older ‘Electronic Publications’ currently on the website.

ALA wants to move our MAGIRT ‘roster’ information into a new style webpage to be a ‘committee’ style page. This will effectively suppress the contact information of the people listed, unless the website user is an ALA member and logs in with their ALA membership information. Kathleen expressed concern about potential non-members or potential advertisers having trouble reaching us without any contact information. An idea was floated to create generic email addresses that would forward to the appropriate people. Colleen will get more information and will report back.

• [Jim reported after the meeting that 17 copies of Cartographic Citations (2nd ed.) were sold in 2011. Sixteen of those were ordered by Baker & Taylor YBP Library Services. Also, one copy of Great Moments in Map Librarianship was sold. He also reported that the ALA Store website has a link for Canadians to order ALA publications through the Canadian Library Association. This information could help MAGIRT with future sales to Canadian libraries. (Links for other English-speaking countries are also available.) The Canadian link has been added to MAGIRT’s website.] —ed. 🌎

Kathleen Weessies

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**Wanted: Publications Committee Chair**

The MAGIRT Publications Committee invites your participation and is accepting nominations for the position of chair.

The MAGIRT Publications Committee’s charge is to coordinate, edit, and produce MAGIRT publications, including *base line*, the Electronic Publication Series, the Print Publication Series, and the MAGIRT Information Brochure. The committee oversees and executes changes to the MAGIRT website, and serves as intermediary with publishers. This is an exciting time for the MAGIRT Publications Committee as we implement new methods of output including LibGuides and Electronic Publications to complement our traditional print publications.

Please forward nominations and expressions of interest to Kathleen Weessies at weessie2@msu.edu.
New Maps and Cartographic Materials,  
Along with Other Items of Interest  
David J. Bertuca, Map Librarian  
University at Buffalo Libraries Map Collection

Spring is here, though this year spring seems to have been around for much of the winter. New publications are appearing as fast as sprouting daffodils and I have selected from a long list of items that you may find worthy of your collection. If nothing else, many cover interesting subjects and show a depth of skill and knowledge.

I had too many titles to note this issue and choosing what to omit was very difficult. Some of the reviews will appear next time, and maybe if I get to it, I will put up a page of reviews I haven’t used along the way to writing the final column. Take a copy of *base line* outside and enjoy reading it in the sunshine!

Maps and Art  
Maps that are created either through artistic processes, or incorporated into art, are fascinating. Here at the University at Buffalo, I have been involved with artists and professors from time-to-time, providing ideas, maps, and assistance in their efforts to teach and to develop their projects. I have given tours of our Map Collection to classes in Fine Art, Communications, and Media Studies, along with interdisciplinary courses that incorporate cartographic materials into their curriculum.

Over the past two semesters, I have been assisting Dr. Adele Henderson (pictured below), Graduate Director in UB’s Department of Visual Studies, by providing maps and cartographic items that she is using in a variety of works. I hope to see her current concepts; she showed me what she was working on and there are some neat items coming soon.
Dr. Henderson’s website (http://www.adelehenderson.com/) shows examples of her work. Several of her map-related portfolios, include:

*Recent works* (http://www.adelehenderson.com/1recentwork/index.html)
*Niagara* (http://www.adelehenderson.com/niagara/index.html)
*July* (http://www.adelehenderson.com/6july/index.html)

Three of her works are illustrated below.
Announcements of Interest

Two NACIS Projects

Daniel Huffman describes two projects that you may be interested in. Here is an excerpt from his January 2012 post (http://somethingaboutmaps.wordpress.com/2012/01/20/two-nacis-projects/):

*Today I’d like to give a little publicity to a couple of new projects I’m involved in, and which need help from people like you. Both of these are organized through NACIS, the North American Cartographic Information Society.*

**Atlas of Design**

*First off, NACIS is creating a new publication, the *Atlas of Design*, which is intended to be a showcase for top-notch cartographic work around the world. We need help from you, though, to make it happen. If you know of some great*
work out there, let us know at atlas@nacis.org. It doesn’t have to be something you’ve made — if you’ve seen a great map out there that someone else has made, encourage them to submit to us, or let us know and we’ll get in touch. We want work out there that gets to the heart of great cartography and makes us think about what beauty and design are.

As the announcement says:

_The Atlas will feature a gallery of full-color maps showcasing cartography at its most beautiful, its cleverest, its sharpest, and its most intriguing. But it will be more than a museum of images; each map will be accompanied by thoughtful commentary that guides the reader toward a deeper understanding of the work: its inspiration and message, the ways it means to influence us. It is well to look upon something beautiful and good, but once we understand how it is beautiful and good, we can carry those lessons into our own work and advance the craft of mapmaking._

For more information, including guidelines go to nacis.org/atlas.

**Initiative for Cartographic Education**

_NACIS is also launching a new education program, the Initiative for Cartographic Education. The aim of ICE is to improve the quality and reach of cartography education at all levels (primary through college through professional training). As its first project, ICE will be assembling a curated database of education resources: labs, lesson plans, images, tutorials, etc. Wondering how other people teach projections? You’ll be able to look at lecture notes and slides from other educators, using them to inspire improvements in your own practice. Creating a new lab section and need some content? Ready-to-use lab exercises will be available to help get you started. We want to make it easier for colleagues to share best practices with each other, and create an ongoing conversation about how cartography should be taught._

_To do this, we need your help. If you have resources you’d be willing to share (preferably under a Creative Commons license), contact me at daniel.p.huffman@gmail.com. We can host materials, but if you already happen to have them online, we’ll also be putting URL entries into the database as well._

**Forthcoming Geospatial Learning Project**

_IIGLU: Interactive, Integrated, Geospatial Learning and Understanding_  
_http://jiscg3.blogspot.com/_

I believe that GIS will become a mainstream product in the next five years and almost every discipline will begin to expect their professionals to have some level
of knowledge in GIS production and use. Students, in turn, will be expected to start learning these skills as part of their college experience.

IIGLU is an instructional project to provide instruction on “relevant geographic concepts and data to learners from outside the world of geography and GIS.” Teaching map-making concepts to those without background is not the best practice, but it may be a way of introducing the subject, and of encouraging more formal learning of cartography and GIS. It may also be a way to re-introduce students and professionals to the importance of geography and cartography.

No definite date for the start of this program, but a preview and blog is available www.iiglu.co.uk that describes what to expect.

Here is the introductory statement: “Geographical Information Systems are hard to use – IIGLU makes them easier. IIGLU stands for Interactive Integrated Geographic Learning and Understanding. This is a framework for teaching geographical information concepts to learners outside the discipline of GIS. The project is currently undergoing testing, but watch the video for a demonstration of the idea of the e-learning environment.”

Maps


This map is an excellent tool for the study of megalithic monuments in Great Britain. Using Ordnance Survey 2010 base maps, each site is plotted and identified. The map covers both sides of the sheet (North sheet — South sheet) and relief shown by gradient tints. Included are text, illustrations and enlargements of selected areas. Site location maps and related illustrations are indexed using the British National Grid reference system.

This map is excellent for archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, and for anyone who studies megalithic monuments and sites. It is useful for travelers wishing to visit specific sites or regions of special interest. The standard OS cartography makes it easy to read. The map is reasonably priced and makes an excellent addition to almost any collection.

Maps of the United States are continually being created and revised so this category is not usually one that receives much attention. This map received a major award and recognition and is being praised for its quality of design and detail. The map was selected “best new map in North America” for 2010 by the Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS).

The detail on the map rivals some of the best available. In addition to showing the standard details, including major cities and towns, major roadways, time zones, among others, it also identifies a selection of national parks and monuments, state parks, and points of interest. The points of interest are not always the obvious ones and include more unique notation (e.g., Three-Mile Island). Also indicated are museums and similar places. Highest points of elevation are clearly noted for states.
The map includes notes, a list of abbreviations, and indexes on the verso. Insets: Alaska — Hawaii — United States of America and outlying areas. Relief is shown by shading and spot heights and depths are indicated by shading and soundings.

The design and effective use of color — along with clear graphics — were also important in the map receiving an award. The map was hand drawn over a period of two years. It is the product of one person, rather than a team of mapmakers.


It is worth considering for any map collection or for anyone wishing to have a large display map of the United States.

Web Resources

**Best Country eReports (World Trade Press)**

Here is a good source for country studies and maps for 175 countries around the world. The website contains e-books and maps of each country. Books cover the following: Business Culture, Money & Banking, Women in Culture, Business & Travel, Technical & Internet, Travel, Points of Interest, Media, Communications, Society & Culture, Lifecycle, Religion, and Superstitions & Folklore. In addition, each country has a series of good digital maps which include the following

The maps are well drawn, use good color, and present data clearly. Each product has a full description and a zoomify sample of each map is also present (this map is helpful as a ready reference tool for users). Prices are reasonable and maps may be purchased in several different formats. There is also an option for ordering large-size print versions of the maps. The maps are “royalty-free,” so once purchased, no further payment is necessary for use.

The e-books and digital maps are good quality and provide a great resource for locating maps that are uniform throughout the series. This website would be good for quick reference, for finding geographic summaries for nations of the world, and would be good for use with grade school through adult learner.

River Maps
http://somethingaboutmaps.wordpress.com/river-maps/

Maps of rivers and river systems are always both interesting and highly useful in many fields of study. This blog posting provides a new way to visualize rivers, using a method of mapping the waterways as if one were mapping a subway system. This is from the Somethingsaboutmaps blog (http://somethingaboutmaps.wordpress.com/) (a neat place to visit for other map concepts and visualizations):

“Rivers have been a key part of urban life for centuries. They have provided us with drinking water, protection, and a transit network that links us from one settlement to the next. I wanted to create a series of maps that gives people a new way to look at rivers: a much more modern, urban type of portrayal. So I turned to the style of urban transit maps pioneered by Harry Beck (see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Beck) in the 1930s for the London Underground. Straight lines, 45° angles, simple geometry. The result is more of an abstract network representation than you would find on most maps, but it’s also a lot more fun. The geography is intentionally distorted to clarify relationships. I think it helps translate the sort of
visual language of nature into a more engineered one, putting the organic in more constructed terms. Not every line depicted is navigable, but all are important to the hydrological systems shown.”

These are labor-intensive designs and the creator has begun selling prints of them. To see how the maps were made, visit “On River Maps.” (http://somethingaboutmaps.wordpress.com/2011/01/28/on-river-maps/)

The maps depicted in this way will interest artists, cartographers, and anyone needing to study the relationship of rivers to the world, as well as to those who want a simple visual to use for research.

**eBird Animated Occurrence Maps**
http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/ebird-animated-occurrence-maps

Birds are everywhere, but without sightings and other data, it is impossible to understand bird occurrence patterns across North America. eBird has input 42 million records with more thorough coverage nationwide, making it possible to start analyzing birds with some reliability.

“Ongoing research at the Cornell Lab is currently producing cutting-edge graphics that we are pleased to share….” This allows researchers (and enthusiasts) to make day-by-day predictions of species occurrence, which in turn allows for more accurate predictions of migration.

The maps, called STEM (Spatio-Temporal Exploratory Model) maps, use eBird counts to report all species. “The location of each checklist is associated with remotely-sensed information on habitat, climate, human population, and demographics generating a suite of approximately 60 variables describing the environment where eBird searches take place.” Prediction models are being made for each individual species on a weekly basis. The maps summarize a very large volume of information.
The occurrence maps are useful for studies in animal biology, environmental and ecological studies, from high school through adult learner and are also very useful for bird-watchers who want to see where and when specific bird species are in their area. In time, these will also be useful for historic studies.

**Virtual Information Center for Amur River Region (VICARR)**
http://amur-heilong.net/Gis_site/gis_index.html

For those studying the design of GIS portals, or for those who are studying the Amur-Heilong River Basin, this website has a wealth of GIS data and maps. Using ESRI ArcReader software, you can view thematic data directly from your computer or download data. For each theme, choose from one of the following selections: GIS layers, Raster picture, Web GIS, Arc reader project, ArcMap project, Arcview 3.3, and Metadata.

Contents may also be selected using a site map or a subject-organized list. There is a “Full Atlas” that provides a list of specific data themes. Selecting a theme displays a static map image of that particular topic. A final list is of photographs that accompany the GIS and textual materials.

The materials are all of very good quality; the photographs of the region are excellent and provide — along with the text and maps — a full spectrum description of the region.

This site contains GIS data sets, maps, and illustrative material on this watershed and is useful to GIS studies, and to environmental biologists, regional planners, natural historians, and geographers. There is data that would also interest anthropologists and regional economic studies. The material can be understood by anyone, but the emphasis is toward college and professional users.

**Cassini Terrestrial Globe and GIS Layers**

GIS and new mapping technologies allow us to see the world in a variety of new ways. Visit this page in the David Rumsey Collection (a great place to visit) and see how an 18th century globe has been transformed into a series of globe-views using GIS in 3-D.

*In this video the 1790 Cassini Terrestrial Globe is combined in ESRI’s ArcGlobe with other GIS layers, including NASA’s satellite image of the world at night, several satellite images of world topography and bathymetry, and other historical maps and globes.—Web page.*
And just for fun…

Take a look at the kind of monitor I wish to see in the map world someday. Besides being big, the interface is much more human than mouse-cursor control, plus it is so sci-fi that it is cool. (these are not the best videos, but the technology is amazing).

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2pPeW4cUgU&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3dz2xpCIjVU&feature=related

Map Projections
http://www.csiss.org/map-projections/index.html

Often I spend time teaching people about how to use maps and so I keep websites, such as this example, in mind. This page describes map projections that can be downloaded or printed. The contents are listed by main type (e.g., Cylindrical), under which you can choose the projection that you wish to view and bring up a PDF showing the world using this projection.

Included are also references to documents and pages dealing with map projections and how to choose the best projection for a specific use. Links to map tools and projection “creator” software are also found on this page.

Radical Cartography
http://www.radicalcartography.net/?projectionref

This website shows and describes projections using a table structure. The main contents list is of major types of maps (e.g., world maps, maps for navigation).

Under each of these main contents are sub-pages with tables showing projections used for the main type. The columns include:

Name [of projection]
Author [cartographer/inventor]
Date [created]
Example, with relevant parameters [shows a sample map]
Also known as (Equivalent to) [other names for this projection]
Properties [features this projection is good for]
Equal-Area? [yes/no]
Used by (Applications) [who uses this projection; what systems or applications use the projection]

For example:

Name: Lambert Conformal Conic projection
Author: Johann Lambert
Date: 1772

[Example map + links to more examples]

Properties: Conformal: local angles are preserved, and local circles are not
deformed; at every point east/west scale is the same as north/south scale;
Distortion is constant along any parallel; Map is infinite in extent; Special Cases:
Mercator results when standard parallels are at or equidistant from the equator.
Polar Stereographic results when both standard parallels are at one pole;
Equal Area: No

Used by: *The American Oxford Atlas*; Rand McNally; National Atlases of Canada
and Japan; USGS (since 1957); Various U.S. State Plane systems.

If you want to know what projections are used by MapQuest, you can find that
on this page. The website also has links to a wide variety of cool map and GIS-
related sites. It is definitely worth examining what is on this site.

This site would be helpful for educators and students from grade school through
adult learner. It provides excellent descriptions and comparisons of a long list
of map projections and also explains what each projection does best. Additional
links cover a range of map tools and concepts, including artistic and fringe map
creations. Save a bookmark to this site.

**The Great Pop vs. Soda Controversy**

http://www.popvssoda.com/

Linguistics is fascinating for everyone even if we do not realize it. This is an
example of a map visualization created by plotting the results of an informal
survey being conducted. Feel free to add your “vote” to continue this map’s
evolution.

The informal study is defined by the author: “Using the World Wide Web to
gather and process data from across English-speaking North America, I intend to
plot the regional variations in the use of the terms “Pop” and “Soda” to describe
carbonated soft drinks.”

base line 33(2): 26
His method he explains is subjective, yet the data does provide a fairly objective look at the theme. You may submit your own data by visiting the website and filling out the questionnaire (it takes less than 5 minutes).

The data has been plotted with the output displayed for view. A series of maps show different arrangements of data sets. This project is a great idea for teaching basics on data gathering, building data sets that can be spatially coordinated, and for turning the learning process into an interesting activity.

This site is great for educators from grade school through adult, and is an example of how simple studies may benefit from web technology and the Internet community.

Geo Blogs (GeBlogs)
I invented this term and won’t try to coin a better phrase, but there are a growing number of weblogs related to maps, cartography, geography, and GIS. Here are a few more to add to your collection.

GIS Blogs @ Universities

Many university departments are implementing blogs to perform a more dynamic method of communication with their faculty, students, and the campus. Below are a few examples that demonstrate this technology in a positive way:

GIS at Bucknell

This blog is designed to reach the entire Bucknell University campus and is conducted in part by the Bertrand Library. It is really a portal that uses the blog as a tool, and contains more than GIS, giving information, event listings, training, Web resource links, and a wide range of other resources on cartography, geography, maps, and GIS. Thematic links are listed in a subject “cloud” and also on a “blog-roll” to provide easy access to data, topical articles and posts.

Included are links to GIS source data, professional organizations, GIS at other universities, web map apps and mapping tools, notable map collections, and a wide array of other information.

This blog is worth viewing and provides a great portal to GIS and maps for users at any level.

Ball State GIS and Map Collection
http://bsumaps.blogspot.com/
Prepared as a more traditional blog, Ball State has created a place that provides news and announcements from the Ball State University Libraries GIS Research and Map Collection in Bracken Library. In addition to campus map-related activities and events, the blog features examples of maps and GIS in the news and in examples that increase awareness of maps as seen in the everyday world.

This blog is a good example of how the map collection and the library can promote resources and services, while offering additional awareness to the campus community. It is a model that would work in other institutions for most any topic.

**MVZ GIS Portal**

http://mvzgis.wordpress.com/gis-basics/

This blog is another good example of how a blog can provide quality service to its constituents. Its subtitle is “Supporting research at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology with cool tools and maps.” There are menu dropdowns for specific groups of resources (e.g., software, tutorials), a subject cloud, “quick jump” links, and a list of “categories” of topics that make it easy to access MVZ and Internet resources.

The pages are nicely designed and organized to provide succinct direction to the desired materials. Again, this blog is a good model and provides access to resources that any user, campus or public, would want.

**Somethingaboutmaps**

http://somethingaboutmaps.wordpress.com/

Here is another blog, but this one is by a cartographer Daniel Huffman. On it, he shows his work, with links to purchasing copies, but this is only part of what is offered here.

Mr. Huffman gathers great examples of creative maps, unique map designs, and articles showing specific topics in cartography and map design techniques. This site has much to offer the student or professional cartographer, mapmaker, and map enthusiast. It is also a good place to read more informal descriptions of cartographic technique and design.

This blog serves a variety of purposes, and should be bookmarked and read by map librarians, geography teachers, cartography enthusiasts, and by anyone needing to keep up with the creative and technical aspects of cartography.

For an example of Mr. Huffman’s posts, see: http://somethingaboutmaps.wordpress.com/river-maps/
Atlases


Highway 66. The legendary road from Chicago to Los Angeles. Songs, movies, and popular culture turned this into the classic road for the free spirits of the world. Interstate highways diminished Route 66 the way that many other roads were changed across America, yet 66 still has much of its charm to travelers from around the world.

This new atlas is designed with the traveler in mind. It is compact, has an index map and a text index of towns and cities along the route. The main maps cover a section of the route, showing enough context to leave the road and side-trip; text for each map describes the region and interesting features (the text is small, so a magnifying glass is essential). Secondary maps show large-scale coverage for major cities. Included are: Los Angeles — Flagstaff — Albuquerque — Amarillo — Oklahoma City — Tulsa — St. Louis — Chicago.

Some relief is indicated using color tints. The map’s main purpose is to show the route, provide a brief description of major features, and to show Route 66 as it was — and as it is now.

This atlas is useful for travelers, but can also provide popular culture studies a map for researching an iconic piece of Americana. A great deal of data is included within.
For an introduction or refresher on Route 66, a current article describes the history and the attraction of this pathway through America.


The Great Plains of North America covers a vast section of the United States and Canada and has a rich history that includes a diverse range of disciplines. This atlas provides an excellent, comprehensive view of the region in one volume, using well-drawn maps, made from data in a wide range of topics.

The atlas includes in its scope, the Great Plains states from New Mexico to Louisiana in the South, to Montana to Minnesota in the North. It also includes Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba in Canada. The introduction section of the atlas defines the work’s range of coverage and also provides a description of the varying concepts of what the Great Plains actually cover. There is an opening map showing “Fifty published versions of the Great Plains regional boundary,” in which various definitions of the Great Plains are visualized.

The well-drawn and printed maps provide clear views of all aspects of Great Plains history, life, and economics. Main topics can be best seen in the table of contents:

Maps: Land and environment. Land and water — Climate — History. Native

The book also has accompanying text, additional illustrations, and an extensive bibliography making this an essential resource for those studying the region at any level. No index is included; however, the table of contents provides excellent description of the topics and subtopics that are contained in this work.

The atlas will be at home in almost any collection, especially in collections serving students and researchers in high school through adult learners. College studies will find this work very helpful, as will professional resource collections. It is an excellent and well-produced work that has also been printed in a fitting format.


“The Carta Bible Atlas prides itself on detailed graphic presentation and brief texts of the historical events spanning the biblical period and beyond. Founded on Holy Scripture and aided by recent scholarly research, newly discovered documentary evidence and archaeological finds, the authors bring fresh understanding to biblical history and geography. The fifth revised and expanded edition has been enriched by the addition of 40 new maps. Rainey has added a number of maps from the broader Levantine history, placing the biblical events in a solid framework of Near Eastern culture and thoroughly revised subsequent chapters. Notley has revised and enhanced the portions dealing with New Testament events. He has also extended the reach of the atlas to the beginning of the fourth century A.D. by adding a chapter on the Holy Land according to the Onomasticon of Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea.”—Publisher description.

This atlas provides maps and text describing an amazing number of Biblical and historical events, places, and periods. The duotone (green and black) maps vary in size and provide a wealth of detail, including town names, ancient features and regions that cover topics from physical geography and ancient history, to events and features up to the third century C.E.

The contents are arranged using a topical approach, with sub-groupings within
each chapter. The purpose of the atlas is to provide clear descriptions of historical events and places that will assist scholars as well as less-studied persons with the opportunity to learn and better understand the geography of the Middle East in the religious and human sense.

Also included are chronological tables, a key to Bible references used in the atlas, and indexes to people and to place names. Though the table of contents offers an extensive description of the maps, there is also an index that will help the reader to locate specific events or places. The contents are divided as follows:

Introductory maps — Archaeological excavations — The Canaanite period — The conquest and settlement — The united monarchy — Israel and Judah — The Kingdom of Judah — The Hellenistic period — The Maccabees — The Roman conquest — King Herod — Jesus — The Apostles — The first revolt against the Romans — The second revolt against the Romans — Appendix — Chronological table — Keys to maps according to books of the Bible.

Each section lists the sub-topics (there are 300) so that the reader can quickly locate specific maps and text.

This book would fit into any library from grade school through adult learner, either as a reference for religious studies, or as an atlas of the Middle East through the pre- or post-Christian periods. The scholarly writing and quality of the cartography makes this a very good choice for works on the main topics.

Jacobson-Tepfer, Esther; Meacham, James E.; and Tepfer, Gary (photographer). 

Though it is almost two years old, this work is worthy of note because it provides an excellent documentation of archeological sites and treasures of a remote part of the world that is not covered in depth anywhere else. This atlas shows maps, landscapes, and archeological sites in Mongolia’s Altai Mountain region. The publication is the first extensive work in English and is the result of years of travel and study in the region. The photography and maps describe a place that has seen almost no exposure to the outside world.

Far-western Mongolia has a rich history and pre-history that is well documented in this work. Shown are sites, structures, statues, lithic monuments, petroglyphs and rock art, among other features.

The publication is very well produced; photographs — both color and monochrome — are to the same standards as the high-quality text. Diagrams, detail shots, and additional visuals make this a thorough, well-rounded study.
Scanning maps and making them available online presents many challenges for libraries and librarians. A panel of experts will discuss the details unique to scanning maps, including project planning and costs, tools and equipment, scanning and metadata standards, access strategies, copyright issues and more. Join us in Anaheim to gather the tips and tools you need to build your own map scanning toolbox!

**FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**
- Colleen Cahill, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress
- Mark Phillips, University of North Texas
- Jennifer Weintraub, UCLA

For further information about our Annual 2012 program and meeting schedule, please visit our Web site:

[www.ala.org/magirt](http://www.ala.org/magirt)
Included are additional reference materials: reference maps — place names list—and a selected image inventory showing 195 specific archaeological sites with dimensions and annotations. This section alone is impressive and it supplements the main text.

This beautiful atlas and documentation would be most popular in college and professional collections serving archaeology, anthropology, and cultural fields of study, but would also be of interest to art and geography research, as well as multi-disciplinary research. As an atlas it can provide a good representation of this remote area for a variety of uses, including for travelers (though this may be for the more knowledgeable, rather than average travelers).


The Peninsular War of 1807-1814, which was part of the Napoleonic Wars, had much to do with the final defeat of Napoleon’s Empire. The campaigns and environment were harsh, often inhospitable for participants on both sides; fighting was on a truly international scale as soldiers from most parts of Europe were involved. The “Spanish Ulcer” diverted military men and materiel from more critical theaters at a time when these resources would have been better used elsewhere.

This atlas provides a cartographic study of the Peninsular War that can be used along with other works to assist the student of military and general history, in following the events during this continental conflict.

Printed in a landscape format, good for maps, and issued in slipcase, this work is well-printed and features excellent cartography and clear graphics.


Get ready for travel now with all of the atlases and travel books that are appearing faster than daffodils. This atlas is first, a road map for the U.S. and Canada. It has a bonus though in that it provides seasonal and thematic festival information that will assist the traveler throughout the year. The standard road atlas features are included: individual state and province maps, mileage tables, basic recreational and historical site listings, along with city maps and a place index.

The addition of the Festival guide and the Seasonal index of events and places will give you extra ideas for planning an interesting vacation (or for knowing when to avoid an area if you are trying to relax instead).

This atlas is good to have as a road guide for travel and reference throughout the
U.S. and Canada, but it has extra value for learning about events and celebrations during the year, whether for travel or just for reference on places and activities in North America.

Books


This book traces the history of mapmaking while offering insight into the role of cartography in human civilization. The author also shares anecdotes about the cultural arenas frequented by map enthusiasts. Ken Jennings was a Jeopardy game-show legend, who claims to have slept with a Hammond world atlas by his pillow at night. He describes his fascination with geography and discusses why maps have always been so fascinating to him and to fellow enthusiasts. Readers are taken “on a world tour of geogeeks, from the London Map Fair to the computer programmers at Google Earth.” Chapters cover many aspects of map culture, including: highpointing, geocaching, road atlas rallying, and the “unreal estate” of maps of fiction and fantasy.

Maphead provides interesting descriptions on map enthusiasts and explains the continued importance of maps in society, and why maps will never go out of style. It is a good book for anyone who likes reading about maps, or about an unusual niche of culture (map enthusiasts). It also will interest popular culture and anthropology studies and some of the comments are useful for map and
geography professionals who need to explain why their work is essential to the world.


Dynamic mapping and geovisualization are the theme of this work. It presents a good discussion of current principles and best practices for visualization of spatial data.

This edition adds new material, reflecting significant recent changes in cartography, including the rapid growth of personal location-based services, tools, such as Google Earth and Google Maps and their competitors, and other current topics. The writing is designed to be both an introduction and intermediate study and is useful as a textbook for serious study as well as for study by non-majors in cartography.

This is a valuable resource for students who are starting to learn using GIS for spatial data visualization, as well as for more advanced cartographers wanting to keep up on developing principles of dynamic geovisualization design. The text is clear and can be assimilated easily by beginner and advanced cartographer. Illustrations complement the text, showing instructive diagrams and sample maps; the book includes 58 color plates. Contents:


This is a good all-around textbook style work that will introduce cartography in the modern world to new students as well as to assist professionals with text that helps to keep their practice current. It would be good for teaching cartography and GIS students, including those whose major is in some other field.


This is an introductory GIS text designed to the knowledge needed to work with the basic elements of GIS. Concepts are stated step-by-step to help students to learn the intense tasks required in using sophisticated GIS software. This edition is updated to use with ArcGIS version 10. An accompanying CD-ROM contains narrated videos to show students how to perform chapter tutorials before
beginning the assignments.

Introduction: What is GIS? — PART I. GIS DATA and MAPS: Chapter 1: GIS Data; Chapter 2: Mapping GIS Data; Chapter 3: Presenting GIS Data; Chapter 4: Attribute Data — PART II. GIS ANALYSIS: Chapter 5: Queries; Chapter 6: Spatial Joins; Chapter 7: Geoprocessing; Chapter 8: Raster Analysis; Chapter 9: Network Analysis; Chapter 10: Geocoding — PART III. DATA MANAGEMENT: Chapter 11: Coordinate Systems; Chapter 12: Basic Editing; Chapter 13: More Editing Techniques; Chapter 14: Geodatabases; Chapter 15: Metadata; Glossary; Selected Answers; Index; Alphabetical Skills Index; Conversion Table.

System requirements for accompanying CD-ROM: Windows operating system XP or higher; ArcGIS version 10.0.

Conclusion

Best wishes for the completion of the school year. I hope that spring lasts a bit longer so we can find more time to appreciate the carto-universe and geographical pleasures — with maybe a journey using both somewhere along the way. —DJB
Great Moments In Map Librarianship by Jim Coombs

Hey Eastern States! Couldn’t you come up with better names for your quadrangles than “Number Four,” “Bland,” or “Nameless!”

B-o-r-r-i-n-g!

Yeah, well we’d rather have those than the weird quad names you western states have, like “Booger Canyon,” “Goofy Lake,” “Rotten Bananas Butte,” “Potty Brown Creek,” and “Hookers Hot Springs!”

At least ours make you laugh!

Don’t make me say the embarrassing ones that refer to female body parts!

The topo bullies are at it again.

You all have some “colorful” ones, so quit fighting!

© Jim Coombs 4/12