base line

a newsletter of the
Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

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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/](http://www.ala.org/magirt/)
As I pen this first of several From the Chair columns we are just past the mid-point of meteorological summer. But allow me to step back to our most-recent ALA annual conference in blistering hot Las Vegas. To me it seems long ago, but it has only been about six weeks! Just another indication that time flies. For those of you who attended I am sure you will agree with me that the highlight of the conference was “networking”, or spending time and sharing activities with MAGIRT (and other) colleagues whom we only get to see in person on occasion. From all indications the activities that I had a hand in organizing and carrying out were a complete and happy success (the only exception being for the group of 6 or 7 of us who waited for a taxi that never arrived after the fun dinner at Paymon’s). A true joy for me was the time spent with our four Emerging Leaders; Andrew, Anne, Ariana, and Bretagne, witnessing both the poster session they delivered and especially their Final Report presentation given at Sunday’s Executive Board meeting. Their work is to be commended, and a link to the 2014 Emerging Leaders Final Report, along with an introduction to it, can be found on page 14.

I highly recommend that each MAGIRT member read this report as it will serve as a guide for moving our organization forward this year. Another MAGIRT highlight of the Las Vegas conference was, “The Accidental Map Librarian”! A huge thank you to Kathy Rankin, Mary Larsgaard, and Hallie Pritchett and Past Chair Kathleen Weessies for organizing this. And to Kathy, Mary, and Hallie for preparing content for and delivering as presenters a program that apparently has touched a nerve. The follow-up webinar delivered on July 28 by Kathy and Hallie “sold out” and I have received requests for a webinar version of the Program itself to be created and shared.

Let me touch on two key items: Increasing our membership and a more active membership. As your new Chair these two interrelated topics will serve as my focus, and goals will be set accordingly. I cannot achieve those goals without our motivated leaders at all levels and more importantly without your participation. Currently I am busy setting the stage in several ways, but I highly desire hearing from you because there is plenty of hands-on work to be done. Reach out to me directly, or send a message to myself and your Executive Board members at magirtbd@ala.org. You will find being active within our organization to be enriching and rewarding.

On the horizon this fall will be establishing a new budget for the 2015-2016 ALA fiscal year, launching new initiatives, particularly outreach to LIS students, and putting together details for programs and activities for the 2015 ALA conferences. In the meantime, other ongoing tasks need to be tackled, such as garnering a slate of candidates for the to-be-filled officer positions of Vice Chair and Treasurer beginning July 2015 (if you are interested in either position contact Kathleen Weessies, chair of the Nominations Committee, myself, or Vice Chair Beth Cox).

I look forward to leading you all in service over the next several months as we set goals and strive to achieve them. My tenure will conclude with some exciting programs and activities at the San Francisco annual conference in June 2015. Once again, please do stay in touch, I’d love to hear from you!
MAGIRT Treasurer’s Report for Executive Board Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, June 29, 2014

This report covers the period since the Treasurer’s Report presented at the Midwinter Executive Board meeting and is based on the May 2014 MAGIRT Performance Report.

Overview:

Total Net Assets for MAGIRT as of September 1, 2013 = $34,916
Current balance (income minus expenses 2013/14 ALA fiscal year) = $ 7,394

Total Net Assets for MAGIRT as of May 31, 2014 = $42,310

Comments:

Income

• We have received almost all of the expected income from personal dues. However, we have not received any of the organizational dues for which we budgeted.

• We have received $200 from two advertisements and $3,000 from donations.

Expenses

• The majority of our expenses come from the two conferences. The noted expenses above primarily cover Midwinter and promotional materials purchased for both conferences. We should expect to see a significant increase in expenses following Annual.

Respectfully submitted (in absentia),
Beth Cox
Treasurer, MAGIRT (2013-2014)
30cm Precision Aerial, 50cm Pléiades, 50cm GeoEye, 50cm WorldView, 60cm QuickBird, 80cm IKONOS, 1.5m SPOT 6, 5m RapidEye, 15m ASTER & Landsat, 22m DEIMOS

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2014 MAGIRT Honors Award
Greg Allord

On Saturday June 28th, 2014 MAGIRT graciously presented its Honors Award to Greg Allord (in absentia) of the United States Geological Survey at the Annual Awards Reception held at Payard Patisserie at Cesar’s Palace during the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Kathleen Weessies gave opening remarks and made the Award presentation, and accepting on behalf of Mr. Allard, was Colleen Cahill, who supplied her in advance with some kind words to pass along to the assembled throng.

Greg Allord was the driving force and key architect behind the digitization of over 250,000 historical topographic maps produced by the U.S. Geological Survey since the late 1880s. In addition to that achievement, he was the architect of the USGS Publications Warehouse which developed standards and protocols for the digitization of USGS Publications - many including foldout and folded maps.

Greg retired from the Survey in 2012 after a 43 year career. His final project prior to retirement was a partnership with the National Geologic Map Database to develop TopoView, an ESRI interface to finding topographic maps across time, scale, and geography. Greg’s contributions to Map Librarianship will be felt for decades to come as these maps continue to shape our understanding of place covering a significant period in our nation’s development. Greg deserves this honor for not only understanding the value of maps to scholarship but for navigating the bureaucracy of government to address map digitization at such a monumental scale. Due to his efforts, we can now unlock the USGS topographic map collection from its’ physical form in order for it to find its digital place in research today and for decades to come.

Greg’s reply, via Colleen:
Greg asked me to represent him and accept the MAGRIRT honors award on his behalf as well as on behalf of the U. S. Geological Survey. Greg was especially pleased to get an ALA award as he has always felt very fortunate when he got to partner with the library community. Along the way, he has worked closely with map libraries and has gotten guidance, advice and mento-
ring from several map librarians. The strong, insistent message he heard from these librarians, which he made core to his project and that he passed along to the great number of geography and library students who worked long hours on this collection was – “and don’t forget to include the metadata!” And yes, all 180,000 maps in this collection have complete metadata. He sends his thanks and appreciation to the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table for recognizing the on-line USGS Historical Topographic Map Collection.

Kathleen Weessies then continued by saying, “Greg wanted me to add that he has worked with talented, humble and independent thinking Librarians long enough to realize some creative editing sometimes happens here and there. His thanks noted guidance, advice and mentoring from CUAC and several Map Librarians – and notably three of these Librarians were Richard Huffine while at USGS, Jamie Stoltenberg at UW-Madison as well as Colleen Cahill at Library of Congress. Greg asked me to note the valuable contribution Colleen made to his project and gives her a lot of credit to the scanning, metadata and georeferencing of this collection of maps as well as noting he had no doubt Colleen would be one of those that would do some of that creative editing and drop her name from his written thanks to ALA. Again – he thanks these and all other Map Librarians for making this project possible.”
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Announcements and Updates:

MAGIRT-RDA Listserv

A new listserv magirt-rda@ala.org was established in October 2013 as a dedicated forum for discussing the cataloging of cartographic materials using RDA. As of late June 2014 there were 90 subscribers to the list and 75+ posts. The list is hosted by the ALA Mail List Service and an archive of posts is maintained on the ALA lists web site. The list is open to ALA members and non-members alike. To sign-up: http://lists.ala.org/sympa/info/magirt-rda

Basic Map Librarianship / Cataloging and Classification LibGuide page

Katherine Rankin, Mary Larsgaard, and Hallie Pritchett have put together a Basic Map Librarianship resource guide as part of the MAGIRT Accidental Map Librarian program that includes a tab devoted to cataloging and classification resources for cartographic materials: http://magirt.ala.libguides.com/content.php?pid=471777&sid=3861585

Princeton Digital Maps Search

Tsering Wangyal Shawa announced that Princeton University Library has a new interface for spatial searching of Princeton’s digital maps and geographic data: http://map.princeton.edu/search/

GeoHumanities Special Interest Group

Kathy Weimer invited people to participate in the GeoHumanities Special Interest Group, a group interested in geospatial research in the humanities. Participation in the group is free and open. Information on the group including listserv sign-up: http://geohumanities.org/
Discussion topics included:

- How to address the recording of hierarchical place names for imaginary places in the MARC 662 field.

Colleen Cahill from the Library of Congress brought up the problem that imaginary place names are theme authorities and are not authorized for use in the MARC 662 Hierarchical Place Name field. The group discussed possible ways to address this problem. One solution proposed is to add an indicator to the 662 field that would indicate if a place is imaginary. Another solution would be to add subfields to the 662 for imaginary places. Another solution proposed is to wait to see if developments of RDA include imaginary places being moved together with geographic places in the authority files. Colleen is requesting feedback (cstu@loc.gov) from the community to be able to take to the MARC Advisory Committee. Susan Moore offered to present the issue to the Canadian, German, and British MARC communities. Colleen offered to put together examples of how these headings would look in a MARC record. Susan suggested the possibility of drafting a discussion paper with different solutions to present to the MARC Advisory Committee. The general consensus of the group was that the use of an indicator in the 662 to designate when a place is imaginary would likely be the best solution since it offers a consistency of coding and the possibility of building a display note from the indicator.

- Feedback on the MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee’s Task Force on Best Practices draft documentation, “Best Practices for Cataloging Cartographic Resources Using RDA.”

Susan Moore, Chair of the MAGIRT Cataloging & Classification Committee, presented a draft of “Best Practices for Cataloging Cartographic Resources Using RDA” and asked for feedback about what type of information would be most useful to include in the Best Practices document. The initial draft is based on the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Cataloging Team best practices documentation. The Task Group is looking for feedback on: How much detail to include? Whether to include RDA instructions? Whether to organize it based on MARC field or RDA instruction? What examples to include? What areas to focus on, e.g. changes from AACR2 or a more comprehensive set of guidelines? etc. Feedback can be sent to Susan Moore (susan.moore@uni.edu) which will be shared with the Task Group or discussion can be posted to the magirt-rda@ala.org list.

Participants suggested it would be helpful to focus on areas where RDA might not be explicit in guidance for cartographic materials (e.g. whether or not to include the word “Scale” at the beginning of the 255; including lists of relationship designators for cartographic materials). It was also suggested that including MARC examples would be helpful. These best practices could be used to further inform RDA development and/or LC/PCC Policy Statements. Once complete, the Best Practices document will be shared via the MAGIRT LibGuide. The Best Practices document is intended to be changed and revised as RDA evolves and as the need for specific best practices guidance arises from community discussion. Revisions will be announced to the community via listservs.

Marc McGee will share the Harvard RDA for Maps documentation, which includes an examples document and a quick reference spreadsheet, with the Task Group.
One open question is how much RDA text can be quoted in Best Practices documentation without violating copyright restrictions.

- Digital humanities and the usefulness of Library of Congress Authorities for linked open data projects, including how best to record coded time and dates in place name authorities. Kathy Weimer posed to the group the idea that digital humanities projects are now often employing gazetteers in their work along with an interest in time periods and was wondering how libraries can make authority data a more relevant and useful resource for these projects. In particular, having encoded dates associated with geographic place names could potentially be a very useful linked open data access point for the digital humanities community.

Paige Andrew suggested the MARC authorities 046 Special Coded Dates field as a potential way to encode dates for computer processing purposes. The 046 field includes subfields for a start period ($$s) and an end period ($$t) which can be used to express time periods.

Also the MARC 034 includes subfields for a beginning date ($$x) and an ending date ($$y) that can be used to associate a time period with specific geographic coordinate information.

Kathy asked a follow-up question: Are coordinates in the authority files being automatically added to and used in bibliographic records? The long term goal is to use the coordinates in authority records to augment existing bibliographic records with coordinate data for maps and other format materials as well. The University of Minnesota noted that they have done some work retrospectively adding coordinate data to bibliographic records by selecting the “easier” geographies to start and populating the MARC 034 for those records where a single geographic subject heading clearly corresponds to an identifiable set of coordinates.


Mary Larsgaard introduced the concepts from the article to the group and suggested that the article had many good points to make regarding the limitations of crowd sourcing as a method for creating metadata for digital collections. The general consensus of the group was that employing a metadata schema from beginning of these projects is preferable to letting the crowd do the work, which oftentimes, either never fully develops or is inadequate to the point of uselessness. Mary also wanted to know whether institutions had experienced tensions around the decision to use standard cataloging vs. metadata creation for digital collections. It was noted that sometimes when decisions are made to expedite the creation of metadata and certain access points are left out, it can limit the re-use of that metadata and hinder participation in other, future digital projects.

While it was generally agreed that crowd sourcing has its limitations for creating useful metadata there are some interesting projects that employ crowd sourcing techniques that have the potential to be used to augment existing metadata. Examples mentioned were: the
New York Public Library Map Warper tool (http://maps.nypl.org/warper/) which allows users to georeference historic map images, thus capturing potentially useful coordinate data of the geographic extent of maps. The New York Public Library Building Inspector (http://buildinginspector.nypl.org/), through crowd sourcing, enables users to help computers identify building footprints and capture attribute data from digitized historic fire insurance atlases. Also the New York Public Library “What’s on the menu?” project allows users to transcribe data from historic restaurant menus: http://menus.nypl.org/ converting data to searchable text.

Libguides are getting a new look

The MAGIRT Libguides http://magirt.ala.libguides.com/index.php are being moved to the new Libguides 2 platform. Our members use these guides to collate resources, share information, and provide a more user-friendly interface that complements the official ALA MAGIRT page. There will also be many information updates from the annual conference.

This new look accompanies a renewed interest in connecting more with our members and sharing information. Did you miss the Accidental Map Librarian at ALA Annual and the webinar? Visit http://magirt.ala.libguides.com/activities to see the recorded webinar.

Stay tuned in September to see these new and useful changes.
2014 Emerging Leaders and Their Final Report

MAGIRT sponsored an ALA Emerging Leaders team this year (for information on this program see http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders) and I would like to introduce the members of “Team H” as well as the outcome of six months of hard work. As their Member Guide, it is my pleasure to introduce Anne Gaines (Scholarly Communications Librarian, Univ. of Idaho Library), Andrew Coulon (Integrated Services Librarian, Jacksonville Public Library), Bretagne Byrd (Bookmobile Librarian, Lewis and Clark Library (Montana)), and Ariana Hussain (Children’s Librarian, DC Public Library System). They learned a lot about MAGIRT, as you will discover upon reading their final report, and conversely they have several recommendations for improvement for us based on their research and team collaboration. Their report is located on the Current MAGIRT Activities & Projects page http://magirt.ala.libguides.com/activities at the top of the left column. A link to a PDF is located under the title “2014 Emerging Leaders Report”. To give you a taste, here is one passage from their Introduction:

*In January of 2014, members from the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) met with the members of Group H from the American Library Association’s Emerging Leaders (EL) cohort. Together, this team discussed plans for a project designed to analyze the current marketing and outreach methods of MAGIRT and develop new methods that might improve communication, attract new members and establish new partnerships.*

I urge MAGIRT members to take the time to go and read this report as we will be using the recommendations from it as a guide to move forward in the areas of improving our online communication methods and reaching out to library school students and others as potential new members.

Paige Andrew

MAGIRT Chair

Photo by the editor
“Maps codify the miracle of existence.”— Nicholas Crane, Mercator: The Man Who Mapped the Planet

Where did the summer go? I wish I knew. I missed much of it. Hopefully you had better mileage. Below is a brief listing of new and different cartographic pleasantries.

News and Ideas

Web Map Service

One of the perks of my job is that I get to research and learn as I work. Recently a university official came to me asking about web map services (WMS) and so I embarked on a quick study of what WMS is and how to start working with it. I am no expert, but I learned enough to help the vice provost and get him on the right track.

Here is a basic description of WMS:

A Web Map Service (WMS) is a standard protocol for serving georeferenced map images over the Internet that are generated by a map server using data from a GIS database. The specification was developed and first published by the Open Geospatial Consortium in 1999.—Wikipedia

The OGC website provides a good explanation and why WMS is valuable:

The OpenGIS® Web Map Service Interface Standard (WMS) provides a simple HTTP interface for requesting geo-registered map images from one or more distributed geospatial databases. A WMS request defines the geographic layer(s) and area of interest to be processed. The response to the request is one or more geo-registered map images (returned as JPEG, PNG, etc.) that can be displayed in a browser application. The interface also supports the ability to specify whether the returned images should be transparent so that layers from multiple servers can be combined or not.—OGC WMS page

Their mission statement includes these objectives:

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) (http://www.opengeospatial.org/) is an international industry consortium of 475 companies, government agencies and universities participating in a
consensus process to develop publicly available interface standards. **OGC® Standards** support interoperable solutions that “geo-enable” the Web, wireless and location-based services and mainstream IT. The standards empower technology developers to make complex spatial information and services accessible and useful with all kinds of applications.—About OGC page

Web Map Services provides a bridge between GIS and the rest of us mappers. Everyone cannot become a GIS expert and OGC understands this barrier to geo-sharing. Government agencies and private concerns also have grasped the utility of WMS for all sorts of activities and they are providing data files to assist all sorts of efforts. The following is a selection of just a few WMS data providers. This is only a tiny selection of some prominent sites.

**Census.Gov WMS**
http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/arcgis/services/tigerWMS/MapServer/WMSServer?

Census data and GIS have been the top product of interest and WMS users can gather data as well.

**National Atlas Web Map Services**

“We’ve recently updated our Web Map Services (WMS), and a brief description of the updated WMS follows. If you’re already WMS savvy, you might simply want to go to one of the step-by-step instructions below for viewing our WMS in popular mapping programs.”—Home page

The National Map offers WMS data and base maps, along with the regular map image files so that you can produce USGS maps on demand, use the data for your WMS, or incorporate data into your GIS.

**The National Map Viewer**
http://nationalatlas.gov/infodocs/wms_intro.html

Using the Map Viewer, you can locate maps by type (e.g., topographic) and download a file directly in a variety of formats.

**The National Map: Service Endpoints**
http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/example/services/serviceList.html

**NASA Earth Observations (NEO) WMS**
http://neowms.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/wms/wms?

**Web Map Services (WMS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Geospatial Wetlands Data is also available through an Open GIS Consortium (OGC) Web Map Service (WMS).
NYS Municipal Boundaries WMS
http://giservices.dhsses.ny.gov/ArcGIS/services/MuniBoundaries/MapServer/WMSServer?

NYS Aerial Images WMS
http://www.orthos.dhsses.ny.gov/ArcGIS/services/Latest/MapServer/WMSServer?

Google Maps API Web Services
https://developers.google.com/maps/documentation/webservices/
Developer guide and software that will get you started with Google Maps and WMS.

For many, WMS will become the standard for their mapping and analysis needs. The list of data providers is growing as is the list of map creators. This is a resource that will be useful to college level and adult user. It has a place in professional research and also in community activities.

Free Maps from the Web Using Web Mapping Service

“An amazing number of free, interesting, and just plain beautiful geographic maps are available on the web, and they can be easily retrieved programmatically using the Web Mapping Service protocol developed by the OpenGIS consortium http://www.opengis.org/. For example, follow the link below to retrieve a world map of today’s highest temperatures. Come back here afterwards to learn how it works.”—Code Project home page

This site will help WMS programmers and also users in acquiring software, data and map files, and insight into how WMS works. It is mainly for coders and technical wizards but if you are interested in WMS and GIS production, it is handy to be aware of this website.

And Then There is Paper

WMS can breed a type of map for statistics users and planners, but paper maps still have their place in the world. An article earlier in the year focuses on some of the pluses of the printed map, while also catching your attention with the story’s title:


Rachel Hewitt, author of “Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey” (ISBN: 9781847082541) describes the romance of printed maps and also their utility. She discusses the current state of British Ordnance Survey mapping and the continuance of paper maps (a mere 1.9 million printed OS maps were sold last year) and their relation to e-map services.

The article does not just dwell on paper maps, it does discuss the advantages of the electronic map database at the Ordnance Survey, which is updated continually, as well as the commitment
to supporting this by law. The author stresses the co-existence concept, in which print and electronic maps have a place, rather than eliminating one format in favor of another.

For discussions on the print/electronic format debate, this article is worth reading and remembering.

**Websites**

**Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC)**  

SEDAC is designed to provide maps, map viewers and tools, data, and other resources relating to worldwide human impact on the environment. It combines economic, statistical, and Earth science data to provide researchers with resources for their work.

“SEDAC, the Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center, is one of the Distributed Active Archive Centers (DAACs) in the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. SEDAC focuses on human interactions in the environment. Its mission is to develop and operate applications that support the integration of socioeconomic and Earth science data and to serve as an “Information Gateway” between the Earth and social sciences.”—About page

Also included on this site are news and current activities reports, announcements of conferences and training, and guides to resources and publications in the world.

This page will be useful for teachers and students, as well as for professionals in various fields. Community organizations will find maps and reports that can be used to describe various environmental effects of people. The maps alone are worth viewing as they offer solutions to a variety of map needs.

**GMT: The Generic Mapping Tools**  
[http://gmt.soest.hawaii.edu/home](http://gmt.soest.hawaii.edu/home)

For cartographers and non-professional map makers, this site provides Open-source software that allows the user to create maps. These tools are useful for those with some programming skills, or for those who have the assistance of programmers to help them create custom maps for use.

“GMT is an open source collection of about 80 command-line tools for manipulating geographic and Cartesian data sets (including filtering, trend fitting, gridding, projecting, etc.) and producing PostScript illustrations ranging from
simple x–y plots via contour maps to artificially illuminated surfaces and 3D perspective views; the GMT supplements add another 40 more specialized and discipline-specific tools. GMT supports over 30 map projections and transformations and comes with support data such as GSHHG coastlines, rivers, and political boundaries. GMT is developed and maintained by Paul Wessel, Walter H. F. Smith, Remko Scharroo, Joaquim Luis and Florian Wobbe, with help from a global set of volunteers, and is supported by the National Science Foundation. It is released under the GNU Lesser General Public License version 3 or any later version.”—Overview page

Aquastat
http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/gis/index2.stm

Water is an essential resource throughout the World and its quantity and quality are critical for our survival. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has developed a website that supplies resources, data, and reports to assist local and regional analysis of water resources and their use.

Aquastat is a global water information system. The program collects, analyzes, and disseminates water resources data and materials on water use and management.

Its main focus is on countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, but all countries and continents are included. The data is up-to-date and comprehensive.

Data includes agricultural water use, effects of population and economy, water basin studies, climate research, and other topics. There are maps and data for use in local studies. There are a series of map viewers and also prepared maps on a variety of topics. There are links to spatial data sets as well for the GIS user.

Map quality is very good and the maps may also be used for other purposes besides water studies since they are excellent political maps.

This site’s resources will be helpful to high-school through adult learner, for planners and professionals in environmental studies, and for anyone needing maps and data on water and social impact on the water system.

Old SF
http://www.oldsf.org/#ll:37.787149-122.409874

Historic collections of photographs often suffer from one important disadvantage: geo-location of the images as a finding tool. A user, who was frustrated at the amount of effort to find location photographs, along with mis-identified locations, that he started making a map to help his studies. In time, he decided to create a GIS finding tool so that anyone could search for photos by place.

Old SF [San Francisco], which is not affiliated with the San Francisco Public Library, has been geocoding their photos allowing users to choose images by region on a map.
The images all come from the San Francisco Public Library’s San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection [http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=0200000301](http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=0200000301) and were gathered from many sources. The photographs cover the period 1850-2000.

The photographs have been referenced on the map of the city. You can view all time periods or select a range of years, or even just one year and the map plots every photograph. Click on a plot and you will see the number of images for that location, with thumbnails along the border.

Select a photograph and see a larger version. You can then go to the SFPL database to see the full-sized image. There are approximately 40,000 images in the collection. About 20,000 of these can be georeferenced. The map creators have geocoded about 65% of the possible images, or 13,000.

The website is easy to use by anyone and would be useful to grade-school through adult learner. It is great for researchers needing to study images of particular neighborhoods or locations. It is also a great example of map tools that provide access to hard to locate materials. The creators allow users to download the complete photo descriptions and geolocation data.

**Amazing Maps**  
[https://twitter.com/Amazing_Maps](https://twitter.com/Amazing_Maps)

Crowd-sourcing produces a tremendous amount of data, most of which is georeferenced. Mappers have been working with this data to create maps showing an infinite variety of themes, from populations of music lovers, to distribution of people by social background.

Amazing Maps is a blog that collects and posts twitter maps, data maps, and maps of all sorts: “The original Twitter map account--bringing you the most amazing maps on the internet!”--Side-bar

Some of the maps are familiar (e.g., cartograms, newspaper maps), while others come from a variety of unique sources.
You can see such exciting thematic maps as “Countries that prefer instant coffee over fresh coffee,” or “European football champions 2013/14,” and among more serious topics: “Heavy metal bands per 100,000 people,” (the U.S. is not the leader by the way) or an interactive map showing the cost of prisons to the American taxpayer.

Many examples are practical visuals, such as a U.S. map showing where half the U.S. population lives; this interesting map shows the counties making up this population and is quite telling in its depiction.

There are animated maps showing themes, such as the growth of the British Empire, and the growth of Wal-Marts in the U.S.

The site offers maps for a variety of users and may be of use when looking for thematic visuals on esoteric topics. This variety is excellent and must be viewed to be appreciated. All sources are cited so that you can go back to the original.

**National Snow and Ice Data Center**

http://nsidc.org/

Arctic studies, environmental studies, and other fields are very interested in data and maps on what is happening to the World’s ice and snow. This website is the place to visit. The NSIDC’s mission is summed up in their slogan “Advancing knowledge of Earth’s frozen regions.”

The key objectives in the NSIDC mission are data management and collection, scientific research, and building experience through dedicated effort.

Included on this site are maps and data on ice regions, satellite imagery and monitoring, research documents, and news and service information.

This site is designed for professional study, including university research, but there are maps and data that could be used by non-professionals and for research in associated fields. It is worth visiting and keeping in mind for the future.

**Books**


Renaissance maps and atlases are having their own renaissance presently as collections around the World are being documented and described. This book is a catalog of a selection of 50
maps from the Dallas Pratt Historical Map Collection in the American Museum in Britain [http://americanmuseum.org/about-the-museum/collections/maps/]. Dr. Pratt was one of the founders of the Museum and his collection of more than 200 Renaissance maps of the New World is one of the most highly-regarded collections of such maps in the World.

The authors present a brief history of the mapping that was being done in the post-1492 era. They place the collection in context with this period. Next, each map is displayed along with a physical description and short text that describes the map and its development.

The reproduction of the maps is superb, with many reproduced in color. Additional close shots of segments of some of the maps provide more detail. The beauty of the maps is apparent in these reproductions and are arranged to be visually interesting to the reader.

While being a catalog of the collection, this work also provides a good look at the maps of the period, along with a history that will interest readers from high-school through adult learner. The quality of the publication is a treat and this would not only be a good reference work; it is also a book worthy for its artistic appeal and would make a great gift.


I have always had an interest in nautical and celestial navigation and the sextant is a kind of magic golden compass to me. when I was shown this book recently, I had to take a look as it contains not only a history, but also a narrative of ocean travel from a more dangerous period.

The author wrote a book that covers several different stories. The first is a history of the development and use of the sextant in modern navigation. The second is a history of the navigators who lived and died during their explorations over a period of 250 years. The third story is of the author’s own experience on the sea using the sextant and crossing the deadly waters in person.

In the introduction, the author states that he did not write a manual on using the sextant. He is not writing on all forms of navigation to provide the sextant’s unique place among the instruments of seafarers from the age of European exploration of the World. What he does discuss is a more popular history of the sextant, from its beginning, with men such as James Cook, who learned to chart the waters and change history, through his own experiences in the 1770s when he learned to use the instrument in hands-on fashion.
Illustrations, maps, and other visuals enhance the story and make the book more interesting. The text is readable by anyone from high-school through adult. Many different anecdotes and bits of history are strewn throughout that are woven into the text in an organized fashion. The background story of the author’s sail across the Atlantic is a nice sub-plot as well, giving a character interest to the work.

One last theme that I noted in the book is something that mappers and geographers are aware of, but that needs to be stressed with our constituents. The replacement of traditional techniques with new technologies and their effect on the future.

Mr. Barrie comments on how the age of celestial navigation, ruled by the sextant, ended around the time of his voyage. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) were introduced and the unique relationship between sextant and sailor diminished. In the introduction of the book, the author makes the following lament: “GPS banishes the need to pay attention to our surroundings, and distances to us from the natural world; although it tells us precisely where we are, we learn nothing else from it. Indeed, unthinking reliance on GPS weakens our capacity to find our way using our senses. By contrast, the practice of celestial navigation extends our skills and deepens our relationship with the universe around us.”—p. xx

This comment reflects not only the demise of the sextant; it also is an observation on how technology has changed map reading skills and the mind’s ability to grasp geospatial concepts. Once a skill is lost to society, it is very difficult to recreate it or to re-learn. As reflected upon in the book, the essential nature of the sextant is more than survival and navigation; it is also a way to commune with the universe and to exercise the mind in ways that build self-reliance and ability with every experience.

As noted earlier, this book would be good for general readers and offers geographers, historians, among others, an interesting reading experience. It is a kind of memoir, but more, it is a commentary on changing technology throughout human development and its impact on the future.

Conclusion

Enjoy the last of summer and get ready for autumn. I already am collecting some new maps and books for the next issue. So much is happening in maps and geography and I hope to have the interesting stuff ready to show by then. As always, thank you for reading—DJB
Passing of the gavel (umm ... flamingo!).

Outgoing MAGIRT Chair Kathleen Weessies passes the MAGIRT “flamingo” to incoming Chair Paige Andrew. I want to give, as I’m sure the whole membership of MAGIRT, a big “Thank You” to Kathleen for a tremendous job as our Chair this past year. And we welcome Paige’s energy and enthusiasm as incoming Chair. We all look forward to MAGIRT leading the way in all things cartographic and geospatial in the library profession.
Copyright Status for Sanborn Maps — by Linda Musser

The Penn State University Libraries (PSUL) recently completed a project to digitize and catalog all the Sanborn fire insurance maps in its collection. As part of that project we investigated the copyright status of all titles in the collection and developed a method for documenting that status in the catalog record. Thus anyone accessing the catalog record, or the metadata record for the digitized map, will know the copyright status of the work.

The Penn State Sanborn map collection consists almost exclusively of maps of Pennsylvania locations and numbers nearly 27,000 sheets, comprising over 2300 titles and editions. The majority of maps in the collection were published prior to 1923 and are already in the public domain. Those maps were made immediately available online and, following long standing procedure, no copyright information was documented in the records. These images were extremely popular and generated many questions related to the availability of later (post-1922) editions in the Sanborn collection. Rather than investigate copyright status on a case by case basis, we decided to comprehensively determine the copyright status of all our post-1922 maps and make that information publicly available.

Using the scanned versions of the Catalog of Copyright Entries (CCE), hosted at the University of Pennsylvania http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/cce/, and following procedures developed by colleagues within the Libraries, relevant CCE volumes were consulted for each map. We used a table, developed by Chris Holobar in the PSUL Access Services Department, to link directly to the years that needed to be searched, as determined by the date of the map and the copyright rules from either the above link or from http://www.copyright.gov/records/.

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<th>Copyright Renewal Dates by Publication Year</th>
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<td>1923 renewed in 1950 &amp; 1951 (&amp; 1952)</td>
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If the CCE recorded a renewal of the copyright, then a formula was used to determine the date when the map would enter into the public domain. If there was no record of the copyright being renewed, then, for titles published through 1963, the work was now within the public domain. (Copyright rules changed after 1963, however we had no Sanborn maps in our collection published after that date.) Of the 579 maps researched in the CCE, only 279 had their copyright renewed meaning the remaining 250 maps were now in the public domain.
Once research on all the maps was completed, we looked for a way to record the information in an easily accessible and stable location, and ultimately chose the online catalog record. Our catalog is automatically backed up and is accessible to both library staff and the public. It also affords us the chance to share our data with others via OCLC, should we choose to do so in the future. Rather than a general note, we chose to utilize **MARC field 542**, Copyright Status. This is a little used field so we had to develop guidelines for what subfields to use and appropriate field tags for assign to each.

- Creator=Sanborn Map Company.
- Copyright holder=Sanborn Company.
- Copyright statement=copyright 1926 by the Sanborn Map Company.
- Copyright renewal=renewed 1954.
- Note=will be in public domain in 2022.
- Research date=2013.
- Country=US.
- Supplied by=Pennsylvania State University Libraries.
- Jurisdiction=US.
- Source of info=Catalog of copyright entries.

Once the format for the 542 field was established, the Maps Cataloging Team began the process of adding a 542 note to each catalog record. These newly updated catalog records will be used to populate the metadata record in the digital collection for those Sanborn maps whose images have yet to be uploaded. Using the calculated date for when each map will enter the public domain, the digital collections manager will upload additional images every year.

Based upon our experience, the process of investigating the copyright status of Sanborn maps published after 1922 is a relatively easy and worthwhile endeavor. Over 500 maps were researched in the CCE and nearly half were found to now be in the public domain. Now that we are familiar with the process, we are considering expanding our copyright searching to other maps published in the United States after 1922 so that we may share more material via our digital collections. Given the popularity of the Sanborn maps, the expenditure of time was well worth the effort involved in researching their copyright status.

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From the Editor – MAGIRT and ALA Elections – 2014

We would like to congratulate our newly elected MAGIRT Officers: Elizabeth Cox as our newly elected Chair-Elect and our new Secretary Tami Morse. We all look forward to your contributions and talents in the coming year. We thank you for stepping up and offering to give of your time and talents to serve in these offices for MAGIRT.

On another election note; Of the 265 ballots sent to MAGIRT members only 72 were returned. This gave MAGIRT a 27% return rate. The link below provides the detailed vote tally. For this organization to grow and thrive we all need to step up to the plate and do our part, be it a big or small part. One way is to offer your time, talents and expertise and to share it with others in our roundtable and profession. Your time and effort in our organization is important and we welcome all contributions to make MAGIRT bigger and better. There are always opportunities and places within our organization to make your mark and offer your knowledge and expertise to others. The more our roundtable gets involved and demonstrates to the larger ALA membership what MAGIRT is and does, will draw more people in. Not only will they learn more about carto-geospatial materials and resources but they may want to join our group and participate. MAGIRT is a small part of ALA. There are only six other roundtables or sub-divisions in ALA that have smaller membership numbers. And as a whole the more people we have and who participation translates in to more programs, more contacts and more knowledge for everyone, which results in better information to all of the patrons we serve. Let’s do better next time. Get involved and your vote does count for MAGIRT.

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/alaelection/2014/14%20ALA%20Reponse%20Rate%20By%20Ballot.pdf

Although the return rate for the MAGIRT elections seems low and might look a bit disappointing. Consider the overall election return rate for ALA as a whole which was only 19%. The link provides all the details.


Make your voice heard. Make MAGIRT “the” place for cartographic and geospatial information in the library and information world.

From the Editor.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH ALL THESE EMPTY MAP TUBES?!?

YOU KNOW, IT REALLY BOTHERS ME THAT WE DON’T HAVE A PROPER SERVICE DESK LIKE REFERENCE AND CIRCULATION HAVE.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH ALL THESE EMPTY MAP TUBES?!?

YAY! A PROPER LOG CABIN FOR ME TO PLAY IN!

TA DAH!

SWEET!