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

Volume 36, Number 3
June 2015
**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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**Advertising Rates:** For one issue: full page $100; half page $50; quarter page $25. Opposite “Great Moments in Map Librarianship”: full page $150; half page $80; quarter page $40.

Send graphic or word processing file as an email attachment to the editor or mail hard copy to editor. Submissions will be re-formatted to the extent necessary to fit the size and proportion requested. Consider that the final size and proportion of a full page is 8 x 10 inches. Advertisers will be invoiced. Mail checks to the MAGIRT Treasurer, payable in U.S. dollars to ALA-MAGIRT.

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

Members of MAGIRT can access **base line** as a benefit of their memberships.

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[http://www.ala.org/magirt/](http://www.ala.org/magirt/)
I can be my own worst critic. And then from out of nowhere I am reminded of the “bigger picture”. Yesterday afternoon, Sunday June 7th, I witnessed two more young men in our Boy Scout Troop earn the rank of Eagle – the top rank in Scouting – in a formal ceremony at a local church. As their Scoutmaster shared some philosophical comments with them and with those in attendance a message resonated with me, “you have worked hard and come a long way to reach the pinnacle of Scouting but this is just one step in the lives we live, use the skills you have learned wisely.” The message was then turned in my own mind to apply to the point at which I have reached as MAGIRT’s leader; being close to completion and having worked hard – but not alone! – to do my best for this organization is just one more milestone in a longer journey. When I complete my tenure in late June I hope you agree that I have left a positive mark.

Reflecting back on the past few months I can say that MAGIRT has moved forward. Perhaps most notably is our outreach to the greater professional community through the webinars provided and those to come (and with many thanks to Wade Bishop’s guidance and leadership). We are also reaching out to others through ALA’s “Check Out a Librarian” initiative that I participated in last June and our Vice Chair and Past Chair will be in San Francisco. Also, thanks to Carol McAuliffe’s vision and perseverance we are moving towards an online, interactive version of the Guide to U.S. Map Resources and hope to see this become a reality in the near future. Very recently we committed to jointly organize and deliver a pre-conference with GODORT in Orlando in 2016. And finally, we are on even better financial ground now than when I began my term last June. The one area that I feel a pang of regret is that our membership numbers remain basically unchanged. Which simply means we have more work to do in this area.

Another activity that has taken much time and effort, and great teamwork both within and outside of MAGIRT, is in preparing for the upcoming Annual Conference in San Francisco. In this issue of base line you will find a full MAGIRT schedule of events as well as detailed information pertinent to the exciting tour of the geospatial collections at UC-Berkeley and our Honors Award dinner. Our social functions at conferences, particularly recognizing colleagues for their work on behalf of MAGIRT and map librarianship, are always a highlight of my conference experience and I hope to see an excellent turnout for both events again this year.
Moving forward, when I pass the gavel to our incoming Chair of MAGIRT I will adopt a new set of responsibilities. These include serving as chair of the Nominations and Awards committees, which means you will be hearing from me regularly in the fall, as well as chair of the Bylaws and Governing Documents Committee. While I work to fulfill these commitments I also pledge to continue serving as a co-leader in general to MAGIRT and more particularly as guide/mentor to the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

As an active organization committed to our mission that MAGIRT “…leads and inspires information professionals at all levels of expertise in their work with map and geospatial information resources, collections and technologies in all formats, through community, education and advocacy” I see us moving forward in positive ways. Our program of providing webinars addresses the educational and advocacy components of our mission, and collectively we are always making a mark on several fronts, from leadership in the creation and use of standards to guiding others in the use of GIS and other geospatial tools. Most critically for the ongoing success of the largest map librarianship organization in the country, if not the world, we are a community of volunteers willing to guide, lead, and mentor our fellow members. I look forward to continuing to serve in multiple roles for this community called MAGIRT as I take more steps on the road of my professional life, and invite you to continue this journey with me.
# MAGIRT 2015 ALA Annual Conference - San Francisco

## Meeting Schedule with Locations

### Friday, June 26th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – Noon</td>
<td>Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA)</td>
<td>MCC – 133 (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:15 PM</td>
<td>Meet at Powell BART Station to go to Berkeley (Train departs at 1:25 PM)</td>
<td>MCC – 133 (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 – 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MAGIRT Tour of the Earth Sciences and Map Library, UC-Berkeley (hosted by Susan Powell)</td>
<td>MCC – 133 (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 – 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Honors Award Event (Chaam Thai Restaurant; 1543 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley – see announcement and details elsewhere in this issue)</td>
<td>MCC – 133 (N)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Saturday, June 27th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 10 AM</td>
<td>Membership and OPOC Committees (same location)</td>
<td>Marriott Marquis –Sierra Suite J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:30 PM</td>
<td>Joint MAGIRT/GODORT Program, Part I: “Data Visualization in the Library”</td>
<td>MCC – 3001(W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Joint MAGIRT/GODORT Program, Part II: “Data Visualization in the Library”</td>
<td>MCC – 3001(W)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sunday, June 28th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Cataloging &amp; Classification Committee</td>
<td>MCC – 110 (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:30 AM</td>
<td>ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging IG</td>
<td>MCC – 2006(W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 – 2:30 PM</td>
<td>MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCC – 2011 (W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Publications Committee</td>
<td>INTER – Montgomery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Related Information

- **MCC** - Moscone Convention Center (N, S, W after room numbers are directional. N=North Building, etc.)
- **GRAND** - Grand Hyatt San Francisco
- **HIL** - Hilton San Francisco Union Square **
- **INTER** - InterContinental San Francisco
- **MAR** - Marriott Marquis San Francisco *
- **NIKKO** - Hotel Nikko
- **PARC** - Parc 55 San Francisco
- **WEST** - Westin St. Francis

*Headquarters Hotel
**Co-Headquarters Hotel
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50cm WorldView, 60cm QuickBird, 80cm IKONOS, 1.5m SPOT 6,
5m RapidEye, 15m ASTER & Landsat, 22m DEMOS

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The ALCTS-CaMMS/MAGIRT Cataloging Cartographic Resources Interest Group

Everyone is invited to attend the following special meeting at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, California.

Date: Sunday, June 28, 2015
Time: 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Place: MCC – 110 (N) (Moscone Convention Center–North Building)

Description:
The Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group meeting is an open discussion session for addressing topics of interest to the cartographic and geospatial resources cataloging community. This is a great forum for posing questions to and exchanging ideas with members of the cartographic resources cataloging community. Three presenters will share their experiences with Cartographic Cataloging Standards: Historical, Contemporary, and Forthcoming:

Presenters:
Nancy Kandoian—Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic) (DCRM(C)) An Overview
Map Cataloger, the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, at the New York Public Library.

Seanna Tsung—Current G&M RDA Philosophies as reflected in the Cartographic Resources Manual
Senior Cataloging Specialist, the Library of Congress, in the Geography & Map Division.

Nate Trail—BIBFRAME A Briefing, an Overview and an Update
Digital Project Coordinator, librarian, and programmer at the Library of Congress, active in Library Standards work, such as BIBFRAME, METS, MODS, PREMIS, and ALTO data standards. Worked on the Linked Data site id.loc.gov and is leading the team developing a new vocabulary and serialization for library data compatible with the Web, at bibframe.org.

Iris Taylor,
Chair, ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group:
**ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT**

**TAMMY WONG**

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

**From the Editor:** The On the Cataloging/Cataloguing Front column will return in the August issue of *base line*. Stay tuned for Tammy’s next installment of cataloging news.

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**ALA Elections Turnout**

*From the Editor*

ALA election results are in and MAGIRT had a better than average showing amongst all of the ALA Divisions and Roundtables. The average overall election response rate for ALA and all Divisions, Sub-Divisions and Roundtables was 20.4%. Glad to see that MAGIRT’s response rate was much better at 30.7%. Well done.
The Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) and Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) invite you to join us for our joint program at the ALA annual conference in San Francisco.

Data Visualization in the Library: Collections, Tools, and Scalable Services

Data visualization, the use of graphical techniques to better communicate complex geographic and statistical information, is used to interpret the results of data analysis more clearly and to a wider audience. These techniques are being used by a wide range of disciplines. What are the implications of these tools and techniques for library users? Part one of the program describes the landscape of data visualization, library services, and patron expectations; part two offers an overview of available tools, criteria for tools and datasets, and an open discussion about libraries’ services.

Speakers: Justin Joque, Visualization Librarian at the University of Michigan, and Angela Zoss, Data Visualization Coordinator at Duke University

When: Saturday, June 27, 2015
Times: Part one 1:00-2:30 and part two 3:00-4:00
Where: MCC-3001 (W)

More detailed information and handouts will be available on the program web site: https://magirtgodort.wordpress.com/

Hope to see you there!
2015 MAGIRT Honors Award Dinner & Social Event
Friday, June 26th

Please join us for a tour of the Map Library at the University of California Berkeley followed by a dinner to celebrate the recipient of this year’s Honors Award.

Social Event
WHAT: Tour of the University of California Berkeley Map Library
WHERE: UC Berkeley Library
TIME: Tour is from approximately 1:00pm-4:30pm (including travel time)

Dinner
WHAT: Celebration of the 2015 Honors Award winner
WHERE: Chaam Thai Restaurant, 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley
TIME: 5:30-7:30pm

RSVP required.
To register for one or both events, go to: http://goo.gl/forms/oL7QSYVRmZ
Transportation details will be sent to people after they RSVP

Questions? Contact Beth Cox at bcox@lib.siu.edu
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MAGIRT PROGRAMS AT THE 2015 AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAGIRT is pleased to announce that we will be delivering two formal programs, both about exciting and cutting-edge topics with presenters who are leaders in these areas, at the 2015 American Library Association Annual Conference. If you plan on attending the annual conference we hope you can join us for one or both of these programs. ALA will be recording them and I will be sure to share these out through base line and other means. Both programs will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2015.

Open Context and its Role in Research Data and Publication
10:30-11:30 a.m. Moscone Convention Center, Room 2006-West

Sponsored by the MAGIRT GIS Discussion Group

Data Sharing as Publication: The research community increasingly expects access to high-quality data, including the review, documentation, and publication of research data contributed by scholars. One venue that addresses these and other large-scale issues, Open Context, will be presented and discussed by its developer, Eric Kansa, PhD (UC-Berkeley) and a scholar who has used it to publish and organize archaeological field data in geospatial realms, Anne Austin, PhD (Stanford University).

Data Visualization in the Library: Collections, Tools, and Scalable Services
1:00-4:00 p.m. Moscone Convention Center, Room 3001-West
Co-sponsored by MAGIRT and GODORT (Government Documents Round Table)

Part 1 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.; Part II from 3:00-4:00 p.m.; Beverages and snacks will be provided between sessions.

Data visualization, the use of graphical techniques to better communicate complex geographic and statistical information, is used to interpret the results of data analysis more clearly and to a wider audience. These techniques are being used by a wide range of disciplines. What are the implications of these tools and techniques for library users? Part one of the Program describes the landscape of data visualization, library services and patron expectations; part two an overview of available tools, criteria for tools and datasets, and an open discussion about libraries services. Join Justin Joque (Univ. of Michigan) and Angela Zoss (Duke University) to learn much more.

Paige Andrew
Chair, Map and Geospatial Information Round Table
and Maps Cataloging Librarian
Pennsylvania State University Libraries
From the Editor: David’s still recovering from surgery so his column will return in the August issue. The base line staff and MAGIRT wish David a speedy and full recovery and we all look forward to his next installment about new maps and web resources.

Web Soil Survey (WSS) from the U.S Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service
http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm

This is a very in-depth interactive database/website for maps, tables and geospatial layers for soils and soil layers from the USDA. The data from this site is the digital version of the old County Soil Surveys we all know and love. This site is updated continuously and as indicated on their website the current coverage for the US is between 95-100% complete.

This portal can be confusing and overwhelming so I’ll go over some observation and things I’ve learned while using this site. I’ll also show you which buttons do what and how to get the most out of this site so you have more confidence in using it with patrons.

To get a good understanding on how to use and search for data and maps I **highly** recommend you start by reading the “**Four Basic Steps**” found on the homepage about how to use this site. It goes over the basics but there’s more to know to get the most from this site.

Start by pressing the big green **“START WSS”** button.
Next, choose your AOI (Area of Interest) from the left-hand set of “Quick Navigation” tabs. If you don’t have a specific address to input, then I would recommend using the next tab “State and County” to find your area. If you know the lat/long or other specified name or unit then use those other tabs to quickly navigate to the location. Just click on a tab to open the search box. If you want to search using a different tab, just click on the new tab and the old one will close and opens up the new one.

Select your state and county from the pulldown menus and click the “View” button to display the area.

When-in-doubt or you need help, click on the “?” in the corner of the box and an explanation will open in a sub-window that will provide you with information on how to input your search or how to use a tool, etc.

With your area displayed you will now want to click on the “AOI” button in the toolbar at the top of the map and then click and drag a rectangle over the area you want, or choose the AOI polygon tool next to it if your area is irregular in shape.
Next, select the “Soil Map” tab at the top to view the soil boundaries and descriptions.

Clicking on a soil map unit name will open a new window with the full description and characteristics of that soil type.

Next select the “Soil Data Explorer” tab at the top. You now have a large selection of options here on what type of data you want to display on your map.
The selected item I chose was “Farmland Classification”. To view the data on the map click the “View Rating” button and the map will redraw with the new classification map with detailed information below.

Next by selecting the “Soil Properties & Qualities” tab at the top, you can select and view what soil properties you want to map. I chose “Drainage Class”. Also you can click on the “Legend” tab at the left side of the map to show the legend for the variable/layer you selected in the left-hand column.
Next, to download your soils data, click on the “Download Soil Data” tab at the top of the screen.

Next, use the “Create Download Link” button and the USDA site will create a link at the bottom of the screen where you can download the Esri SHP file to use in ArcGIS. This may take a few minutes so be patient. The bigger your AOI is the more time that will be needed to process your file. Again, when it’s done the size and link to your ZIP file will be shown at the bottom of the screen.

If you need to download more than one layer or variable you will need to download each one separately to get everything you need. There is also the option of printing out your report and map. Use the “Printable Version” button near the top right portion of the screen. It prints out a nice PDF of your map and table which you can also save.

When you’re ready to start a new session or search for a new area you’ll need to click on the “logout” button at the top and a new window will open that will give you the option to “Start a new session”.

I hope you explore this data rich portal of soil information. There is much more data contained in the web version than was included in the older print versions. So take some time and compare the print and digital side-by-side to see the differences.
New MAGIRT Officers

From the Editor

MAGIRT would like to welcome our newest officers for the upcoming year 2015-16. Their official duties will begin when the 2015 ALA Annual Conference concludes in San Francisco.

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Phone: (310) 206-5853
Email: lratliff@library.ucla.edu

Susan Moore – Treasurer 2015-17
Rod Library
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Phone: (319) 273-3787
Email: susan.moore@uni.edu

Also we would like to welcome the following new committee chairs, discussion leaders and liaisons. It’s wonderful to see all the new (and some familiar) names taking a leadership roll. We would like to thank these MARGIT members for volunteering for the following committees, discussion groups and liaisonships. Thank you!

Education Committee: Anne Zald, Northwestern Univ.
CCC: Carolyn Kadri, Univ. of Texas at Arlington
GeoTech Committee: Nicole Kong, Purdue Univ.
Membership Committee: Mia Costa, Arizona State Univ.
Map Collection Managers Discussion Group Leader: Carol McAuliffe, Univ. of Florida
RBMS (Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, ACRL) Liaison: Margaret Gamm, Univ. of Iowa
Great Moments In Map Librarianship  by Jim Coombs

ARE YOU ENJOYING THE CONFERENCE?
WHAT KIND OF LIBRARIAN ARE YOU?
I'M A MAPS AND GIS LIBRARIAN

OH YEAH!

YOU'RE A GIS GUY?
WOW, YOU MUST BE REALLY SMART!

WELL, I CAN GIVE DIRECTIONS WITHOUT MENTIONING A MCDONALDS OR STARBUCKS.