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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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Published by the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table
As we head into the winter holiday season, my thoughts turn to … ALA Midwinter.  (An occupational hazard for the MAGIRT chair!) Your Executive Board, committees and I have been busy with plans not only for Midwinter but also for Annual, when MAGIRT will host a preconference on cataloging maps with DCRM(C) and a two-part program on using maps with family history.  The preconference audience is catalogers with some map cataloging experience, and the family history program will reach out to audience members both inside and outside of the map and GIS communities.

All in all there are over 30 MAGIRT members actively involved in our organization.  For example, under the leadership of Carol McAuliffe, work is proceeding on a revised Guide to U.S. Map Resources, to be published online.  Maggie Long is leading a task force to revise the Map, GIS and Cataloging/ Metadata Librarian Core Competencies document, originally issued in 2006. And the Education Committee, chaired by Anne Zald, has plans for two webinars in 2017 so far, which will further our education and professional development mission.  A big thank you from me for all the contributions MAGIRT members are making!

Harking back to last year when I led a team to develop an ALAIR archiving program for MAGIRT, the final report created by Team G of the 2016 cohort of ALA Emerging Leaders (Craig Boman, Chelcie Rowell, Melissa Stoner, and Harriet Wintermute) has been deposited in ALAIR.  A brief video is available on the ALA YouTube channel, here http://youtu.be/IzPkUFYK6vQ. A list of links to these public documents is printed elsewhere in this issue of baseline.  Congratulations team, well done and thank you!

Next month I hope to see many of you in Atlanta for our Midwinter meeting.  On Friday there will be a tour of the Georgia State University, Atlanta, Map Library, followed by a Dutch-treat Southern barbeque dinner at the Krog Street Market (yum! Southern barbeque!) Please RSVP for the tour and the dinner to Leslie Wagner at leslie.wagner@uta.edu.  (See the details elsewhere in this issue.)

Finally, I want to wish each and every one of you the happiest and healthiest of holiday seasons. Being your chair is one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had in my 40-plus years (gulp!) as a librarian, and I continue to be amazed at the work you all do, both in your own organizations and in the profession.  Please let me know how MAGIRT can better support you – send an email to me (lratliff@library.ucla.edu) or any of your officers, follow our Twitter feed (https://twitter.com/MAGIRTala), call on the phone, whatever suits your style!  Until next time, cheers!
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 20</td>
<td>Field Trip – Georgia State University, Atlanta, Map Library</td>
<td>Georgia State University – Atlanta</td>
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<td>Friday, January 20</td>
<td>Dutch-Treat Southern barbeque dinner</td>
<td>Krog Street Market</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 21</td>
<td>Membership &amp; Marketing Committee</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 21</td>
<td>Publications Committee</td>
<td>GWCC A306</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 21</td>
<td>Geographic Technologies (GeoTech Committee and GIS Discussion Group</td>
<td>Marriott A602</td>
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<td>1:00pm-2:30pm</td>
<td>(GODORT/MAGIRT)</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 21</td>
<td>Map Collection Management Discussion Group</td>
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<td>Core Competencies Task Force</td>
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<td>Cataloging of Cartographic Resources Interest Group (ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT)</td>
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<td>Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC)</td>
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<td>Executive Board &amp; Membership Meeting I</td>
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<td>Program Planning Committee</td>
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GWCC – Georgia World Congress Center  
MARRIOTT – Marriott Marquis Atlanta  
OMNI – Omni Hotel & Resorts @ CNN Center
TELL US ABOUT YOUR MAP COLLECTION

After producing three editions in paper, MAGIRT is taking the Guide to U.S. Map Resources online! In order to create the Online Guide, MAGIRT has created a survey to gather information about map collections in libraries and other institutions. MAGIRT needs YOUR help to create the new Online Guide - take the survey and tell us about your map collection!

To add information about your library's map collection to the Online Guide to U.S. Map Resources, please visit:

tinyurl.com/magirtsurvey

Help MAGIRT create the NEW Online Guide to U.S. Map Resources!
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RDA Toolkit Release, October 18, 2016

A new release of the RDA Toolkit was published on Tuesday, October 18. This message covers several points one should be aware of related to the release.

TOPIC 1: Changes in RDA Content

TOPIC 2: Development Changes in the RDA Toolkit: Instructions

TOPIC 3: Change in Content in LC-PCC PSs

TOPIC 1: Changes in RDA Content: Fast Track changes

This release contains a small number of Fast Track changes made through the normal Fast Track process; the document outlining the changes is at: http://www.rda-rsc.org/RSC/Sec/5 Note that Fast Track changes are not added to the RDA Update History. While you are encouraged to peruse the document, the most significant change is:

Illustrative content: The scope at 7.15.1.1 has been modified to delete the instruction to “disregard illustrated title pages, etc., and minor illustrations” when determining whether a resource has illustrative content.

7.15.1.1, 2nd paragraph:
Tables containing only words and/or numerical data are excluded, not considered as illustrative content.
Disregard illustrated title pages, etc., and minor illustrations.

TOPIC 2: Development Changes in the RDA Toolkit: Instructions

As noted in the notes for the August 2016 release, minor changes to the glossary and instructions have been necessary to further the goal of registering certain elements and vocabularies to support linked data applications. This release continues the integration of RDA-related data contained in the RDA Registry and the instructions in the RDA Toolkit. In August, the Glossary was automatically generated from the RDA Registry; a similar process will now automatically populate RDA instructions that include glossary text, such as “scope” statements for elements in RDA, and “terminology” sections throughout RDA. Although these efforts will change the RDA text in minor ways, these are RDA infrastructure changes and do not impact the application of the instructions. They are not marked with revision data in the Toolkit, and are not included in the list of Fast Track changes mentioned in Topic 2 above.

TOPIC 3: Change in Content in LC-PCC PSs

A summary of LC-PCC PS updates incorporated in this release is available at http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/lcps_access.html. The changes in this release are all minor corrections of content, and do not represent changes in practice.

The next planned release of the RDA Toolkit will be in February 2017.
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Emerging Leaders Final Report to MAGIRT

The final report for MAGIRT has been received from Team G, 2016 Cohort of the ALA Emerging Leaders. The final report and deliverables have been deposited into ALAIR!

Development of an Archiving Program for the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT): Final Report [http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7389](http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7389)

ALAIR: Why & How [video] [http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7388](http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7388)
(This video is also available at ALA’s YouTube Channel: [http://youtu.be/IzPkUFYK6vQ](http://youtu.be/IzPkUFYK6vQ))

ALAIR Submission Procedures [http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7387](http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7387)

MAGIRT Metadata Best Practices When Using ALAIR [http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7386](http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7386)

ALAIR: Why & How [draft article] [http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7385](http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7385)

MAGIRT ALAIR Retention Guidelines & Schedule [http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7384](http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7384)

Developing an Archiving Program for the Map & Geospatial Information Round Table [poster] [http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7383](http://hdl.handle.net/11213/7383)
National Geospatial Advisory Group Holds Fall Meeting

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held its fall meeting at the National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown, West Virginia on September 27-28, 2016. The NGAC is a Federal Advisory Committee (FACA) to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The role of the NGAC is to provide advice and recommendations related to the national geospatial program and the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Full minutes of the meeting, PowerPoints, and lightning talks will be available on the NGAC website shortly.

Camille Touton, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at the Department of Interior and Chair of the FGDC, opened the meeting. She discussed the FGDC’s priorities as well as the work the FGDC is doing to prepare for the transition to the new administration after the November election. The priorities of the FGDC include continued work on the Geospatial Platform, advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, support of the creation of the National Address Database and the 3DEP Elevation Program, and support for the Open Water Data Initiative.

Fifteen members of the committee will complete their terms at the end of December with six rotating off the committee due to term limits. New members, including those who have reapplied from their first three year term, will be announced in January.

The NGAC heard reports from four subcommittees, three of whom are researching and preparing white papers that will be completed by the end of December. The subcommittees include the following:

- The Emerging Technologies subcommittee is providing information and perspectives on technologies that will impact the geospatial community within a three to five year time horizon. They are considering overriding trends such as real time data collection and analytics, personalization, miniaturization, and expanded access.

- The Policy Framework team was asked to review the OMB Circular A-16 providing advice on ways to update it and make it more relevant to today’s geospatial landscape. This document was originally released in 1990 and then revised in 2002. The Circular was established to provide a “coordinated approach to electronically develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.”

- The Standards team seeks to provide advice on the greater adoption and utilization of standards.

- The Landsat Advisory Group will work on an investigation of the small satellite landscape as well as research interest in temporal data cubes.

NGAC Vice Chair, Keith Masback, convened a panel of experts to discuss emerging technologies and their impacts on the geospatial communities. David Tohn, of BTS Software Solutions discussed facial recognition innovations and real time data capture and analysis. Aaron
Gussman of HumanGeo talked about the use of big data analytics for social media. Suzanne Foss of Esri discussed real time integration of sensors and with immediate analysis. Sarah Battersby of Tableau Software (and a member of the NGAC) spoke about effective visualization and meaningful output for making decisions.

The group discussed the next phase of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Plan as the present plan was written to cover work done between 2014-2016. The plan has five key elements: policy, data, technology, standards, and people. The NGAC discussed how the NSDI could be more relevant to the nation, how the plan should encourage engagement with partners outside the Federal government sphere, and how to expand outreach beyond the traditional geospatial sectors to include those integrating geospatial in their products. During 2017 the FGDC will work on a plan that will govern the NSDI over the next few years.

During the 2008 election cycle, the NGAC developed a Transition Paper laying out importance of geospatial technologies to the nation and explaining the role of the Federal government in supporting the nation’s geospatial infrastructure. The NGAC leadership is in the process of writing a Transition Paper for the current candidates. The paper is designed to raise awareness of the importance of geospatial technologies focusing on its current applications and impacts. It will define the role of the Federal community and explain the major initiatives now underway. It will identify key areas where Federal leadership can provide opportunities for economic growth, cost savings, and strengthening of the nation’s infrastructure. The expectation is that this short paper will be completed by the end of October and delivered to the new administration in early November.

The meeting was rounded out by a series of lightning talks by a dozen NGAC members discussing topics as varied as the boundary survey between North and South Carolina, DataUSA, Arctic elevation data, geologic map standards, and Utah’s high resolution imagery survey.

The last NGAC meeting of the year will be a conference call to be held in early to mid December.

Julie Sweetkind-Singer
Assistant Director of Geospatial and Cartographic Services, Head of the Branner Earth Sciences Library & Map Collections
sweetkind@stanford.edu

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http://library.stanford.edu/blogs/stanford-libraries-blog/2016/10/national-geospatial-advisory-group-holds-fall-meeting
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See you in Atlanta for ALA Midwinter?

Photo by NASA http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!!!

Who should get the 2017 MAGIRT Honors Award?

You are invited - as a MAGIRT member - to nominate a person or organization for the 2017 MAGIRT Honors Award. The primary criterion is that the award be given to an individual and/or organization who stands out because of their “outstanding achievement and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the Round Table.” The recipient(s) of the award does not need to be a MAGIRT member.

Nominations will be accepted until the end of December. The award recipient will be announced and honored during the Awards Reception at the 2017 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago. The recipient need not be present at the conference to be chosen, though we do all enjoy the opportunity to raise our glasses to the honoree.

The recipient receives a certificate, a memento in celebration of their accomplishment, and a cash award, as determined by the MAGIRT Executive Board. Remarks made at the awards reception and pictures of the recipients are published in base line. Notification of the award will be sent to the director of each recipient’s institution as appropriate.

Please submit your nominations to Beth Cox at bcox@lib.siu.edu with the following information:

1. Name of Nominee or Organization, plus mailing address, phone number, and email address.
2. Position Title (or Former Position Title) if an individual.
3. A brief but detailed statement (one page or less) that explains why this individual or organization should receive the MAGIRT Honors Award based on the criteria noted above. Clearly-denoted, detailed reason(s) provided in writing to the Committee is extremely helpful.

The winner will be selected by the MAGIRT Nominations and Awards Committee (comprised of the MAGIRT Past Chair, Chair, and Vice Chair). A list of our past winners can be found at: http://www.ala.org/magirt/honorsawards.

Beth Cox, MAGIRT Past Chair
on behalf of the MAGIRT Nominations & Awards Committee
“A map is the greatest of all epic poems. Its lines and colors show the realization of great dreams”—Gilbert H. Grosvenor, National Geographic editor.

Another year is coming to a close. It seems like it was not too long ago that we started this year. So much has happened in a rapid blur. There were so many new items to look at but so little time to discuss them that I feel I wasn’t as informative as I could have been in this column.

I want to end the year on a good note so I have added some solid reviews of a few new books, some descriptions of some good carto-resources to know about, and some holiday gift ideas that declare our map interests. I have more works to discuss and will begin working on these over the semester break. Next year I will do better.

**Holiday Gifts**

Since I know that you will be reading this shortly, I can add a few last minute ideas for the cartophiles in your life. Just a few items to tell someone special that there is a place in mind.

Everyone is coming up with unique things to buy for any occasion. The New York Times has a gift store [https://www.nytimes.com/store/](https://www.nytimes.com/store/) that offers some items with a theme that you might appreciate. There is the **Personalized Marble Map Clock** [https://www.nytimes.com/store/personalized-marble-map-clock-mapclock.html](https://www.nytimes.com/store/personalized-marble-map-clock-mapclock.html) that can be customized to the street, city, and zip of your choice. It is marble with the topographic map section centered on your location.

Or there is a set of **Personalized Marble Map Coasters** [https://www.nytimes.com/store/personalized-marble-map-coasters-mapcoaster.html](https://www.nytimes.com/store/personalized-marble-map-coasters-mapcoaster.html) made on your location and complementing the marble clock above.

Additional choices are the Nautical Chart Marble Coasters, a Hometown Aerial Map, or Topographic Map Jigsaw Puzzle, and large U.S. or World maps that can be personalized and comes with push pins to mark your travels.
You can give someone a real trip by giving them a Hometown Topographic Map Jigsaw Puzzle [https://www.nytimes.com/store/hometown-topographic-jigsaw-puzzle-topomap.html], which is a topo quad map with enhanced topography in 500 pieces. You can select anywhere in the United States.

The NYC fan will love the New York City Map Glass [https://www.nytimes.com/store/new-york-city-map-glass-13752.html] which has streets and neighborhoods from Lower Manhattan to Queens, along with a few New Jersey towns as well. Complement this with the Brooklyn Map Pint Glass [https://www.nytimes.com/store/brooklyn-map-pint-glass.html] and you are all set.

Collections

Mapping the Archives: The Osher Map Library’s digital collections are beautiful and complex


I really enjoy the times that I have visited the Osher Map Library at the University of Southern Maine, which is a model of how a map collection could be, given the right support and vision. The wonderful maps and globes, the facilities, and the staff make this library an experience.

The Osher Map Library has been digitizing maps using a custom built setup that produces images that are so good that they almost match the original maps. This article gives a brief description of the work and is worth reading.

If you are ever near Portland, Maine and can afford the time, it is worth the effort. The library is incredible and you will remember the trip.

Books and Atlases


When I first saw this title in a store, I wrote it down to locate more details on what it contained. The name is slightly misleading; this is not an atlas filled with maps. There are some general maps representing the continent, country, or group of states that is being discussed in each chapter.
What the *Atlas Obscura* is however, is a book of unusual places and things in the world. It is a book of geographic curiosities that cover the earth. Some of these are familiar, but many are unique to their locale and unusual in nature. Included are natural and man-made features, flora and fauna, phenomenal events, and other wonders. A selection of representative entries includes:

Lake Nyos, Cameroon, a lake that has a problem with storing deadly concentrations of carbon dioxide, the Dog Suicide Bridge, in Dumbarton, Scotland, where dogs have been plunging from at a high rate; the Hanging Coffins in the Philippines, a cemetery on the side of a cliff; the Palolo Worm Festival on Samoa, Edison’s Last Breath, a relic of the inventor, in Dearborn, Michigan, The Turda Salt Mine, Romania, a hundreds of years old salt mine, that is now home to an underground amusement park, and Bete Giyorgis, Lalibela, Ethiopia, the site of hundreds of Christian churches carved from the landscape.

Each entry provides a description of the topic, along with an image. The text provides the reasons why the location is unusual and lists coordinates that allow locating with GPS and mapping software. The coordinates may be entered online to retrieve maps and data about the place. Basic notes on getting to the place are also given.

The atlas is arranged geographically; each chapter begins with a map of the region. Additional text supplements some entries. For example, following a brief article on a topic, related information is provided. One such entry is “Historical Methods of Preventing Premature Burial,” which discusses traditional methods for assuring that a person has a way of self-rescue from the grave provided they are buried alive. This accompanies an article on a woman who was buried prematurely.

Some entries describe a specific place while others cover special museums or regions of interest. The authors have researched hundreds of places and the articles are interesting and colorful. While more of a register of the strange and unusual, this work does have a place in geography and anthropology collections. It will be useful for studies of regional culture and the diverse variety in the world.

This book is readable at any level. It can be useful to encourage upper level grade school through high school students to learn geography. It will also provide adult learners with a work on cultures and places. The traveler will enjoy the book for ideas when journeying to these regions. It is also a good book to give as a gift.

If you wish to learn more after reading this book, or just want to see what else the authors have been doing with this topic, there is an *Atlas Obscura* website [http://www.atlasobscura.com/](http://www.atlasobscura.com/) that continues and supplements the work.
While I was hunting for a book in the collection, I came across this atlas from 2012 that I do not remember seeing before. It is worth reviewing and acquiring for your library.

The *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine* is a major undertaking that provides an in-depth history of the famine in Ireland, and which displays statistical data both in tables and clear maps. The use of GIS to enhance map visualizations make this work a useful item. Data is shown in some cases in tables as well; however the maps clearly show the effect of the series of famines on the population.

The Irish Potato Famine was not a singular event. It was a series of events beginning in the eighteenth Century and culminating with the Great Famine in 1845. The earlier famines pale in comparison with the Great Famine, the effect of which is still being felt. The *Atlas* covers the sequence of events, the history, and the effect on the people.

Each chapter discusses particular aspects of the potato famines from pre-famine population, to population changes because of the famine. Additional topics covered include the effect on Great Britain, British government efforts to resolve the crises, legal and economic impacts, and other issues. Also included are chapters on the literature and folklore of the famine years, and a final chapter on famines world-wide, with suggestions for the future. The depth of the work can be seen in chapters, such as the one on workhouses. The nineteenth century work laws and the workhouse ethic is described here and graphically details the Irish system as developed by British law. Photographs, paintings and drawings, maps, and facsimiles of documents and artifacts, provide an intense representation of the history of this period.

This work is a documentary history that combines maps, imagery, text, and commentary that will appeal to scholars in history, anthropology, and culture studies. It is also of use to anyone studying famines and the effect of food world-wide. Its usefulness goes beyond a historical study of event. It is written to assist future efforts against starvation and poverty.

This Atlas makes a significant contribution to our knowledge and understanding of famines in the world and would be a great resource in college collections, and any collection that is used by adult learners.


City maps, either street maps, bird’s-eye views, aerial imagery, or pictorial views, have always been fascinating to study from historic and aesthetic points of view. This work is a history and celebration of mapping of cities from ancient times to today. It contains over 70 historic plans and maps.

*Great City Maps* discusses the history and development of major cities using a selection of some of the key cities through history. It begins with a short study of city plans and maps from antiquities, then moves to a period study of key cities during each phase of history through the
megacities of today. In addition, a few chapters cover types of city, such as Colonial Cities, or Ideal Cities.

For each city, the date of situation is given and a specific map shown. Details are enlarged into a “visual tour” showing interesting features of the map. Cartographers are identified. For some cities, a single map is shown, but for some, multiple maps provide a look at progress or developments in mapping. For example, there are four maps of Rome: c.205 C.E., 1413-14, 1493, and 1748. Likewise, the maps for New York City show Manhattan from 1660 (as New Amsterdam) through 2013. Many familiar maps will be recognized by the expert, but many more maps are not so common.

Facsimiles of originals show the context of the map (e.g., a clay tablet) and this gives a better idea of the map’s provenance.

The color reproduction and quality of the maps is high. Overall quality of the publication is very good and it is large enough to see the detail in each map.

This book will be enjoyed by learners of all ages and deserves to be in any collection. The maps, detail images, and selection of cities provide artistic and historic materials. This book would also be a very good gift idea.


Between the years 1939-1945, the face of Europe changed considerably, especially in major cities where aerial bombing and ground fighting destroyed entire sectors. Among the affected places was London.

The London County Council (LCC) compiled records of the damage to the city and region around London from the bombings during 1940, and the destruction that occurred from Vengeance weapons (V-1, V-2) that continued throughout the war. The impact of the war on London is still a defining moment of the last hundred years. Every year, the bomb squads continue to recover unexploded devices that lay dormant beneath the city. Entire neighborhoods were leveled and rebuilt during the past 75 years, with dynamic changes to streets and architecture.
The LCC took on the task of recording damage to the city during World War II, using 1916 city maps, which were updated to 1940. These maps provide a historic snapshot of London as it appeared prior to the war. In this way, we can view the dramatic changes that took place in the city by comparing these maps to post-war ones.

The LCC undertook the monumental task of recording damage, and also in helping to rebuild London. The original maps were 110 hand-colored, using the 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey series. The maps were roughly 76 x 107 cm paper sheets.

The hand-coloring was done carefully using color dyes and crayons, with a wide range of colors used to depict the severity of the damage. Areas that were repeatedly hit show this damage with over-coloring in additional tints. The coloring system was complex and detailed.

The first edition of this publication was made in 2006. The current publication is a 75th anniversary commemoration of the start of the London Blitz. This edition was made using new photographs of the maps with high-resolution digital cameras to improve the quality of the images. Effort was also made to reproduce the colors and gradations as faithfully as possible.

In addition to the maps, a history of the bombings, Civil Defence [British] efforts, and the LCC work is described. Photographs and facsimiles of documents provide additional background.

A chapter of statistics of major bombing incidents, with a chronology and vital data on casualties and damage give a sampling of the extent of the events that occurred.

The major portion of the work contains the full-spread facsimile maps, which are highly-detailed and well-reproduced. An index map makes it easy to locate specific sectors of the city.

On pages 40-41, is a painting that was made that combines the entire city’s maps to show the cumulative devastation on London. The artist made a very good analysis and assessment of all the individual maps to produce this image.

The final chapter contains full-page black and white photographs of damage to buildings and infrastructure. These photos are impressive and offer dramatic evidence of the effects of aerial bombing.

For historians, planners, geographers, and researchers in allied fields, this book is a wealth of data. As a work for general readers, it also provides an interesting study. I highly recommend this book, not just for map collections, but for any collection.

**Odd Geography**

**Micronations**

While working on a search, I came upon a place name that I hadn’t seen before. Curious, I stopped to look it up. What I found was a reference to a micronation. I knew of a few of these places before, but the concept that there were many of these entities around was a bit more intriguing.

Have you ever wanted to start your own country? Or maybe join the ranks of the titled? Forming your own monarchy might be a way to become someone special, if even in your own mind.
I should probably save this topic for the start of April, but it is something that appears in geographic searches occasionally and you want to be prepared…

What is a Micronation?

“A micronation, sometimes referred to as a model country or new country project, is an entity that claims to be an independent nation or state but is not recognized by world governments or major international organizations.”—Wikipedia (as long as I am looking at an oddity, I might as well take a definition from esoterica)

The concept is more often fanciful, and some micronations are declared as protests or from disputes. Some are formed from land that is unused. Some of these nations are declared simply for fun. For us, they are a topic that we should be aware of just because they exist and are places that sometimes come up in the news or as a side-product of someone’s research query.

For the sake of awareness (and for your personal entertainment), here are a few resources to help you study the world of the micronation.

**Ladonia: The Proud, Free, and Interactive Micronation**

[https://www.ladonia.org/](https://www.ladonia.org/)

This “sovereign state” caught my attention, and is a good representation of a typical micronation. It is carved out of a piece of Sweden. While Sweden does not recognize their claim, and would wish for it to go away, it does not feel the need to do anything about the claim.

I kind of found it intriguing that I could become a “legal” citizen of Ladonia, or for a small fee, become a titled member of the nobility. Recently Ladonia was in the news, as its main landmark (and reason for founding) was destroyed by arsonists. The irony is apparent for those who read.

But seriously, follow the links below to learn more than you will ever need about these unique places.

**List of Micronations**


One of the obvious places to look is the Wikipedia. For topics such as this, it has a specialty for entries. The list is extensive for places and links to articles on each micronation. It is a great place to start.

You will find links to flags, maps, currencies, and other data on the dozens of places claiming national sovereignty in the world (and in some cases above it).

**Flags of Micronations**


What’s a nation without a flag? This wiki page shows the flags of a number of these “states.”
Micronation Central

http://www.listofmicronations.com/

This site is a virtual atlas of micronations. It contains lists of these entities, both in “physical” and “virtual” states. There is an Atlas http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Milwaukee,+Wisconsin&msa=0&msid=108659089122757762150.000478ed33343e7b820c0&ll=-7.013668,-101.25&spn=178.025075,360&iwloc=000478f033429f1250cd8 that uses Google maps to show the locations and names of micronations around the world.

Also included is a booklist and links to organizations that study the concept of these independent places. This includes organizations such as the Unrecognised States Numismatic Society (http://www.usns.info/), a society for collectors of coins and currency of micronations.

To be fair, this website also discusses coins from entities that are from exiled governments, secessionist states, and rebel groups in the world. In addition, fictional states and places are also noted. This site is useful for writers and people with creative imaginations.

There are references to serious topics, including the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) (http://www.unpo.org/), which is a group to raise awareness for ethnic and other groups that are dispersed within countries (e.g., Crimean Tatars).

How to Start Your Own Micronation

http://micronations.webs.com/

Of course I would be neglecting my duties as an information provider if I did not show you this website. Everything you need to know to start your own “independent” nation is available here.

This is written by the president of one of the micronations, so he is an expert in his field, if not just inside his mind.

Finally, if you want to see why any of this matters, here are several articles about how micronations relate to the real world. Read: “The World’s Most Notorious Micronation Has the Secret to Protecting Your Data from the NSA” http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/08/seal-and-havenco-data-haven-pirate and “The people who create their own ‘countries’” http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/27/travel/micronations/.
Maps Are Worth a Thousand Words

Tourist Draws Map on Letter Instead of Address: Iceland Delivers


This is not only a testament to the creativity of individuals; it is also a statement of the dedication of postal workers. See how they took a joke and proved their worth.

Websites

Basic Plan of the Milky Way

http://galaxymap.org/drupal/node/171

The Milky Way Galaxy is our home. It is also home to millions of stars (and probable planetary systems). Visualizing the Milky Way as it really exists is difficult without some interpretation and this website includes maps of the galaxy that will assist in better understanding the system.

The Galaxy Map http://galaxymap.org/drupal/ website provides the latest data and maps of the Milky Way. There are images that combine visual and invisible elements to give a closer description of the galaxy.

Normally, we cannot see much of the material of the galaxy. The maps here give a better view of the Milky Way and allow for better understanding by viewers. The site features a series of maps of the galaxy from a number of sources. Several examples are:

Galaxy 3-D http://www.3dgalaxymap.com/#/GalaxyMap a 3-dimensional view of the Milky Way. You can enter coordinates for any sector of the sky to see a 3-D table of the galaxy from that point. The table can be rotated 360 degrees by dragging and the view downloaded.

There is the ability to search the database to locate specific stars, planets, and star systems. Galaxy Map also has a mobile application.

Two featured resources on Galaxy Map are:

**Our Galactic Region** [http://galaxymap.org/drupal/node/1](http://galaxymap.org/drupal/node/1), a booklet on the Milky Way.

**Milky Way Explorer** [http://galaxymap.org/mwe/mwe.php](http://galaxymap.org/mwe/mwe.php), an interactive image of the galaxy that offers many features. The Explorer lets you view the galaxy with different filters, such as infrared, X-ray, radio frequency, and others. You can zoom, pan, and switch views with a menu and buttons. As you move the cursor, the coordinates are displayed.

The materials presented are from basic to more complex and will suit studies by high school through adult learner. Links to further materials will assist college level students.

**360 Degree Tourist**


My background prior to librarianship was in art, photography, and visual arts. I am still involved with this and have a deep interest in the visual world. Panorama photography has always been a favorite and this website is a festival of 360 degree photos.

It is a database of panorama photographs designed to provide a wide range of works from all over the world. You can search by type of feature and place. A list appears showing available images for that place with thumbnails and a brief description.

A Google map shows the region with pins for available photos as well.

Select a photo and view it by scrolling around. You can go full-screen for a larger view or select from a series of view types, such as “fisheye” “perspective” or “architectural” view. Each changes the viewpoint and field of view, though the names are not necessarily descriptive of what each does. The most distinctive is the “Little Planet View” that allows you to wrap the horizon around a circle or an inverted circle (try it to see what this means).

There are options for using Virtual Reality glasses (though I don’t have any so can’t really test it). Breadcrumb link trails allow you to go to larger regions to see what other panoramas are nearby. In a few images, a soundtrack was included, though this was more annoying than functional.

The site has an underlying feature, mainly to show you local points of interest or commercial appeal, such as restaurants and stores. But this can be ignored as it does not affect the use of the viewer. A secondary map can be brought up that allows you to see a local region and switch to nearby panoramas.

This website is useful for taking virtual tours of landmarks and places around the world without having to go there. The images are good and easy to move around in. The Krpano software that powers the panoramas is available to try or buy.

It is a good site to visit if you are a photographer, artist, traveler, or a geographer or anthropologist. There are a few ideas I got for utility of this and it does have application for presenting photographs for tours and for demonstrations needing panoramic imagery.

Take a look, if for no other reason than to enjoy the wonders of the world.
Paleogeography and Geologic Evolution of North America
http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/rcb7/nam.html

This website provides maps that show the paleogeography of North America over the last 550 million years of geologic history. The maps are a selection of 40 out of approximately 100 maps that are roughly 5-10 million years apart. This allows the viewer to see the changes while maintaining context with familiar land details.

The work was completed by a geology professor using data and descriptions from geologic references to create “satellite views” of North America. He has since gone on to develop a commercial website with these and other maps showing paleogeography of the world (see entry below).

The focus is on North America and the maps were prepared with the core of North America (Laurentia) fixed. This shows all other tectonic elements moving about this fixed element to better show North America’s geologic history.

These maps have modern borders of states and countries to allow the user to get a feel for where things were in relation to the present. The maps have some general coloring to represent flora characteristics of the period being displayed.

This website is well organized, and will be useful to someone studying North American prehistory. The images would be easily understood by grade school through adult learner and would be helpful for high school and college research projects.

Deep Time Maps Paleogeography
https://deeptimemaps.com/

Expertise in geology over a career in academia has led Dr. Ronald Blakey, professor Emeritus of Northern Arizona University to form his own company specializing in maps showing the evolution of Earth’s tectonics through almost 600 million years.

The maps follow the same theme and design as the paleogeography maps described above but cover the world and various portions of it.

The site is designed so that education users can use the maps without charge (subject to licensing). It provides good, uniform visualizations of the changing face of the Earth. The maps can be readily understood and make great examples that can be used for display or publication, dependent on the type of use (non-profit or profit).

Small sample images can be viewed, showing reasonable detail for student use. As in the previous review, this site will find use by grade school through adult learner and offers good visualizations that can be applied to publications and other works.
Atlases, Maps, and Data

European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC)

http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

“The European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC) is the thematic center for soil-related data in Europe. Its ambition is to be the single reference point for and to host all relevant soil data and information at European level. It contains a number of resources that are organized and presented in various ways: datasets, services/applications, maps, documents, events, projects and external links.”—Home page

This is a consolidated site for finding and acquiring data on soils, predominantly in Europe. Included are maps, atlases maps, documents, technical reports, articles, and other data that are made available for free use. The topic is well-covered. The pages that are most relevant to maps and GIS are described below.

Maps and Atlases from the European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC), European Commission


The European Soil Centre produces a number of documents on soils. These are available for download from their website. The Maps and Documents page includes:


This section contains a series of publications on soils in Europe, Africa, the Northern Circumpolar Region, and Latin America. There are also soil biodiversity and other atlases. These may be downloaded for free, or you may purchase a print copy.

Includes European country soil maps (more than 5,400), maps from the European Soil Database, and Soil Data Maps that cover soil erosion, topsoil chemistry, landslide, and other types of data.

![SOIL GEOGRAPHICAL DATABASE OF EURASIA](image)


This includes papers and publications relating to various aspects of soils in Europe and research on soils. Much of these include maps and spatial data.

Datasets

Also available are Datasets, [http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/resource-type/datasets](http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/resource-type/datasets), which contain a variety of data on soils and soil-related activities and actions. The data is freely available for use, including for commercial applications.

The ESDAC website offers much to researchers and to those involved with environmental sciences. This site will be useful for graduate level college researchers and for professionals. Materials may be used freely, with few restrictions.

Conclusion

Enjoy the end of the year and I look forward to visiting you in 2017.–DJB
MAGIRT Sponsors Two Events for Midwinter ALA in Atlanta

Choose to attend one or both events on Friday, January 20, 2017

There are two MAGIRT sponsored events on Friday, January 20, 2017, at ALA Midwinter in Atlanta – Choose to attend one event or both

**MAGIRT sponsored tour of Georgia State University’s Library CURVE – 3pm - 5pm**

Join your fellow MAGIRTers for an informative tour at the Georgia State University Library. The tour will start with the Collaborative University Research & Visualization Environment (CURVE) project and take us back in time with a peek at their digital and paper cartographic collection. Recent cartographic projects at GSU include the Planning Atlanta digital collection, the MARTA Collection, Works Progress Administration of Georgia Atlanta Maps, and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Maps Collection. You’ll also learn more about the joint GSU/Emory spatial story-telling platform, ATLmaps. The tour will run from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 20, 2017. Transportation to and from GSU is on your own.

Betwixt the tour and dinner is the opportunity to take the scenic route. Not only do you have the option to take a taxi or an Uber, for the more adventurous, there’s also the Atlanta Streetcar which can take you by the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial on your way to MAGIRT’s social event for the cartographically inclined.

**MAGIRT BBQ – 6pm - 8pm**

On Friday evening, plan to meet up with your fellow MAGIRTers for tasty barbecue on Friday, January 20, 2017. Plan to join the camaraderie between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. at G.C. BBQ (that’s short for Grand Champion BBQ) at the Krog Street Market in Atlanta, a new and upscale venue of dining and retail establishments. The address: KROG STREET MARKET, 99 Krog Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30307.

Transportation is on your own, as is the cost of your dinner. Public transportation options abound in Atlanta.
THANKS FOR COMING TO MAPS & GIS FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP! DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES THAT SHOW INDIVIDUAL HOUSES AND OTHER BUILDINGS?

YIKES! WHAT’S GOING ON HERE?!!?

REMEMBER TELLING THAT 2ND GRADE CLASS THAT OUR TOPOS SHOWED INDIVIDUAL HOUSES? WELL NOW THEY ALL WANT TO SEND SANTA CLAUS A MAP TO THEIR HOUSE!