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

Volume 38, Number 2
April 2017
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.

Editor: John A. Olson
Government and Geo-Information Librarian
Syracuse University
Tel: 315-443-4818 E-mail: jaoolson@syr.edu

Distribution Manager: Sandy Schiefer
Government Documents and Political Science Librarian
University of Missouri, Columbia
Tel: 573-884-8123, E-mail: SchieferS@missouri.edu

Cataloging Editor: Tammy T. Wong
Cartographic Materials Cataloger
Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress
Tel: 202/707-6735 E-mail: twom@loc.gov

Electronic Mapping Editor: Carol McAuliffe
Map Librarian
Map & Imagery Library, University of Florida
Tel: 352/273-2828 E-mail: carolmc@uflib.ufl.edu

New Maps and Books Editor: David J. Bertuca
Map Librarian, Science & Engineering Information Center
University at Buffalo
Tel: 716/645-1332 E-mail: dbertuca@buffalo.edu

Membership and Marketing Committee Chairperson: Andrew Battista
Librarian for Geospatial Information Systems
New York University
Tel: 212/992-7312 E-mail: ab6137@nyu.edu

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 (.AI, .PDF 300 dpi or better) or word processing file (Times New Roman 12 point) 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.

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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MAGIRT OFFICERS:

Chairperson:
Louise Ratliff
Social Sciences and Map Catalog Librarian
UCLA
Phone: 310/206-5853 E-mail: lratliff@library.ucla.edu

Vice-Chairperson (Chair-Elect):
Leslie Wagner
Metadata Archivist
Univ of Texas-Arlington
Tel: 817/272-6209 E-mail: leslie.wagner@uta.edu

Secretary:
Catherine Hodge
Monograph & Cartographic Resources Cataloging Librarian
The University of Iowa
Tel: 319-335-6295 E-mail: catherine-hodge@uiowa.edu

Treasurer:
Susan Moore
Cataloging/Metadata Unit Coordinator
University of Northern Iowa
Tel: 319/273-3787 E-mail: susan.moore@uni.edu

Assistant Treasurer:
Maggie M. Long
Special Collections Cataloger
Wesleyan University
Tel: E-mail: longmml88@gmail.com

Past Chairperson:
Elizabeth Cox
Coordinator of Cataloging and Metadata
Southern Illinois University
Tel: 618/453-5504 E-mail: bcox@lib.siu.edu

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Published by the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table
Spring is one of the busiest times of the year, and MAGIRT has been full of activity lately. I am happy to say that two webinars were conducted since the previous issue of *baseline* was published. Our two presenters were from the US Forest Service Research Data Archive, and the USDA Forest Service. We learned about how the Archive publishes data, and about how the Forest Service uses geospatial technologies. Complete information and recordings are available on the MAGIRT LibGuide: [http://bit.ly/19t3ncj](http://bit.ly/19t3ncj) Hearty thanks go to Anne Zald and the Education Committee.

Before I overflow my word count, I want to highlight some special upcoming ALA Annual events: Friday field trip and Honors Award Dinner hosted by MAGIRT, Mapping the Generations programs on Saturday afternoon, Membership and Executive Board meeting on Sunday afternoon. The conference schedule can be found elsewhere in this issue; details will be emailed as they become available.

The Core Competencies Task Force led by Maggie Long is on schedule to produce an updated edition of our 2008 Map, GIS and Cataloging /Metadata Librarian Core Competencies. Look for the unveiling of a draft document at ALA Annual and find out how much our world has changed in the past eight years. You may be surprised, or not!

Speaking of committees, there will be a joint meeting of the Education and Membership & Marketing Committees at ALA Annual, led by Anne Zald, and Andrew Battista or Colleen Conner. Please attend and share ideas and strategies for outreach, continuing education, and new member recruitment. Keeping the MAGIRT name visible is more important now than ever in these competitive times.

I especially encourage ALA Annual Conference attendees to join us at the Membership and Executive Board meeting on Sunday afternoon. We want to welcome and recognize all of our talented members. Come pitch your ideas for future MAGIRT programs and activities. Come for the camaraderie; come for the swag!

By the time you read this, ALA elections will have concluded; they will be announced Wednesday, April 12th. If you want to review the MAGIRT candidates’ information, the LibGuide can keep you in the loop: [http://bit.ly/2oNzs9z](http://bit.ly/2oNzs9z). ( Hopefully you won’t find it too dizzying!)

As long as you’re looking at the LibGuide, please do explore it. Some of the information needs to be brought up to date, and if you are interested in editing or contributing, please contact Mike Smith, chair of the Online Presence Oversight Committee. We are always in need of more expert minds and fingers, and you don’t even need to leave your office to participate! [http://bit.ly/2nTsVGW](http://bit.ly/2nTsVGW)

During the next couple of months I will be working with other MAGIRT leaders to seek out new committee members and discussion/interest group leaders to move us forward next year under incoming chair Leslie Wagner. If you just might be interested, join one of the meetings at Annual and check us out. We’re a very friendly group, and are always happy to see new faces. Really. No kidding. Check us out. We’re map geeks for goodness’ sake!

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago (ppl; 41°51’00"N 087°39’00"W) in June. Until then, happy mapping!
Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic) (DCRM(C))

ALA Preconference Workshop

Co-sponsored by MAGIRT and RBMS

Date: Friday, June 23, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: To be announced, Chicago, Illinois

Instructors:
Todd Fell, Yale University
Nancy Kandoian, New York Public Library
Manon Théroux, Library of Congress

Cost: $150.00 (includes a printed copy of DCRM(C))

Follow the link for Registration at:
https://2017.alaannual.org/ticketed-events#MAGIRT

Space is limited!
Library of Congress BIBFRAME 2.0 Components Available

The Library of Congress is making available for public use the following BIBFRAME 2.0 components. They are the result of work the Library is carrying out for a new pilot for the input of BIBFRAME 2.0 data. To create the environment for that pilot, the Library is converting the whole Library of Congress bibliographic file to BIBFRAME (Model and Vocabulary). This means developing BIBFRAME Work and Instance descriptions from the MARC bibliographic records, bringing together and linking Work and Instance descriptions, and integrating them with Work descriptions converted from title and name/title MARC authority records. This development has resulted in the following BIBFRAME 2.0 components and tools that we now share with the community for others to carry out development and investigations of the linked data environment using the BIBFRAME 2.0 Vocabulary.

BIBFRAME 2.0 Vocabulary Update

In the MARC to BIBFRAME conversion specifications it was occasionally necessary to make extensions or adjustments to the BIBFRAME 2.0 Vocabulary to accommodate data in MARC and there were also suggestions from users that needed to be accommodated. These additions, changes, or deletions are noted in the new Vocabulary that is now available at http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/docs/. The previous version of the Vocabulary is archived at https://github.com/lcnet-dev/bibframe-ontology.

In addition, several other elements were identified and made into a Library of Congress extension of BIBFRAME until they could be tested to see if they were needed. They are in the namespace bflc: and are viewable at http://id.loc.gov/ontologies/bflc.html and accessible at http://id.loc.gov/ontologies/bflc.rdf. An additional 20 very local properties needed in the pilot merge and match operations for the current and ongoing conversions as MARC records flow into the Library’s BIBFRAME system are also in the bflc: namespace.

MARC to BIBFRAME 2.0 Specifications

The specifications are written by the Library’s Network Development and MARC Standards Office from the perspective of MARC so that each element in MARC would at least be considered, even if not converted. The specifications are Excel files accompanied by a few explanatory specifications in Word.

If there is little of no use of an element in the Library of Congress records the specifications usually say “nac” (no attempt to convert) in the conversion column. Some elements in a MARC record are not relevant outside the MARC environment so they are simply marked “ignore.”
A shorthand is used for the specification of the conversion from MARC to BIBFRAME RDF. The shorthand uses W for Work, I for Instance, but Item for Item. The specifications use the vocabularies that are in id.loc.gov in a number of cases, especially for names, subjects, genre, and 007 and 008 data.

The specifications also use properties with strings for data that will serve as keys to be used when trying to match and merge data to conform to the BIBFRAME Work and Instance models and to identify labels and RWOs in the MADS name and subject files. These local elements (mentioned above as bflc: namespace properties) are included in the conversion of names and titles. The Library of Congress will be using these elements through multiple conversions until we are satisfied with the file conversion. These “helper” local elements will be eliminated from the RDF when the merge and match is complete unless we see a need to keep certain ones for data that will continue to come into our BIBFRAME environment from MARC.

Note that these specifications will be changed as needed as we develop the system for the BIBFRAME 2.0 pilot. Revisions to specifications will be marked and the file name and the title on the document will indicate a revision (e.g., R1, R2, R3, …).

**MARC to BIBFRAME Conversion Programs**

The programs for converting the MARC data to BIBFRAME were written for the Library of Congress by Index Data. They are written in XSLT and are available for download on the Library of Congress Github site at [https://github.com/lcnetdev/marc2bibframe2](https://github.com/lcnetdev/marc2bibframe2). MARC to BIBFRAME comparison viewer” is also accessible from [http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/](http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/). One could use this “side-by-side” compare tool for MARC to BIBFRAME conversion that makes a conversion of a record from the Library of Congress database (using LCCN or recordID(001)).

The Library is currently working with these conversions in development of the pilot project and we expect that they will be adjusted as work progresses.

A description of the conversion programs and their use with Index Data’s Metaproxy and YAZ tools are found in a ReadMe file at the site.

**BIBFRAME 2.0 Tools**

The conversion tool enable viewing converted BIBFRAME descriptions. The Library of Congress uses Index Data’s Metaproxy tool with its Voyager OPAC system to enable searching using Z39.50 or SRU, and the search results may be obtained in MARC, MODS, and soon BF2.0. Other tools will be announced as they become available.
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The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held its first meeting of the year in Washington, D.C. on March 21-22, 2017. 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 are available on the NGAC website.

The NGAC welcomed back seven returning members for a second three-year term and seven new members also appointed for three years. The returning members are:

- Ms. Julie Sweetkind-Singer, Stanford University (Chair)
- Mr. Keith Masback, U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (Vice-Chair)
- Ms. Patricia Cummens, ESRI
- Mr. Kevin Pomfret, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy
- Major General William N. Reddel III, New Hampshire National Guard
- Dr. Harvey Thorleifson, Minnesota Geological Survey
- Mr. Jason Warzinik, Boone County, Missouri

The new members include:

- Mr. Gar Clarke, State of New Mexico
- Mr. Garet Couch, National Tribal GIS Center
- Mr. Stuart Davis, State of Ohio
- Ms. Roberta Lenczowski, Roberta E. Lenczowski Consulting, LLC
- Mr. Cy Smith, State of Oregon
- Ms. Rebecca Somers, Somers-St. Claire GIS Consultants
- Ms. Jennie Stapp, State of Minnesota

The focus of the NGAC meeting was to bring the new and returning members up to speed on geospatial developments in the Federal sphere. The group was briefed by Ivan DeLoatch, the Executive Director of the FGDC, on their recent activities including an update on the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Framework.

A number of geospatial programs were highlighted throughout the proceedings. Steve Lewis (Department of Transportation) and Tim Trainor (U.S. Census Bureau) discussed the recent developments in the National Address Database (NAD). The project continues to move forward with the establishment of an address subcommittee, the development of a theme definition, and the gathering and refinement of NAD user requirements. The subcommittee includes 16 Federal agencies and more than 25 non-Federal partners. The
NAD pilot was launched in October 2015 funded by the Department of Transportation. The pilot and a workshop helped establish metadata and functional requirements for the NAD. States continue to sign onto the project, which is growing slowly due to lack of stable funding for development and support.

Mike Tischler, Director of the National Geospatial Program for the United States Geological Survey (USGS), presented an overview of the National Geospatial Program. He specifically focused on mapping in the 21st Century. He briefed the group on the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), which applies LiDAR technology to map the bare earth. LiDAR data is used for such purposes as flood risk management, infrastructure and construction management, and natural resources conservation. It is essential to powering the future by calculating wind potential, routing transmission lines, and determining solar potential. There are currently 33 projects in 25 states to collect LiDAR data across the country. Mr. Tischler then explained the status of the USGS Alaska Mapping Initiative. On average the topographic maps of Alaska are more than 50 years old. These maps are currently being updated with 33% of the state being newly mapped at the end of 2016. Finally, he focused on the foundational hydrography datasets including the National Hydrography Dataset, the Watershed Boundaries Dataset, and the National Hydrography Dataset Plus. The NHDPlus adds elevation data to enable estimates of flow volume and velocity and allows for the linking of all types of water related data.

Mike Donnelly (Department of Homeland Security) and Michael Piscotti (National Geospatial Agency) discussed the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) project, “A federal partnership and governance structure delivering mission critical geospatial data required to protect and defend the homeland.” They announced that there is now an open data portal, HIFLD Open Data, containing or pointing to geospatial data that is in the public domain. Datasets included relate to borders, public health, national flood hazards, mining, and many more.

Two subcommittees reported on their progress, Standards Coordination and the Landsat Advisory Group (LAG). The NGAC provisionally adopted the Standards Subcommittee paper entitled, “Geospatial Standards: A National Asset.” The paper, to be published on the NGAC website when finalized, explains who develops geospatial and related standards, barriers to utilization, and recommendations to the FGDC. Pete Doucette, the Associate Program Coordinator for the Land Remote Sensing Program gave a status update noting that they were working on Landsat-Sentinel 2 harmonization and continuing to work on the development and deployment of both Landsat 9 (target launch in late 2020) and Landsat 10 (estimated launch mid-2020s). He also stated that Sentinel 2-b successfully launched on March 7, 2017. The LAG is currently working on two documents for the USGS. The first researching the pros and cons of existing small satellite technology juxtaposed with Landsat 8 and 9. The second is to study the feasibility and utility of implementing temporal data cubes to support projection or “forecast” models of land change trends. Both of these papers should be completed by the June meeting.
Members presented lightning talks on the US geological mapping strategic plan, moving beyond open data to power policy initiatives, and the use of RFID and GNSS for underground asset management.

The next NGAC meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. on June 13-14, 2017.

Julie Sweetkind-Singer
Assistant Director of Geospatial and Cartographic Services
Head of the Branner Earth Sciences Library & Map Collections

Posted in Stanford Libraries Blog
April 5, 2017
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, June 23, 2017</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Field Trip and Honors Award Dinner TBA)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am – 1:00pm</td>
<td>Pre-Conference: Applying 'Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic)</td>
<td>Ticketed Event, TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon TBD</td>
<td>Field Trip</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-</td>
<td>Honors Award Dinner</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, June 24, 2017</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Education Committee (MAGIRT)--joint meeting--Contact: Anne Zald</td>
<td>Same as M&amp;M</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Membership &amp; Marketing Committee (MAGIRT)--joint meeting--Contacts: Andrew Battista, Colleen Conner</td>
<td>Same as Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>Map Collection Management Discussion Group Contact: Carole McAuliffe</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Program: Mapping the Generations</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>Program: How to Put Your Family History on the Map</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, June 25, 2017</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am – 10:00am</td>
<td>Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group (MAGIRT/ALCTS/CaMMS) Contact: Iris Taylor</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am – 11:30am</td>
<td>Cataloging &amp; Classification Committee (MAGIRT) Contact: Iris Taylor</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am – 11:30am</td>
<td>Geographic Technologies (GeoTech) Committee and GIS Discussion Group (MAGIRT, GODORT) Contacts: Nicole Kong, Joy Suh</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm – 2:30pm</td>
<td>Membership Meeting &amp; Executive Board I (MAGIRT) Contact: Louise Ratliff</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>Membership Meeting &amp; Executive Board II (MAGIRT) Contact: Louise Ratliff</td>
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As the chair, I planned, coordinated, and facilitated the ALCTS-CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group meeting at ALA Midwinter in Atlanta, Georgia on Sunday, January 22, 2017, 8:30-10:00 AM at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC), Room B214 with 21 attendees.

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.

The following topics were discussed:

Nancy Kandoian asked the question, “What MARC linking fields (76x-78x) are you using in your library’s bibliographic records for cartographic materials when linking items to map records”. LC catalogers are in the process of updating Chapter 8, Reproductions in the Cartographic Resources Manual and were asking for input from the audience. Nancy suggested that she has created bibliographic records using the following MARC linking field below:

- Using the 787 (other relationship entry) when item is not physically attached to the publication
- Using the 773 (host item entry) if item is still attached to piece (In Analytic)
- Facsimile use the 775 (other edition entry)

Nancy suggested to Susan Moore to add “most commonly used linking fields” to the RDA document, Guidelines for Cataloging Cartographic Resources Using RDA. Include examples of the linking field usage.

LC uses the 500 unstructured note field and/or the structured fields of 533 (reproduction note), 534 (original version note), 773 (host) or field 774 (constituent unit) linking fields to explain the story of the circumstance and the importance of the issuance when to use one or the other or both fields.

Tim Kiser reported that when cataloging maps that have been removed from the Serial Set, he uses a 773 link to the Serial Set and the Congressional Document title in which the map was originally published.

If you are unsure of the host resource, you can use the 500 note field. Or you can use 777 “contained in (work)” with author/title; or contained in (expression); or entirely leave out the relationship designation phrase; or make up your own!

Jay Weitz suggested looking at the PCC training guidelines on the use of relationship designators. In RDA the list is listed in an Appendix, which lists various phrases you can use.
with $i. “Contained with” or “contained in” isn’t the only designator you can use in “$i” or you can drop the field all together.

Susan Moore asked people to give her examples to put in the Best Practices for Cataloging Cartographic Resources Using RDA document to be posted online. It will be a living document, things are going to change.

Nancy Kandoian also discussed Facsimiles and the use of the 775 linking field for the original entry.

Facsimile was defined as the photo reproduction of the actual item, exactly like the original; made on same paper or a copy. Nancy had an example of maps, which were re-drawn; however they were manuscript in nature. Wangyal suggested that those maps would be considered manuscripts in a general discussion on reprints.

Nancy Kandoian discussed Harmonization of the Descriptive Cataloging Rare Materials – Cartographic (DCRM(C)) with RDA. She mentioned that the Rare Books and Manuscript section (RBMS) Task Force is going through the DCRMs to determine policy statements regarding RDA and content changes. There are two issues facing maps. 1) Proposing a new phrase “Scale not determined” to use with rare materials when there is a scale but you can’t calculate a representative fraction for some reason. Nancy suggested RDA and the DCRMC need to speak with one voice on this issue. Also the “scale not given” statement you can compare with a map known scale and give a scale.

Susan said once you have calculated the scale, you have a scale statement. Nancy, but for rare materials, you need to say what the scale is based on. Your note would say that you calculated the scale based on whatever you used. Scale not determined could mean you can’t read what is on the facsimile. The facsimile could have been reduced or enlarged.

Susan talked about the old phrase “scale indeterminable.”

Issues concerning coordinates in a polygon were revisited as a part of the general discussion. Coordinates are a series of points for a polygon and which is not a rectangle regarding bounding boxes. The question was about whether or not to state the standard for coordinates in a polygon when giving the coordinate pairs in clockwise or counter clockwise order and/or whether to describe the “included area” or the “excluded area.” The RDA proposal is that you can do it either way, first describe the included area first, then the excluded area. However, Marc McGee, stated that a machine can figure this out based on the points given for the polygon. So RDA should allow both, as the easiest solution.

Marc McGee, segued into the discussion on a recap of the Linked Data for Libraries Cartographic Materials Working Group (LD4P-C) is reviewing some of the same items. Some other questions for the LD4P-C group are: how far do we go with the project; what value lists do we use; and is this an accurate reflection of scale or an approximate one? BIBFRAME has only one property for scale right now.
Marc McGee, updated the group on the LD4P cartographic project by giving a basic overview. See his report below.

Lastly, Susan Moore, MAGIRT liaison to the Marc Advisory Committee, who received an email from the Canadian Committee on Metadata Exchange, discussed whether or not to add “not applicable” to the 007 field, position “4” for physical medium for maps and to handle digital maps. The current term used is “other” or “no attempt to code.” Additionally, it was asked whether we used “not applicable” for other production/reproduction values.

This would be a “fast track” proposal for a MARC change and would not require a Proposal and Discussion paper. Jay Weitz suggested that there is a lot of inconsistency with these coded values in MARC. He suggested that the MARC Advisory Committee review the 007 fields overall to see where “not applicable” would apply in all cases.

General discussion of how long MARC will continue. Meeting adjourned. Marc McGee’s report:

Linked Data for Libraries Cartographic Materials project update
https://wiki.harvard.edu/confluence/display/LibraryStaffDoc/Cartographic+Materials+LD4P

Marc McGee, Geospatial Metadata Librarian, reporting:

• Harvard is coordinating a subproject of the Linked Data for Libraries (LD4L) project https://www.ld4l.org/ to explore how to natively create linked open data descriptions for library cartographic resources, including maps, atlases, and geospatial datasets
• A Cartographic Materials Working Group was formed in April 2016, consisting of volunteer members from the community including: LC Geography and Map Division team members (Min Zhang, Iris Taylos, Seanna Tsung, and Tammy Wong), Louise Ratliff (UCLA), Kathy Weimer (Rice), and Kim Durante (Stanford); Marc McGee at Harvard is Coordinating the sub-project and staff members at Harvard including Steven Folsom, Christine Eslao and Craig Thomas are contributing ontology expertise.
• Group started by building target use cases for cartographic resources
  ◦ 11 working use cases for researchers, students, librarians
• Authoring discussion papers & modeling patterns for cartographic & geospatial resource linked data concepts
  ◦ Start with BIBFRAME 2.0, evaluate effectiveness/comprehensiveness and extend and supplement with other linked data ontologies as needed
  ◦ Harvard hosted Geo-Ontology Sprint in Sept. for Cartographic Materials Working Group members, members drafted and discussion papers around concepts of interest to the cartographic community
  ◦ Aligning with the project Use Cases, the group prioritized concepts for modeling work:
• Types of cartographic resources
• Relief [e.g. no existing BIBFRAME property]
• Scale
• Spatial referencing system
• Bounding coordinates
• Relationships to places
  ◦ Working Group goal to complete priority ontology extension modeling recommendations by early February 2017 to then be shared with LD4L-Ontology group
  ◦ Working Group will identify and document areas of ontology development that will be beyond scope of current project and require future development
  ◦ Communicate and share output with the community
• Harvard will be building on Cornell’s VitroLib tool https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/ld4ILABS/The+VitroLib+Metadata+Editor, a linked data and ontology editing tool, to incorporate domain extension work. Building custom forms to help with creation of linked data using the custom cartographic ontology.
  ◦ VitroLib for cartographic material editing aiming for July 1, 2017 launch

The Linked Data for Libraries Labs project will also be exploring data discovery and visualization tools, as well as a method for sharing the created linked data descriptions

Questions for the Cataloging Interest Group:
• What is the best way to share modeling ideas with the group for feedback?
• Determining sustainable maintenance of the work… if the output ontology is deemed useful by the community, what is the best home for it to be hosted, maintained and further developed?

Respectively submitted by,

Iris Taylor, Chair, ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group: http://www.ala.org/alcts/mgrps/camms/grps/ats-csddgmap
ALA Connect Community: http://connect.ala.org/node/64377
Senior Cataloging Specialist, Library of Congress: itaylor@loc.gov
Twitter: #magirtcatIG
SimplyMap has all the data you need to answer key research questions, make sound business decisions, and understand the socio-demographic and economic conditions of any geographic area in the United States or Canada. **Explore SimplyMap today!**

**Mapping the Generations : Visualizing Family History with Maps**
Cosponsored by MAGIRT and RUSA – 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, IL
Saturday afternoon, June 24, 2017 - See final ALA schedule for location

**Part I. 1:00pm – 2:30pm**
Mapping the Generations: Visualizing Family History with Maps

- **Discovering the past by address: Family history where your ancestors lived** Rebecca Lowery, Reference Librarian in Genealogy and Local History at Newberry Library, Chicago, IL
- **Genealogy and Maps: Digital Initiatives at New York Public Library** Philip Sutton, Librarian at New York Public Library
- **Mapping Your Way through Your Family History** Jen Baldwin, Data Acquisition Manager, North America at Findmypast

**Part II. 3:00 - 4:00pm**
Tutorial: How to Georeference and use a Historic Map

- **Georeferencing Historical Maps: A Tutorial** Ryan Mattke, Map and Geospatial Information Librarian at University of Minnesota

For more information go to [https://magirt.github.io/ALA2017/](https://magirt.github.io/ALA2017/)
“Folk like to pretend they know everything about the world. Rich folk especially. Maps are great for that. [...] You don’t have blanks on your map, so the folks who draw them shade in a piece and write, ‘The Eld.’ You might as well burn a hole right through the map for what good that does.”-- Patrick Rothfuss, The Wise Man’s Fear.

So many new publications and discoveries have appeared that it is hard to select the ones I want to feature. Someday I will figure a way to publish the reviews that I prepare but don’t include here. In the meantime, enjoy the following items. In this issue, I have selected things from the tangible, “real” world, and some things from the rest of it. All are worthy of your time and may answer questions that you or your users have.

Is it “the earth” or Earth?

When writing about the earth, I wavered between capitalizing and non-capitals to describe our home. This question has gone through my mind, as I expect it has with many others in the past. But what is the correct spelling supposed to be?

It turns out that I am not alone. A recent article in GSA Today offers a brief discussion of this very thing. The writer looks at it mostly from a scientist’s viewpoint, but also from a philosophical one.

The earth is, as the author points out, not the name of a god or being; it is not a proper name. Earth was named before people thought of it as a planet. All the planets have proper names, such as Venus or Saturn. But the Greek and Roman names, Gaia and Terra were not used to describe earth as a name. They were implied in terms about earth (e.g., Terrestrial).

It is in the philosophical argument that the author chooses “the earth” over just “Earth.” This wording gives us ownership and responsibility over the place we call home. It isn’t just another planet; the earth is where we live and where we have spent countless generations trying to understand the Universe.

Get a copy of the journal and read the brief article: “Is it ‘the earth’ or Earth?” GSA Today 17:3/4 (Mar./Apr. 2017): 19. The article is also online: http://geosociety.org/gsatoday/archive/27/3/flip/i1052-5173-27-3-4/#p=19
The Eighth Continent


My colleagues seem to think that if I am working with geography, that I am also able to work with geology. I keep reminding them that the two are not the same thing. Though they are related, the two studies have completely different areas of interest.

Since my clientele however covers a broader spectrum, including geologists, I keep up with geological research when possible, and it is there that I often find materials that would be of interest to my geography users.

A recent article discusses a geologic topic that would also show up on a geographer’s table. Geologists have been examining samples and data that show that a large submerged portion of earth’s surface has been lying beneath the waves surrounding New Zealand. This continent was once part of Gondwana, the prehistoric land mass before the plates began to diverge. The topic has caught the attention of more than geologists (see: “Earth Apparently Has 8 Continents Now, Because Everything You Know Is a Lie” *Observer* (Feb. 16, 2017) [http://observer.com/2017/02/zealandia-new-continent/](http://observer.com/2017/02/zealandia-new-continent/).

Zealandia is a continental crust area less than half the size of Australia that lies in the Pacific. The world is divided into two types of crust: continental and oceanic. Zealandia is of the former making it, technically, land in nature. It is not a continent in the sense that it is dry land, though someday it may be again. To a geologist, it once was above the surface and therefore is considered from that perspective.

This *GSA Today* article provides a discussion on the continent, with maps and a good description of the geology of the region, which includes New Zealand, a place that doesn’t seem to fit into any other landscape types.

For geologists, this is an important feature to study because of its historic record. This article is a good starting point on current research. For geographers, it is also of value and worth examining to raise awareness. There is an extensive list of references that will be a gold mine for study.
The Japanese people have a fascination with maps and cartographic materials. Their interest is not only in studying and using maps, but also in making maps. This is a country where surveyors and cartographers are a bit like rock stars. People value maps for their aesthetics and their utility. Cartography in Japan is an ancient art; however, the author points out that until a few hundred years ago, maps were not commonplace. The history of maps in Japan and the Far East is one of access restricted to government and military leaders, plus a small elite class of nobles.

This book discusses the period from the sixteenth century to the present; the period when map making became more common to when it became ubiquitous. Chapters and sections are written by experts in the field who describe a wide variety of aspects of Japanese cartography.

Illustrations are almost all in color, including prints and facsimiles of maps from the period being discussed. The layout and organization of the work is clear and concise. Examples shown provide a wonderful mix of the diverse cartography of the country and show the creative nature of mapping. One example that I find interesting is titled “Complete Portrayal of the True Features of Mount Fuji.” A woodblock print, made in 1848, is a flat map showing Fujiyama and environs, but when folded as instructed by the legend, the map is a representation of the mountain with its crater (see pages 98-101).

The illustrations are not large but the reproduction is good so that the maps may be studied easily. The text is written on a level that would be good for college level students and appeals to art, art history, cartographic history, and related fields. Many of the articles would also interest anthropologists. This is a worthy addition to any collection.
of all aspects of the census. The maps are represented using cartograms, which show regional populations by proportion, rather than by true scale.

Included discussions are shown by the table of contents: Sex, Age and Marriage -- Religion and Ethnicity -- Birthplace and Nationality -- Qualifications and Employment -- Occupation and Industry -- Families, Caring and Health -- Homes and Commuting.

The data and text describe the contemporary situation and offer reasons for changes in population by the various characteristics. Chapters are color-coded making it easy to follow each theme. An appendix analyzes data to show districts ranked by levels of wealth and poverty. The chapters and appendix offer a rounded view of contemporary statistics of United Kingdom population and changes that are occurring at this time.

As an extra feature, the authors decided to add pictograms of people in the lower right corner of every page. To appreciate their sense of humor, place your thumb on the lower right corner of the book and then view the pictograms as a “flipbook” bit of art. Entirely useless for serious study, but an interesting inclusion.

The work will be of interest to anyone studying the contemporary United Kingdom, especially vital statistics. It would be readable by high school through adult reader and is an example of how computers and data processing can work to visualize statistical data spatially.


“Charting the great city and its bright centers, its shady edges, its outskirts, its many islands and archipelago identities, its five boroughs, its eight hundred or so languages, its riotous past, glacial eras, brown decades, golden ages, crashes and collapses, its present of ceaseless change...” --t.p.

New York City is a perpetual entity that is always awake and always moving. It is the most diverse place on earth and home to more sights and sounds than almost anywhere else in the human world. *Nonstop Metropolis* is a creation that tries to describe this culture and the infinite activities that make up the metropolitan area, covering a range of topics.

The maps are a combination of scale maps and visualizations of New York that show each topic with annotations.

This atlas is the third and final volume in a “trilogy” that includes San Francisco (*Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas*. 2010. ISBN: 9780520262492) and New Orleans (*Unfathomable City: A*
New Orleans Atlas. 2013. ISBN: 9780520274037). The volumes are designed to “describe the ingredients and systems that make up a city and what stories remain to be told after we think we know where we are.”--p. 1. These cities, the author states, are America’s only cities, based upon the concept that these cities continue to evolve and develop, and that the people have an endless number of stories yet to be told.

The chapters are focused around 26 maps that feature specific themes. Included are such topics as: Map 1. “Singing the city: the New York of dreams,” in which songs and music feature. The map shows a word collage of song titles and performers. The essays in this chapter describe New York relations to songs and musicians and the culture they transformed. These essays are not long or deep; they reflect personal thoughts of the authors in their experiences. Map 6. “Water and power: the reach of the city” discusses New York’s water and energy resources, both local and imported. The map shows where water and power come from (all the way to the Niagara hydroelectric power plants), and the related aspects (e.g., how much water is brought in, how much energy is produced). In this chapter, the history of New York’s consumption habits is described and documented.

Some chapters, such as Map 9. “Archipelago” provides a more abstract view of New York and its relation to islands both near and far. Included in this map, and the accompanying texts, are relationships between Manhattan Island and Cuba, Jamaica, Staten Island, Puerto Rico, Long Island, and various Caribbean islands. Islands, from which New Yorkers came, islands where they live, and islands that they commonly visit. The essays provide background to cultures that make up New York and that add to its unique culture.

Other maps/chapters describe: trash in the city, women and their experience and impact, day and night Manhattan, and other themes. A list of contributors provides background on the authors of essays.

The work is a different type of atlas from the traditional form, yet it provides a good human geography study with unique maps and visualizations. This atlas will appeal to anthropology and human geography students, to writers and poets, to historians, and to anyone interested in urban culture. It could be read by high school through adult learner, with emphasis on college and graduate studies. For New Yorkers, it is a grand exhibit of their city and culture, as well as a popular history of how it got that way.


Early atlases and maps, and even later ones (after cartography became more precise) contained many fictitious or fanciful places. I often thought that many of these maps were more fiction than fact, and wondered why they were produced in the first place (except for aesthetic value).
The Phantom Atlas provides a history and examination of a series of places that were thought to be real, by virtue of being drawn on a map. All of the places in this book were once considered to be factual locations, until proven to be creations.

In this work, the author describes places that sometimes were held to be real, for centuries before exploration proved them to be non-existent (including places that still appeared on maps in the 21st Century). He discusses this durability of false places, whose existence was determined either by artistic license, intentional fraud, or some other factor.

Further, the author explains that many of these cartographic misconceptions were substantial to explorers and navigators because they often spent a great deal of time trying to locate such places.

There are 59 places described in the book; all of them do not exist. Some of these are familiar to us: Hy Brasil, El Dorado, and Atlantis. Others may be less familiar, yet in the past, these were considered places of importance that drove expeditions. Places such as the Mountains of Kong, the Kingdom of Prestor John, or Thule, created legendary stories throughout history.

Each feature is given a chapter of its own. When known, map coordinates are given for the place (as taken from where it was drawn on a map). Facsimile maps with detail enlargements provide a visual reference for the place. The discussion describes the place, as well as its place in history.

Several chapters concern the creatures that were placed onto maps. The chapter “Sea Monsters of the Carta Marina” for example, discusses the inclusions of these creatures, compared to their real or imagined existence.

The book documents each place’s history, the reason for its invention (if applicable), and how the myth of it was destroyed.

This book is fascinating to read. Image quality is good and the text is clear and concise. It would be a good item for any collection and provides materials of interest to many fields of study. Readers of all ages will find something here.

Go to YouTube if you want to see a short video review by the author [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCXnYnZ_CkA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCXnYnZ_CkA).

Do you know where Zheleznogorsk is? How about Varosha or Concrete City?

These are real places that exist, though for various reasons they are unknown or have disappeared from knowledge. The *Atlas of Improbable Places* describes 51 locations on earth that once were (and now defunct), still are (though little known), or that are unusual for various reasons.

The theme of this work is to describe places that are little known by virtue of having been abandoned, or closed off, or that are off the normal paths of travel. Included too are places that are new, as well as places that became obsolete.

Each entry is described with a context map, coordinates, and location. The text gives a brief history of the location and how it came to be. Some of the places that are included have local significance, such as the Island of Dolls in Mexico, where a hermit began nailing up dolls on trees as a tribute to dead children. There are abandoned cities that are left as memorials (e.g., Oradour-sur-Glane) or that were destroyed and never reoccupied (Ani, Kars, Armenia).

Other sites include man-made creations, such as The Palm, in Dubai, where engineers created a visual landscape. Each site has a unique connection to humanity that demonstrates our: persistence against nature (Flevopolder), ambition (Hearst Castle), faith (Ten Commandments Hill), idealism (Auroville), futility (Muynak), superstition (Aokigahara), and a variety of other emotions, ideals, or actions.

In practical terms, this book does not provide deep knowledge for geographer’s use. Nor does it expand on each of the locations beyond explaining their existence and significance. However, it does enlighten us to the diversity of places on earth, the many ways that we have made our mark upon the landscape, and the fact that so much is lost now because we are tied up in what we think, are more important places.
This book would be of interest to anyone from grade school through adult. It would inspire the young to dig deeper into geography. It could also start future anthropologists and archaeologists on their journey. Readers will see connections to historic events and learn of landscapes that inspired authors or that inspires thousands who visit such places.

For most of us it will be entertaining and will provide us with the knowledge of so many places that are unique to our experience.

**Web Resources**

**Deep-Sea Debris Database**


Every piece of garbage that is carelessly tossed away, ends up somewhere. Generally it will blow around with the wind to collect in piles, or get stuck in trees, etc. But some garbage ends up in the water system where it gradually finds its way to the ocean. Additionally, many urban areas still dispose of waste at sea, expecting the vast water to absorb and eliminate the material. The volume of waste disposal now outpaces the capacity of the oceans to assimilate this stress.

Also, many materials do not break down or dissipate. Plastics, glass, treated materials continue to float around, breaking down very slowly, as they release toxins and harmful debris that forever drifts on the currents and enters our food chain.

The oceans are critically threatened by the growing garbage concentration, which means that we are directly threatened. Distance from the problem keeps most people ignorant of the danger but various organizations and governmental agencies are starting to monitor and collect data to bring this to light.

Launched on April 3, 2017, the Deep-Sea Debris Database offers data and images of the types of junk that are building up in the oceans. The project is being conducted by the Global Oceanographic Data Center (GODAC) Data Research and Development Group [http://www.jamstec.go.jp/e/about/access/godac.html](http://www.jamstec.go.jp/e/about/access/godac.html) of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) [http://www.jamstec.go.jp/e/](http://www.jamstec.go.jp/e/).

Debris images are organized by type (e.g., plastic, glass) and each item is described, along with its depth and location. Switching to location shows a map of the World with each item indicated. Clicking on a pin will pop an information window up that describes the item.

At present, there are about 1800 items in the database. All images and videos are from research surveys by submersibles of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC). At this time, the waters around Japan are the major focus of the database; however, data has been added from dives around Hawaii, the South Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans.

As data is gathered, this database will grow to cover a wider area.
Health Map
http://www.healthmap.org/en/

Keeping track of alerts is a full time job. For health situations, government agencies around the world have systems for tracking and monitoring problems as they develop.

For a short way to track health alerts worldwide, try Health Map. It displays alerts on a world map with pins that can be selected. You can also toggle to lists of alerts by time period and by type of health problem (e.g., Zika). At the time of writing this, there were 901 alerts in the past week.

There is also a statistics tool that lets you graph specific diseases and graphs alerts by time period. There are only a few controls (zoom, graphing,) but the links to news articles for each event or outbreak allows you to obtain data on health situations around the world.

A Real-Time Map of Births and Deaths

Vital statistics are interesting to read and analyze, but maps and dynamic data visualizations are so much more effective in getting some concepts across. The Atlantic posted an article several years ago on a map simulation that shows world population change as it happens, based on census data.

The data streams in as it is obtained and the map shows births and deaths where they occur while the same data is shown on a continuous feed listing time, country, and current country population.

This is not a deep research site; it is an interesting map concept that offers a great visual that would be appreciated by students from grad school through adult learner.

Conclusion

Enjoy spring with its multi-color festival of life and light. I’ve been ordering new books and maps and will be back before summer with descriptions of these.—DJB
Sure. Latitude is the distance of a point north or south of the equator. Latitude lines are the horizontal lines on maps. Longitude is the distance of a point east or west of the prime meridian. Longitude lines are the vertical lines on maps. Latitude and longitude measurements are written in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

Uh, minutes and seconds? Do I use a clock to measure it?

Tell him about small scale—large scale next!