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# base line

*a newsletter of the*

**Map and Geospatial Information Round Table**

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<http://www.ala.org/rt/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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## FROM THE CHAIR

MIN ZHANG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Hi, Everyone –

Time flies - fall is here before you know it. I have just returned from my vacation to New Hampshire, Vermont and New York City. I'm learning geography by walking the earth. I was in awe of natural beauty and stunning geographic features like Hampton Beach, Lake Winnepesaukee, White Mountain, Sabbaday Falls, Rocky Gorge, Lake Champlain, Mount Mansfield, Quechee Gorge, and the Hudson and East Rivers around Manhattan.

We had two Executive Board meetings in the last two months discussing MAGIRT old and new businesses and brain storming on program proposals for ALA annual conference. As you all know, the ALA Executive Board announced in September that LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience scheduled for January 21-24, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas, will take place virtually. We were asked to submit program proposals for the annual. Thanks to vice chair Kevin Dyke, who put the programs together and submitted them before the deadline. The board believes that we will be best served by focusing on our own internal program.

The program will be a panel discussion on "Transforming: Teaching & Learning". The panel will discuss Census 2020 from the perspective of maps, GIS, and data librarians. How can we support patrons? Beyond providing access and "how-tos", how can we address historical inequities of enumeration?

It's MAGIRT round table's turn to select a representative for the 2022 Annual Conference Program Jury. I nominated Iris Taylor in August and she graciously accepted on top of a busy schedule and hectic workload.

Several MAGIRT members joined the first ALA Virtual Volunteer Fair on Sep. 14. We learned some new information about volunteer opportunities within ALA and got the opportunity to speak with committee members and staff liaisons. Sierra, Erin and I also went to the MAGIRT break-out room for this event. Thanks to Sierra's promotional presentations, we had someone interested in learning about MAGIRT.

Last but not least, we are actively searching to fill the following vacancies for chairpersons

- Publications committee
- Online Presence Oversight Committee (OPOC)

Thanks to all the board members who helped with meetings, minutes, planning, and events, I encourage MAGIRT members to volunteer for the vacancies and make a greater contribution to the round table we all love.

I hope everyone enjoys the beautiful foliage this fall.



# MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

Minutes of August 31, 2021

**Date:** August 31, 2021  
**Time:** 3:00 PM Eastern Time  
**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

**Present:** Min Zhang (Chair), Erin Cheever, Kevin Dyke (Vice Chair), Sierra Laddusaw (Past Chair), Laura McElfresh (Secretary), Wangyal Shawa, Iris Taylor (Treasurer), Tammy Wong

## Call to order

Min called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm Eastern; we had had some Zoom difficulties.

## Changes to Agenda

We jumped straight into the meeting and Laura added changes on the fly.

## Secretary--Minutes from past meeting (Laura)

Minutes from the June 28, 2021 Executive Board meeting held during the MAGIRT Virtual Annual meeting had already been approved via email and published in the [August 2021](#) issue of *base line*. No action necessary.

## Officer Reports

### a. Chair (Min)

Virtual meetings aren't that exciting, but we've had some good cataloging & geotech discussions anyway. Min hopes we can meet in person sometime soon. It's early to talk about 2022, since everything is still so up in the air; but Min will pass along any info she gets & we can plan as we go. To discuss at the next meeting: will our usual Membership and Executive Board meetings be enough for Midwinter, or do we also want to do some other kind of training, webinar, etc.?

### b. Vice Chair (Kevin)

Usually planning for Midwinter begins now; but since LibLearnX has taken the place of in-person Midwinter, maybe we should look towards 2022 Annual instead. Kevin will also brainstorm some ideas for a MAGIRT virtual MW event.

### c. Secretary (Laura)

Met with Paige to review & update the [Chairs & Officers roster](#); need Chairs to please send me committee member lists.

### d. Webmaster (Craig Haggit) -- not present

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**e. Treasurer (Iris)**

We do have money in the budget (\$57,000 or more), but our membership is decreasing and expenses continue to outweigh our membership revenue. (Sierra pointed out that in the future, we'll only be paying facilities rental, setup, tech for one physical meeting per year, which will help. Sierra also recommends that Iris & Min go to the budget training session.) Iris then mentioned that conference program proposals for ALA Annual 2022 opened August 23 and are due October 1st; we need to decide if we want to partner with someone for programming.

**f. Past Chair (Sierra)**

We will start the discussion on the [MAGIRT Officers, Committee Chairs & Other Leaders group](#) on ALA Connect & have a meeting on September 21 to finish up the work. Sierra noted that she has worked with ALA to get all our MAGIRT leaders added to the group; anyone who was in this meeting & doesn't have access to that group should please notify Sierra & she'll get it fixed.

**1. Old Business (Discussion)**

Merging with GODORT is no longer on our immediate horizon. ALA has decreased the required membership threshold for a Round Table to exist (currently 100 members) so, at least for the time being, we are safe. (Governance is still changing and subject to future change, however.)

**2. New Business (Discussion)**

(Laura) Audiocassette recordings of MAGERT meetings from 1994-1996 have been offered to us for our archives; do we want them? (We skipped this discussion for time considerations; still need to figure it out. Laura will send an email.)

**3. Committee/DG/IG Reports (mostly no reports since Annual was pretty recent)**

**a. Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee (Sierra)**

Sierra has put out a call for people to fill Committee Chair vacancies; it might be time to start thinking of people we'd like to encourage. Iris suggested that we might find a way to raise interest in our officer positions. She also brought up recruitment efforts such as scholarships, etc. for new members. Sierra said we've partnered with Emerging Leaders in the past, but doesn't know of a scholarship; it would be interesting to explore though. Min points out that it doesn't have to be a lot; maybe just a few hundred dollars. Anything helps.

Wangyal proposed that we ask students to write letters of application; we could award some student memberships & perhaps stipend to (partially) fund travel, maybe 5 per year. (Sierra notes that we'd definitely have to coordinate with Danielle in this case; we can't comp membership because of the new standardized structure. But other Round Tables might be interested in something like this -- if lots of Round Tables come together we might get somewhere.

Iris asked if we had ever thought of offering an internship, for iSchool credit? Wangyal pointed out that some academic libraries don't allow unpaid internships; ALA's stance here is not clear, but we can try to find out. An internship will be helpful for students. Tammy agreed that internships are a great idea, and is glad we have Erin's POV from Maryland, an iSchool that fits well with MAGIRT's purpose.

- b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (Tim Kiser) -- not present**
- c. Education Committee (Kevin Dyke & Eric Johnson) -- no report**
- d. Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG Coordinator (Wangyal) -- no report**
- e. Membership & Marketing Committee (Erin)**  
The Committee is planning student outreach, using the list of ALA-accredited iSchools on the ALA website. They talked about having an email blast, replacing the old pamphlet. Students get a discount on ALA membership -- it's good to let them try it out at the lower price & build loyalty so they'll stick with us. Student benefits include networking and looking for jobs.
- f. Online Presence Oversight Committee (vacant)**
- g. Publications Committee Chair (vacant)**
- h. Cataloging of Carto Resources IG (vacant)**
- i. Map Collection Management DG (Craig Haggitt) -- no report**

## **Announcements**

### **Committee and Interest Group Chairs vacancies:**

1. Online Presence Oversight Committee Chair
2. Publications Committee Chair
3. Core/MAGIRT Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG Coordinator

### **Meetings:**

Our regular meetings will take place every other month (but we will still have a monthly placeholder in case we need it), last Tuesday of the month. We should still meet in September to get together conference programming ideas for ALA, because they're due October 1st.

## **Adjournment**

Min concluded the meeting at 4:10 pm Eastern.

Reported by:

Laura Kane McElfresh, Secretary, MAGIRT



# **MAGIRT Executive Board Special Meeting**

## **ALA 2022 Annual Program Planning**

**September 2021**

**Time: September 21, 2021 3:00 PM Eastern Time**

**Present: Min Zhang (Chair), Kevin Dyke (Vice Chair), Sierra Laddusaw (Past Chair),  
Laura McElfresh (Secretary), Kim Plassche**

### **Call to order**

Min called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm Eastern time. Since this is a special meeting for program planning, we will defer procedural matters (approval of minutes; officer reports; committee/IG/DG reports) until the next regular meeting.

### **Discussion: Program Planning**

2022 ALA Annual program proposals are due October 1st. (See [announcement from ALA](#).) We need to decide if we want to partner with someone for programming. Some ideas were floated on the ALA Connect MAGIRT Officers, Committee Chairs & Other Leaders group. Min has talked with her supervisor and is approved for Annual since it's in DC; but we will have to wait & see if LC is actually open then.

### **Ideas for program at 2022 ALA Annual**

- Past programs
  - Using Innovative, Map-Based Outreach Programs to Reach Students of all Levels (2019)
  - Panel: Understanding and Using Spatial Humanities: Digital Mapping at the Forefront of Scholarly Research (2018)
  - How to Put Your Family History on the Map (2017)
- In the ALA Connect discussion, Kim suggested an introductory/basic GIS program, to attract more librarians from outside MAGIRT. Ideas for topics:
  - “GIS and Mapping Basics for All Librarians” -- people are interested in GIS but can't commit to intense training. This could appeal to our colleagues who aren't specifically map librarians, but can still use cartographic data & mapping. Kevin suggests using Census 2020 data as a jumping-off point for this session -- folks generally liked this idea! We discussed whether this should be a panel, or a hands-on workshop? (A workshop is worthwhile if it's well done -- but will be a lot of effort to bring it together.) We also considered collaborating with a Government Documents librarian; perhaps Frank Donnelly, author of [Exploring the U.S. Census](#) (a book on census data with QGIS tutorials).
  - Another possibility: a panel of MAGIRT members talking about our favorite GIS requests and projects, some of our “magic tricks”, and even things we dread (like when students ask for help converting old ArcMap files).



- Min had some ideas too:
  - LC G&M finding aids.
  - Introduction to 2020 Census; talking about data, how to utilize.
  - 3D modeling.
  - LC G&M Tour; presentation on Story Maps created by G&M staff.
- One more idea: get someone from the [Minnesota Population Center](#) to talk about the 2020 Census? Laura doesn't know them, but Sierra does! This might actually be good for a future webinar.
- It appears that the Vice-Chair is in charge of submitting the proposal. We need a short (100 words maximum) description; 2-3 learning objectives; program details; subject headings; collaborating organizations; how it supports ALA Strategic Directions; how it supports equity, diversity, and inclusion; and any co-sponsors.
- **Next Steps**
  - \* We need to think how we want to structure the panel; who do we want to ask?
  - \* Get with GODORT; see what they're doing (probably something about the Census).
  - \* Kevin will draft something & send out to the Board soon for feedback (shooting for the end of the day Monday, Sep. 27th).
  - \* In the meantime, if anyone comes up with other ideas, please share with Kevin.

**Note:** The October 1st deadline only applies to the "large" MAGIRT program! This is the one where ALA assigns us a big meeting room. We are still free to plan our own other activities, including Committee and IG/DG meetings. (Danielle should be in contact about these at some point.) We are also free to plan our own virtual Midwinter.

## Adjournment

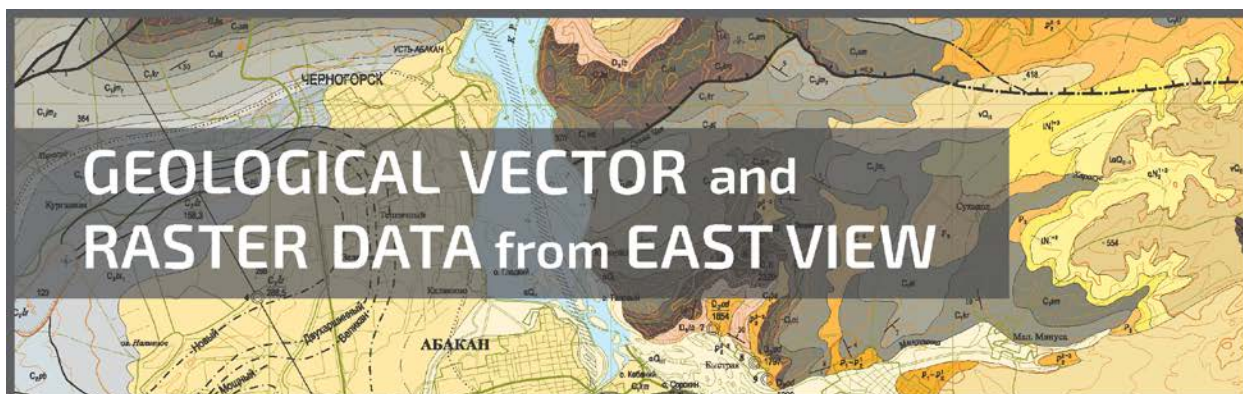
Min concluded the meeting at 3:52 pm Eastern.

Reported by:

Laura Kane McElfresh, Secretary, MAGIRT







**East View Geospatial** offers the largest privately held library of geological materials in the world, including a vast collection of geoscientific vector datasets. In addition to off-the-shelf data, we can procure authoritative data from across the world, produce and deliver datasets in any format and translate content from any language.

### FEATURED DATASETS

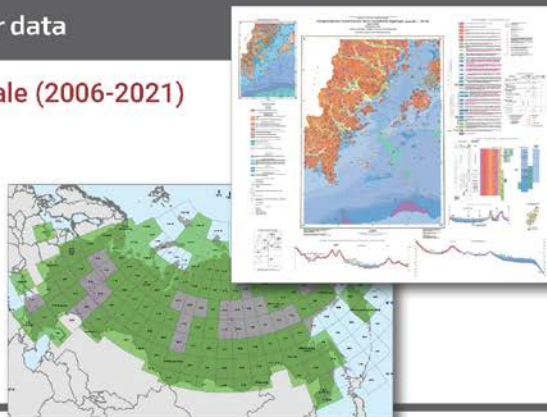
East View Geospatial has hundreds of geological map series available. Highlights include:

- Argentina 1:250,000
- Bolivia 1:100,000
- Brazil 1:1,000,000
- Bulgaria 1:50,000
- Cameroon 1:500,000
- Chile 1:100,000
- China 1:200,000
- Colombia 1:500,000 Vector Data
- Egypt 1:250,000
- Estonia 1:50,000
- Guatemala 1:50,000
- Hong Kong 1:20,000
- India 1:250,000
- Indonesia 1:250,000 Hydrogeological
- Iran 1:100,000 Vector Data
- Iraq 1:250,000 Vector Data
- Israel 1:50,000
- Japan 1:200,000
- Jordan 1:50,000
- Libya 1:250,000
- Madagascar 1:100,000
- Malawi 1:100,000
- Mexico 1:50,000
- Mongolia 1:200,000
- Nepal 1:250,000
- Nigeria 1:250,000
- Oman 1:100,000
- Peru 1:100,000
- Philippines 1:50,000
- Romania 1:200,000
- Saudi Arabia 1:250,000
- Senegal 1:200,000
- Syria 1:50,000
- Tanzania 1:125,000
- Turkey 1:100,000
- Ukraine 1:200,000
- United Arab Emirates 1:100,000
- Vietnam 1:200,000
- Zambia 1:100,000

### PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT: Russian Geological Vector data

#### 1:200,000 Scale (2013-2021) and 1:1,000,000 Scale (2006-2021)

- Contains shapefiles for a range of geophysical data, including gravimetric, magnetic, quaternary, tectonic, hydrogeological, topographic, and more.
- Features data dictionary, explanatory notes source materials; graphic, tabular and text materials (including analyses data); and regulatory documents.
- English-language translation of data descriptions and other relevant content.



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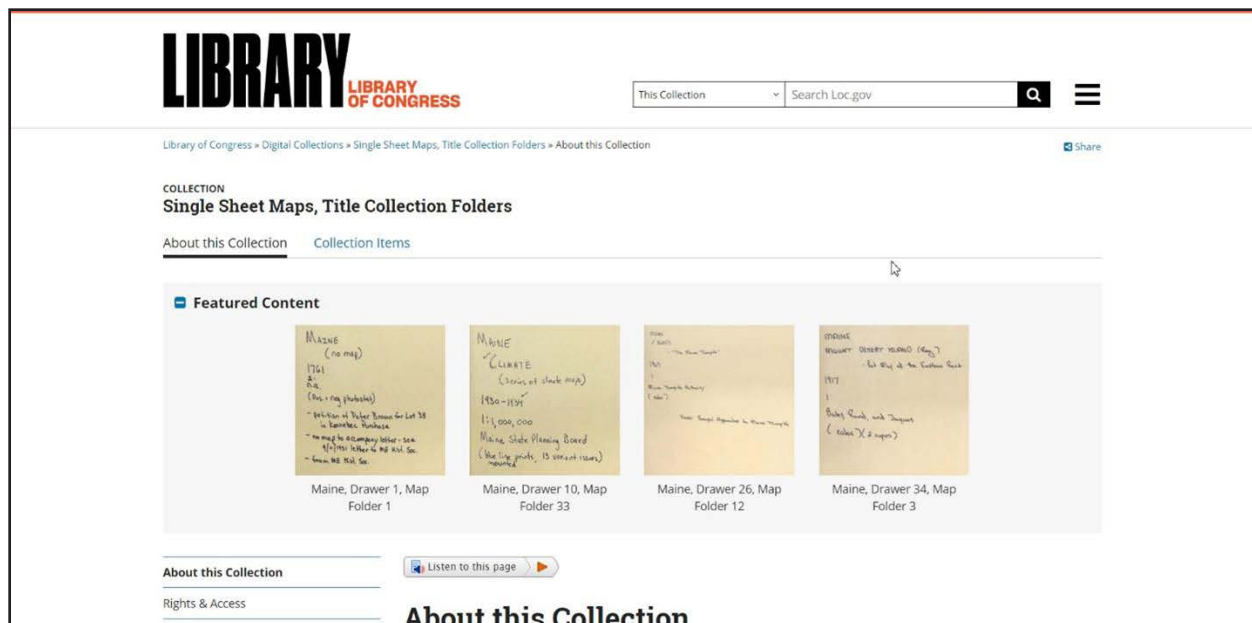
# ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Single Sheet Maps and Title Collection Now on LOC.gov

The Library of Congress Geography & Map Division staff, in conjunction with the Digital Collection Management and Services Division and the LOC.gov, team has released a pilot selection of items from the Library's historic map holdings in a new digital collection. The items were chosen from among the Library's more than 1.5 million single-sheet maps, many of which were received by Geography & Map before the start of machine-readable cataloging and were originally filed in physical folders organized by general location. The new digital collection contains a small set of these location titles and folder descriptions and is designed to help researchers broadly explore and pinpoint resources that may be further expanded on by the Library's specialists and reference staff. Discover more in the *Single Sheet Maps, Title Collection Folders* (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/single-sheet-maps-title-collection-folders/about-this-collection/>)



## About this Collection

The Library of Congress Geography and Map Division holds over 1.5 million single-sheet maps, including both cataloged and uncataloged maps. Many of the single-sheet maps that were received by the Geography and Map Division before the advent of machine-readable cataloging in 1968 (with the exception of rare maps) were not individually cataloged, but rather filed by geographic location. This portion of the collections is known as the Title Collection. Although the Library's Catalog has high-level descriptions for most geographic

areas in the Title Collection, it can be difficult for researchers to search and locate individual maps in this collection.

This online collection includes images of the Title Collection map descriptions, as written on each map object's folder. The online collection is designed to help researchers identify potential materials of interest. Each folder is typically labelled with information such as the map's location, date, scale, and creator or publisher—if known—and may also include descriptive notes or references to related materials.

### **Online coverage**

Currently, the material in this online collection is part of a pilot project. Thus, what you see online includes only a very small sample of descriptions for the overall Title Collection, focusing on holdings from the United States. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Geography and Map Division and take advantage of the assistance of highly trained reference and specialist staff members who are experienced in locating materials in the Title Collection to meet their needs. Frequently, the staff can suggest items that are particularly useful for specific studies. Reference questions can be directed by patrons to the Division through the *Ask A Librarian* page (<https://ask.loc.gov/map-geography>) or by visiting the Geography and Map reading room in order to determine what material meets their requirements.

### **Organization of the collection**

The Title Collection is vast and contains the bulk of the single-sheet maps at the Library. It is divided into geographic and administrative areas, such as "North America," "United States," and other countries, regions, individual states, counties, cities, and other administrative units. The holdings are frequently further subdivided by subject. Within areas and subjects, holdings are arranged by date, with undated material arranged at the front of an area or subject. Each item in this online collection represents a drawer from the collection, such as "United States, Maine, Drawer 10", which in this case includes maps arranged by subject heading and date, alphabetically from "Administrative, 1930" to "Climate, 1967".

The Title Collection includes a wide range of maps, including atlas plates or maps that originally were included in monographs or serials but have been removed from their bindings, photo reproduced copies or facsimiles of material held by other repositories either in the United States or abroad, and maps that came to the Library through copyright deposit prior to the 1970s. In addition, there may be several possible filing locations for identical copies of the same item or very similar items, and a variety of additional filing locations for closely related items.

### **How may I access the maps inside folders?**

Please see the *Rights & Access* page (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/single-sheet-maps-title-collection-folders/about-this-collection/rights-and-access/>) for details about how you can request in-person or digital access to the maps within this collection's folders.





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## NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

Borders may divide us, but, paradoxically, they're also the places where we're nearest to one another.

- Ken Jennings, *Maphead* (2011)

### Introduction

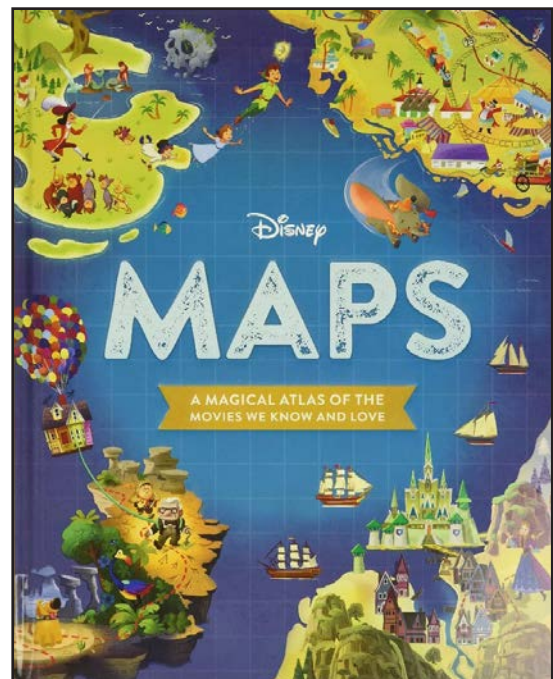
I'm sure my fellow MAGIRT members in academic libraries will agree with the sentiment that this fall semester has been busier than most! I found time to one "new" print atlas and two fresh web resources but am devoting some of this issue's column to briefly mention "new to me" atlases on a specific topic. I was recently asked to find Transatlantic slave trade route maps showing volume of traffic, points of departure and arrival ports. I suspect the researcher had already viewed the valuable slave trade research website SlaveVoyages (<https://www.slavevoyages.org/>) – now hosted by Rice University. I scoured web resources beyond the "Introductory Maps" included here and ultimately turned to our physical collection to reference two atlases published in the last fifteen years. These unfortunately may be familiar to *base line* readers due to their older publication dates. However, they are worth highlighting and I hope others will remember these physical tomes when assisting researchers at their own libraries.

### Books

Roehl, Tessa. *Disney Maps: A Magical Atlas of the Movies We Know and Love*. Los Angeles: Disney Press, 2020 (ISBN: 9781368018678). Un-paged: color illustrations, color maps; 30 cm. List price: \$24.99.

I had my eye on *Disney Maps* a few months before purchasing it. I love a good kids' atlas, and since this one includes movies I enjoyed as a child, I thought it would be a good fit for my family's bookshelf. However, I worried this would lack true maps (even imaginary), so I dragged my feet ordering it. I wish I could say I was surprised, but this book of maps was a letdown.

My first disappointment came with my review of the contents. Each chapter is devoted to one movie, as follows in the content listing: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs -- Pinocchio





-- Dumbo -- Alice in Wonderland -- Peter Pan -- One Hundred and One Dalmatians -- The Jungle Book -- The Little Mermaid -- Beauty and the Beast -- Aladdin -- The Lion King -- Toy Story -- A Bug's Life -- Finding Nemo -- The Incredibles -- Cars -- Ratatouille -- Up -- Brave -- Monsters University -- Frozen -- Inside Out -- Moana -- Coco. Disney fans young and old are likely to feel sad when realizing one of their favorites is missing. I was personally annoyed to see Pocahontas excluded. Most American adults are aware of the inaccuracies portrayed in Disney movies inspired by historical events, so I was looking forward to seeing how the author approached in this particular map. How would Jamestown be labeled? Would it extend beyond the film's events and include the heroine's voyage to London? Perhaps the controversies surrounding the historical events and the movie itself led to Disney's decision to avoid including a map for the Pocahontas film.

So, what about the maps that do appear? Any dissatisfaction I felt due to the absence of Pocahontas dissipated when I realized the maps in this book are lacking in substance. It turns out my lingering questions regarding the depiction of historical inaccuracies would have been unanswered. Recognizable locations from the films covered are illustrated across two pages. Scale has no meaning here, as can be expected. The illustrations are peppered with images of familiar characters. An ornate compass rose is included on each map. Sometimes these reflect the style of the film. For example, North appears as "Nowhere" for Alice in Wonderland. Although they may have no real practical use on the maps if the locations are arbitrarily placed, the addition of compass roses is appreciated in a children's atlas, where they are often omitted. Following each map, readers are treated to a whimsical summary of the geography displayed, "Moments to Remember", "Key Facts" about the region and an illustrated list of characters from the film.



I appreciate an effort to educate readers about real-world locations when possible. An example of placing fictional locations on our actual globe appears on the map for Dumbo, where we clearly see the circus taking place in Florida (admittedly, it fantastically takes up more than half the state). The Gulf Coast, Georgia, Alabama, and Missouri are all labeled.

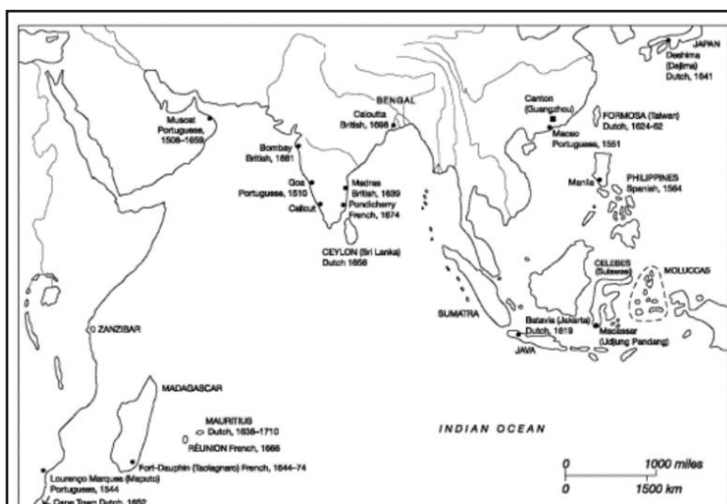
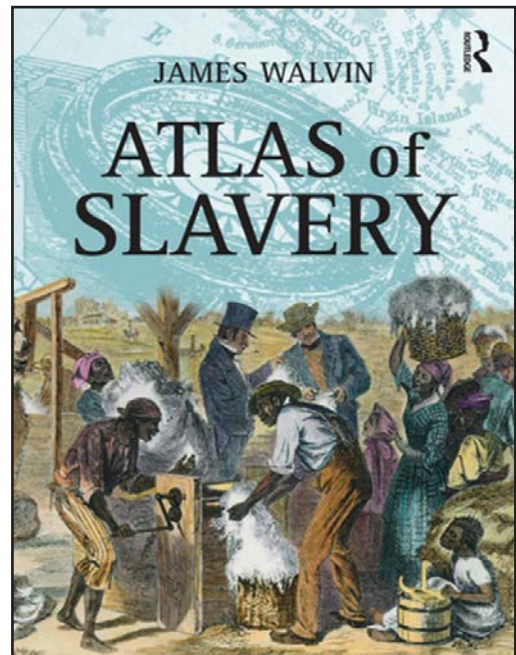
As my colleague, a former children's librarian points out, the compass roses and easily traceable routes between points of interest make for an interactive, educational, and fun book for kids. Overall, I don't regret purchasing this for my family. The illustrations are colorful and fanciful, which is no surprise for something published by Disney. My toddler is sure to get a few years of enjoyment out of this picture book. By the time she is old enough to use real maps, I think this one will be donated to another child.

Walvin, James. *Atlas of Slavery*. Harlow: Pearson Longman, 2006 (ISBN: 9780582437807). 146 pages: illustrations, maps; 24 cm. List price: \$160.00.

The first of the two slavery atlases I used this semester is authored by James Walvin. Walvin is a well-known expert of slavery history and has authored many books on the topic, including the more recent 2018 *Slavery: The History and Legacy of One of the World's Most Brutal Institutions*

([https://www.worldcat.org/title/slavery/oclc/994640489&referer=brief\\_results](https://www.worldcat.org/title/slavery/oclc/994640489&referer=brief_results)), which covers slavery across the globe and does not focus on African slavery in the Americas as this book does.

Seventy-four black and white maps appear in this atlas, ranging from a brief overview of slavery in the time of the Ancient Greeks and Romans and covering much of the Transatlantic slave trade, ending in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The author credits numerous sources for the maps (all redrawn for this book). They are drawn from various atlases of high regard to map librarians – many appearing in my own collection. These



Map 6 Trade and colonies in sixteenth-century Asia

Source: After De Vries, J. (1975), in Burke, P. and Inalcik, H. (eds) (1999) *History of Humanity: Scientific and Cultural Development: From the 16th to the 18th Century*, Routledge, p. 129.

maps showing the movement of people are supplemented by charts of ocean currents, population density across the globe, plantation locations in the Americas and shipping routes.

Some maps take over entire pages in the book, while others represent just a fraction of a page. The author devotes more attention to accompanying text explaining the history of slavery and various factors affecting the trends and scenes shown on the maps. Despite some maps taking very little space



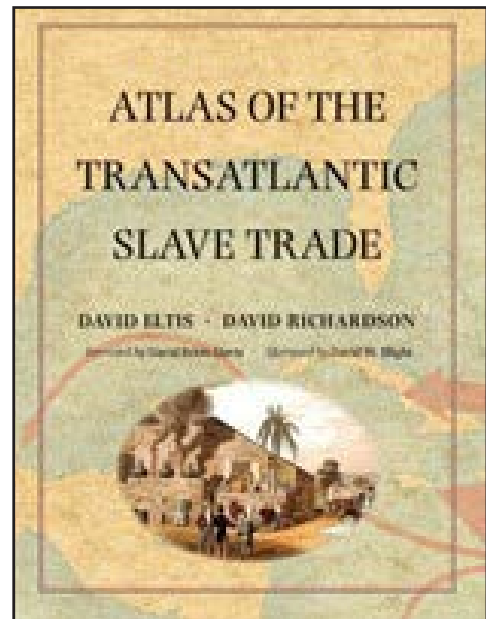
relative to text, the size and detail provided in the maps is appropriate for each map's theme.

Admittedly, I did not spend as much time reading this book as I would have liked. The requester is an expert of African history and was seeking maps for his own lectures, so a deep dive into the topic wasn't necessary. I look forward to completing a thorough reading of this book and Walvin's other books on this topic.

Eltis, David and David Richardson. *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010 (ISBN: 9780300124606). 307 pages: color illustrations, color maps; 32 cm. *Current list price for hardback unavailable*.

Walvin's *Atlas of Slavery* is a comprehensive introduction to slavery, but I decided to look at another atlas on the topic before sending my findings to the library patron. For a quick comparison to Walvin's atlas, *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade* includes more maps (189 versus 74), additional illustrations such as watercolors and prints, photographs showing slave-trading posts and other locations present-day and tables listing detailed statistics. Maps and illustrations are full-color, as appropriate.

The authors cite the SlaveVoyages website (reviewed below) for most of the data. Specifically, numbers are pulled from the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database "as it existed in January 2008" (page xxiv-xxvi). Some of the maps appearing in this atlas are published on the website and can be downloaded directly from there.



This book is a must-have in public and academic libraries. Due to the vast number of incredibly detailed maps, it should be in any library's reference atlas collection. While this book has more graphics, maps, and illustrations than text (in contrast to the previously reviewed atlas), it is a valuable and fascinating cover-to-cover read. While some of the information covered in the atlas is found on the SlaveVoyages website, it is neither a duplication nor a substitute. These two resources compliment each other wonderfully.

## Web Resources

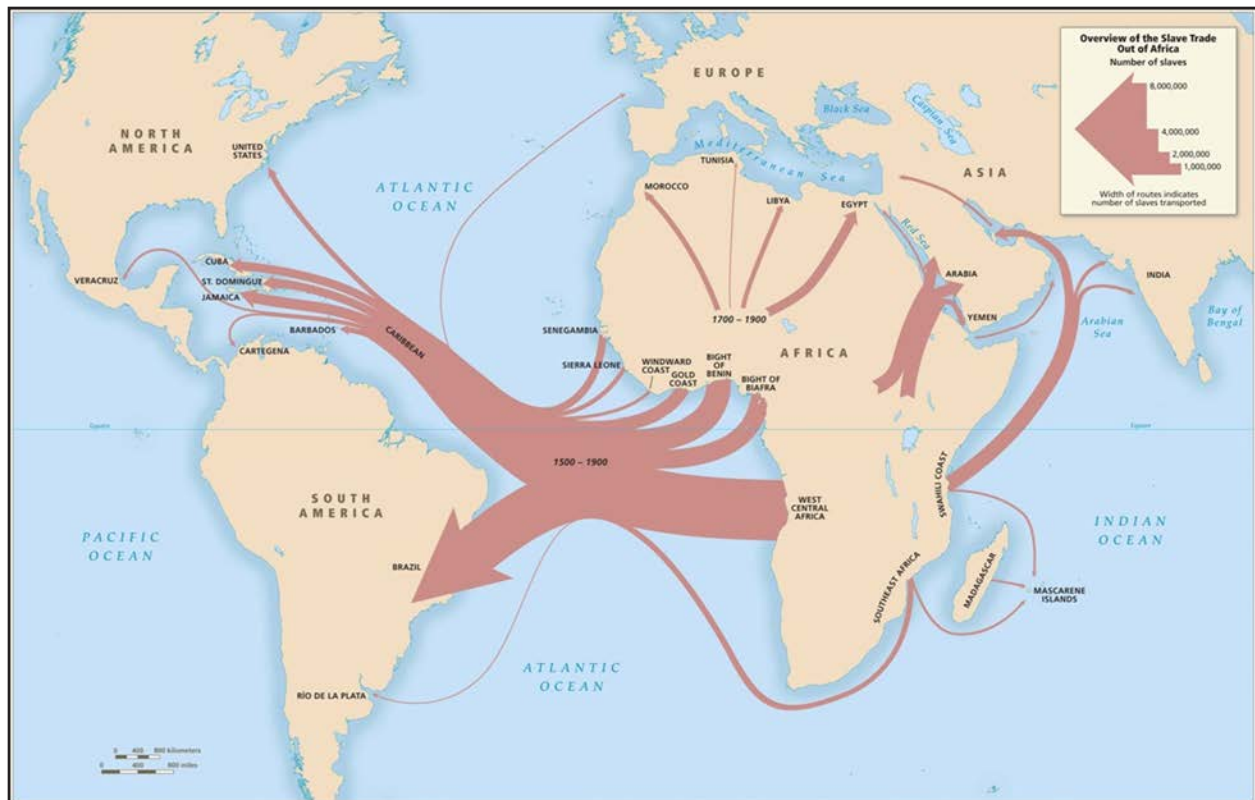
### *SlaveVoyages*

<https://www.slavevoyages.org/>

My first stop for slave trade maps was *SlaveVoyages*. I recalled seeing a May 2021 news story regarding the transition of the hosting responsibility for the site to Rice University, and knew it would have a plethora of information for our patron (<https://news.rice.edu/2021/05/24/worlds-largest-database-on-history-of-slave-trade-now-housed-at-rice/>).

The “Introductory Maps” (attributed to the authors of *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*) included several I needed for our library researcher, but I was fascinated by how much more SlaveVoyages has to offer. SlaveVoyages is a robust website dedicated to preserving the history of the African slave trade. The project is the “culmination of several decades of independent and collaborative research by scholars drawing upon data in libraries and archives around the Atlantic World”. The website incorporates visualizations such as a 3D video of a slave ship, timelines, and a time lapse. The image galleries host scanned manuscripts, slave and vessel drawings, and historical maps. In addition, the website hosts three large databases listed below with brief descriptions:

1. Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, which includes records of 36,000 slaving expeditions occurring between 1514 and 1866. This database pulls records from archives and libraries “throughout the Atlantic world”.
2. Intra-American Slave Trade Database, which hosts data for approximately 10,000 slave voyages *within* the Americas, both inside and across national borders. It contains data about Africans coming across the ocean as well as slaves born in the Americas.
3. African Names Database, documenting the names, age, gender, origin, country, place of embarkation and place of disembarkation for “91,491 Africans taken from captured slave ships or from African trading sites”.



The website's homepage highlights recent news about the project. When visiting the page in September, an article highlighted an August 2021 update including new data contributed by users and verified by the authors, in an attempt to "function like an academic journal". Six hundred individual voyage records were updated because of this effort. Continuous updates and additions like these prove this is an extremely valuable research and education tool across disciplines and grade levels.

### ***Human Odyssey Interactive Map***

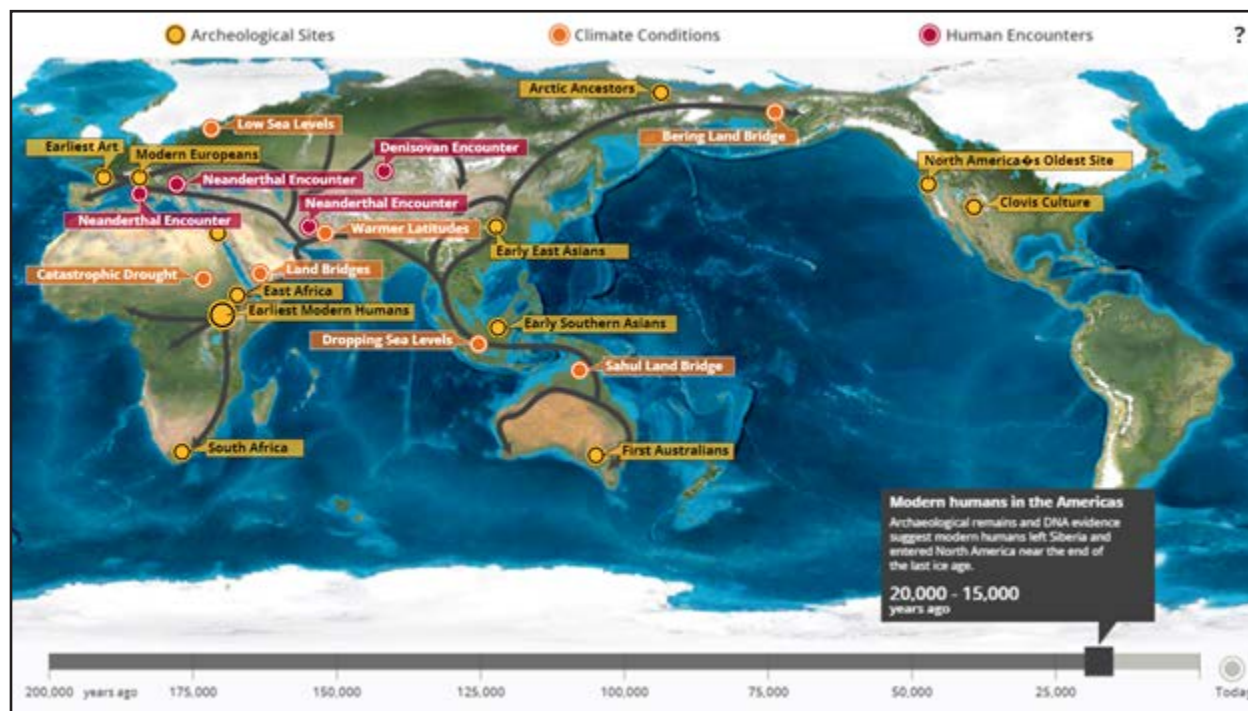
<https://www.calacademy.org/exhibits/human-odyssey>

***Human Odyssey Interactive Map*** is associated with the [Human Odyssey exhibit](#) at the California Academy of Sciences. The exhibit details "milestones of our species' fascinating history" and challenges visitors to "discover why the 7 billion people on Earth today are far more alike than you might think". The physical exhibit features human skull casts, standalone timelines, and an interactive Human Migration Map. This map is the same made available to anybody on the web and reviewed here.

Upon opening the map, an introductory message inviting users to view "the impact of climate conditions on our migratory routes over 200,000 years to present" appears. Moving past the pop-up, we see a world map accompanied by a timeline spanning 200,000 years below it. Insight into how the map was created, relying on using findings from "archaeological sites, climate conditions, and genetic material from human fossils", is given below the timeline. A key describing the three colored markers seen throughout the globe as the years progress is shown above the map. Yellow represents archaeological sites. Clicking a yellow icon will result in descriptions and images of skulls, skeletons and artifacts found at the marked site. Orange denotes special climate conditions, such as warmer latitudes, droughts, and dropping sea levels. Finally, red highlights "Human Encounters" — locations where DNA evidence suggests the appearance (and even interbreeding) of different human species.

The timeline delineates the expansion of humankind every 25,000 years, beginning with 200,000 and ending with today. However, users are not restricted to viewing these dates alone, and can click in between those points to bring up key events and information during the 25,000-year spans. The oldest year on the timeline (200,000 years ago) shows only two locations labeled (both in Africa): "Desert Barriers" and "Earliest Modern Humans". As users continue to click and drag through the timeline, arrows begin to grow from the Earliest Modern Humans point, showing humans traveling out of Africa via the Land Bridges and continuing across the hemispheres. We simultaneously see expanding ice and glaciers coming down from the north (and eventually receding) and other changes in climate. Eventually, we see humankind spanning the globe at 8,000 years ago, as well as icons for different human encounters, dropping sea levels, earliest art, modern Europeans, Early East Asians, and similar events and locations. Ending at **Today**, we are greeted by a satellite Earth at Night image, highlighting all the places humans traveled to from Africa. A dot proclaiming "You Are Here" is placed in California. This isn't accurate since I am exploring the map from New York, but I forgive this error since the map was created specifically for the California exhibit.

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Exploring this map and the vast amount of information for each point is, to put it plainly, fun. Users of all ages will learn something new as they click through the timeline and map. For example, I was shocked to see modern humans nearly went extinct 90,000 – 70,000 years ago (due to a drought, which is indicated by an icon with more information on the map). I’m pleased California Academy of Sciences shared this aspect of the exhibit on the internet so people across the globe could learn how our species spread across the globe.

### ***Environmental Justice Atlas***

<https://ejatlas.org/country>

The Enviro Rights Map (<https://envirorightsmap.org/>), an online map highlighting global environmental legislation, was reviewed in the previous issue of *base line* 42 (4): 29-30). While on a quest for similar mapping tools on the topic, I came across Environmental Justice Atlas. Instead of a legislative focus, this project catalogs and charts instances of “communities are struggling to defend their land, air, water, forests and their livelihoods from damaging projects and extractive activities with heavy environmental and social impacts”. The Atlas is a project from Leah Temper, Joan Martinez Alier and Daniele Del Bene at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA) at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. As of September 1, 2021, the atlas details 3,509 cases of injustice related to toxic waste exposure, mining, deforestation, and other activities detrimental to people and the environment.

The initial view of the website depicts a world map dotted with colored markers representing the type of conflict reported in the region. The dropdown legend lists those conflicts: Nuclear, Mineral Ores and Building Materials Extraction, Waste Management,



Biomass and Land Conflicts (Forests, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Management), Fossil Fuels and Climate Justice/Energy, Water Management, Infrastructure and Built Environment, Tourism Recreation, Biodiversity conservation conflicts, Industrial and Utilities conflicts. Users can change the markers to represent Reaction State and Intensity of the mobilization effort, as well as the Project Status.



The map view can be changed under “Browse Maps”, where users can select Country, Company, Commodity or Type (of conflict). These topics are automatically sorted by frequency but can be listed alphabetically if preferred.

Clicking on a country, company, commodity, or type in the *Browse Maps* dropdown generates a list of conflicts related to the selected option. Users can then explore these conflicts by clicking around the map or directly on a link in the list. The functionality of the website was tested with the example for United States: “Tomato farmworkers organizing to gain better working and living conditions in Immokalee, Florida, USA”. Clicking the link zooms to the location on the map prompts a list of the following: last update; Description (few sentences, with citations, and see more link for even more); Basic Data (Name of conflict, Country, State or province, Location of conflict, Accuracy of location); Type of conflict; Impacts; Outcomes; and Sources & Materials. An opportunity to spark a discussion on the topic is provided. To comment, website visitors need to log in with Disqus, Facebook, Twitter, or Google.

In addition to the viewer where users can browse around the map and view specific items, there are “Featured Maps” focusing on a specific topic, such as: “Map of Airport-Related Injustice and Resistance”, “Conflictos y daños en los proyectos de Pan American Silver en América Latina/ Conflict and Harm at Pan American Silver’s Projects in Latin America”

“Climate Debt”. These maps pinpoint solely the conflicts related to the specific topic and include a description of the map’s topic and a list of cases. The map can be translated to languages including Arabic, Mandarin, English, Spanish, French, Italian and Turkish.

Environmental Justice Atlas is highly recommended for all user types due to its easy navigability and the enormous amount of information it contains. It relies on crowdsourcing, but the data is presented in a professional manner, likely due to checks by the experts leading the project. Visitors can join as a Collaborator and help fill in missing cases or “in any other way”. Registration is required to become a collaborator but signing up is not necessary to use the site for research.

## Conclusion

When I started writing this column nearly two years ago, my goal was to shape each issue’s contribution around a theme. Like all of you, I encounter wonderful print and web atlases nearly every day at work. It is difficult to stay focused on one topic without ignoring new publications. I hope this issue’s smattering of resources is helpful for some. Until next time, please stay safe and happy!



**M**AGIRT Connect page. For all the resources you need to know about what is happening inside MAGIRT.

<https://connect.ala.org/magirt/home>

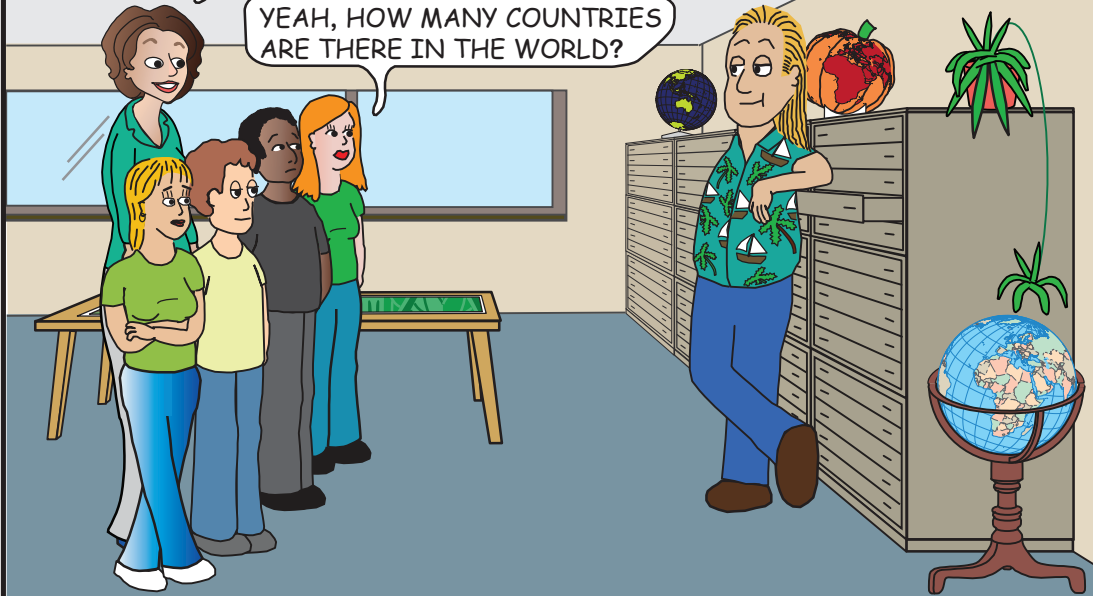
Recent topics as of October 2021

- WAML 2021 Program Announced
- SAC Subcommittee on Faceted Vocabularies releases Version 1.0 of chronological best practices

## GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs

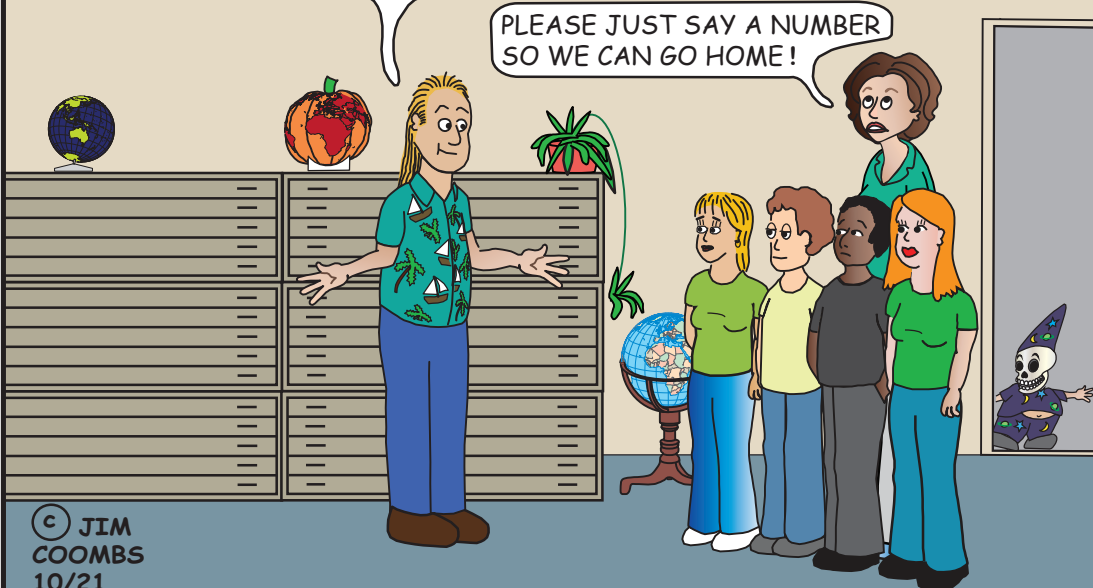
OK, KIDS, THE MAPS & GIS UNIT IS THE LAST STOP ON OUR LIBRARY TOUR. THE MAPS LIBRARIAN KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT CARTOGRAPHIC STUFF LIKE MAPS AND GLOBES. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR HIM?

YEAH, HOW MANY COUNTRIES ARE THERE IN THE WORLD?



WELL, THAT'S PRETTY COMPLICATED. THINK ABOUT WHAT MAKES A COUNTRY A COUNTRY. IF IT HAS A GOVERNMENT AND A FLAG, IS IT A COUNTRY? IF IT COMPETES IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES IS IT A COUNTRY? DOES IT HAVE TO BELONG TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO BE A COUNTRY? SO HOW CAN WE PUT AN OFFICIAL NUMBER ON IT?

PLEASE JUST SAY A NUMBER SO WE CAN GO HOME!



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COOMBS  
10/21