



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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base line is published electronically six times a year: in February, April, June, August, October, and December. All older issues of base line are now freely available on the MAGIRT website.

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

American Library Association personal and institutional members may choose MAGIRT membership for \$20.00 (personal) or \$60.00 (institutional) by so advising the American Library Association, 50 W. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

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FROM THE CHAIR

MIN ZHANG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Hi, everyone:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

LibLearn X (aka ALA Midwinter) will be held January 21–24. Unfortunately some members will not be able to attend because the new conference is focused only on public libraries (not public research libraries) and children's librarianship issues. The good news is that the ALA Annual Conference will be held in Washington DC (June 24–27, 2022), the first in-person event since the Pandemic.



The Executive Board members are very excited and have been working hard and planning for the Annual Conference. I submitted schedules for seven MAGIRT membership and discussion group meetings in November. Vice Chair Kevin Dyke submitted a proposal for the MAGIRT Chair program on the "Census 2020 from the perspective of maps, GIS, and data librarians." The panel will address such issues as how to support patrons beyond providing access and how we can address historical inequities of enumeration.

As we end 2021 and look forward to 2022, the Executive Board will be considering old and new initiatives that we feel will bring positive changes to our organization. These include:

- Planning programs, tours, exhibitions, and fun activities for the ALA Annual Conference.
- Redesigning the MAGIRT Website based on recommendations from the recent survey.
- Opening up nominations for the 2022 MAGIRT Honors Awards to recognize/honor outstanding individuals/organizations for outstanding achievements.
- Seeking to fill all MAGIRT vacancies.

I recently learned that Joy Suh retired. Joy had been an active MAGIRT member and served as the MAGIRT/GODORT GIS Discussion Group Coordinator before her retirement. We will miss her knowledge, energy, and warmth, and wish her a happy retirement. We are still actively searching to fill the following vacancies for chairpersons:

- Publications Committee
- Online Presence Oversight Committee (OPOC)
- MAGIRT/GODORT GIS Discussion Group

Happy holidays and happy New Year to everyone!



MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

November 2021

Time: November 30, 2021 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Present: Min Zhang, Pete Reehling, Sierra Laddusaw, Kevin Dyke, Faye Mazzia, Wangyal Shawa, Erin Cheever, Kim Plassche, Craig Haggit, Laura McElfresh

1. **Call to order** –3:00 pm Eastern
2. **Call for changes to Agenda** — none
3. **Secretary – Minutes from past meetings**
 - a. After the full Board meeting ([August 31, 2021](#)) and conference planning meeting ([September 21, 2021](#)) Laura distributed the minutes via email for review. (No meeting in October.) Laura incorporated the recommended changes & submitted the minutes for publication in *base line*.
4. **Officer Reports**
 - a. **Chair (Min Zhang)**
 - i. Submitted schedule for ALA Annual meetings; needs to swap 2 Sunday morning meetings (CCC/Cataloging IG need to swap times). Will ask Danielle to try to change it. Otherwise we'll put the corrected times on our own schedule. Usually significant overlap between groups. Thanks to group & committee chairs for sending meeting requests to Min in plenty of time so she could handle this!
 - ii. Vice Chair is responsible for organizing Friday dinner, MAGIRT awards, and tour/field trip event. LC ppl are available to help since Annual is in DC.
 - iii. LC will be offering tours, exhibitions, other events! Might have meeting spaces available there too.
 - b. **Vice Chair (Kevin Dyke)**
 - i. Website redesign – survey went out, based on recent work by WAML redesigning their site. 17 responses. Most requests for improvement: “How to get involved”; “Professional Development”; tools & trends. Also looking at how to reorganize the website. Hoping to have a rough roadmap for the site by the end of the year. [Report will be appended to these minutes.]
 - c. **Secretary (Laura McElfresh)**
 - i. December meeting/placeholder is cancelled; next meeting Jan. 25th
 - ii. Is sending minutes out for review via email OK, as opposed to waiting till next meeting for in-person approval? — yes! OK to keep doing this.
 - d. **Webmaster (Craig Haggit)**
 - i. Other than report Erin shared — mostly Craig has been updating positions & uploading *base line*.

e. Treasurer (Pete Reehling)

- i. ALA FY runs 1 Sep-30 August each year; Chair requests FY-ending report, which comes in October. Report said \$58,177 but this is wrong; *base line* ad invoices were not being sent out. This has been corrected, so there will be about \$1000 of revenue added in this fiscal year. Pete will request another spreadsheet in February to check on this.
- ii. Change in *base line*: ads will be paid up front, before publication.
- iii. No Midwinter expenses. If we sponsor a big program (a main program) at ALA Annual we will not be charged for the AV; but if any of our other meetings have AV, the costs run up quickly — 15-20% of our money! Min can coordinate with Pete & Iris on this. We will have one Chair's Program (big MAGIRT-focused program that doesn't have to compete for approval; each Round Table gets a Chair's Program) but no ALA-wide program. Not clear if ALA will pay for AV for Chair's Program or not.
- iv. In August 2022 Pete will look over the report with Iris to determine and evaluate our AV expenditures.

f. Past Chair (Sierra Laddusaw)

- i. Call for MAGIRT Honors nominations went out today via ALA Connect; deadline end of December (may extend to Jan if necessary)
 - 1. Sent announcement out via MAPS-L as well
- ii. Contacted Danielle to see if we've had any officer nominations; it closes soon so she hopes to hear back from Danielle soon. (Vice-Chair; Assistant Treas.)

5. Old Business

a. Audiocassette recordings of MAGIRT meetings from 1994-1996 — do we want to keep them for our archives?

- i. Wangyal thinks the cassettes were mostly for writing minutes; all necessary information should've been taken from the tapes. Other than that, the tapes have content that we might not want to keep — ok to let them go.
- ii. *base line* probably has a record of where our archive is (at one of the libraries? In several places?) Paige might know; John too.

b. Bibliography of Israeli maps

- i. October email from Michael Brown asking if MAGIRT is interested in 250-p. bibliography/finding aid (for sale). Should Min forward this kind of message to *base line* as an advertising inquiry? Kim has a review forthcoming. We can publish reviews & information, that's fine! But we won't be handling sales.

6. New Business

a. Discussion: Proposed MAGIRT 2022 Annual Conference Meetings & Programs

- i. Joy Suh has retired; need coordinator to replace her. Min asked if GIS groups could combine their meeting; Wangyal said yes but they still

need both group times. Wangyal also brought up the need for MAGIRT to own GIS and geodata collection management, metadata, cataloging, etc. (not just maps)

- ii. We submitted 7 meeting sessions for the interest/discussion groups and the Chair program. Submissions are closed; this is what we have to work with at Annual. We can do other content as monthly meetings or other presentations.
- iii. If we are planning other events with LC, need to get our proposals in soon — they have a process as well. Would be good to visit LC G&M. If we have a topic, they can pull some maps; e.g. maps related to one of the exhibitions, WWII maps, old topo sets, etc. Min will work with Kevin on this.

7. Committee/DG/IG Reports

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

- i. essentially gave report earlier

b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (Tim Kiser) – not here

c. Education Committee (Kim Plassche)

- i. Put out a call for participation on ALA Connect; will touch base with Faye about it. Kevin has offered to help.

d. Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG Coordinator (Wangyal Shawa) – no report

e. Membership & Marketing Committee (Erin Cheever) – no report. They're all working on website redesign currently.

f. Online Presence Oversight Committee (vacant)

g. Publications Committee Chair (vacant)

h. Cataloging of Carto Resources IG (Amy Runyon)

- i. (Amy has been added to Zoom invitation, but not in time for this meeting)

i. Map Collection Management DG (Craig Haggitt) – no report

8. Adjourned – 3:53 pm Eastern

[APPENDIX: MAGIRT Website Redesign Member Survey Report]

Next meeting: Tuesday, 25 January 2022, 3:00 PM Eastern ([Zoom link](#))



MAGIRT Website Redesign Member Survey Report

Summary: Feedback on website content

Top Suggestions for New Content (see page 4)

- How to get involved
 - More details on joining and being involved in MAGIRT and committees
 - Ways to get involved that include meeting established peers, Ways to learn new skills, Knowing core competencies, Chances to do presentations and articles
 - Networking and best practices documentation
- Map librarianship resources
 - A resources page linking out to things like the Map Librarian's Toolbox, the new best practices guide, etc. It doesn't need to be a fleshed out portal, but something like a "top ten resources to get you started" page would be nice
 - Cataloging & metadata
 - Best Practices; Trends in GIS.
 - List of core sources about map and geospatial librarianship.
- Career information
 - Professional development opportunities
 - Job/career information - e.g. job opportunities, continuing education, core skills, where to job hunt, how to get a job, networking opportunities, etc.

Popularity of Pages (see page 5)

Most useful:

- Administrative content (information on committees, chairs, and policies)
- Online Guide to US Map Collections
- ALA Connect

Useful:

- Publications
- Conferences

Less useful:

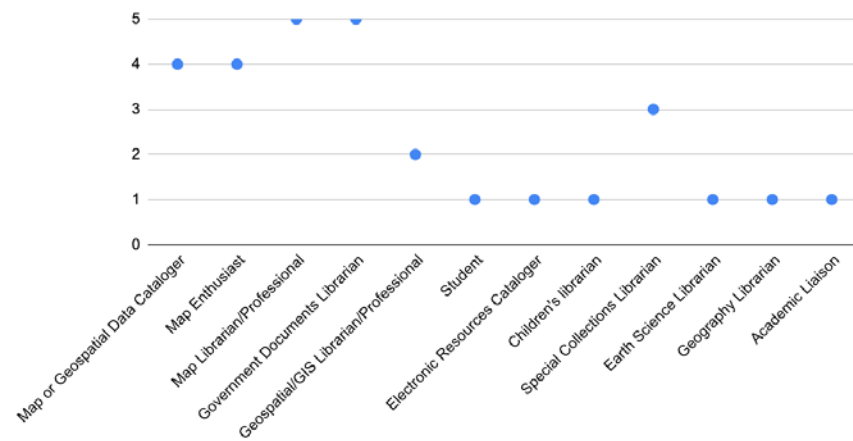
- Get involved with MAGIRT
- Webinars

Online Guide to US Map Collections

82.4% of respondents were aware of this resource, while 17.6% were unaware (see page 6).

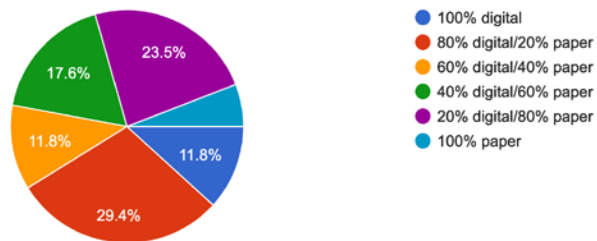
I. Respondent characteristics

3. Of these terms, what best describes what you do in your job most of the time?



5. If you work in a library, which of these best represents the time you spend working with paper vs. digital information?

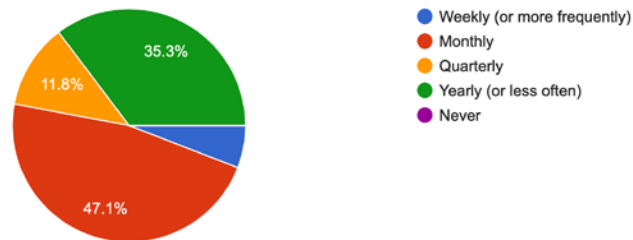
17 responses



II. Respondent website usage

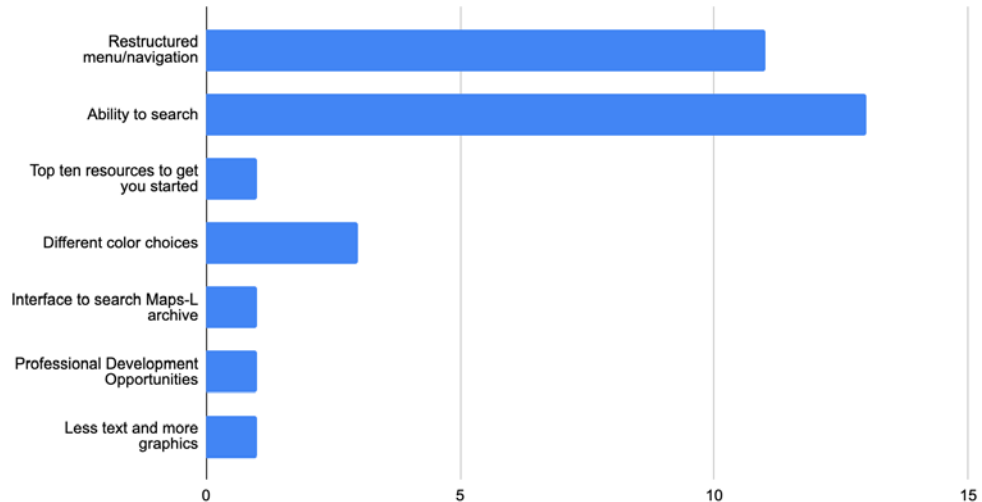
2. How often do you use the MAGIRT website?

17 responses



III. Feedback on website content

7. What information do you expect to find on the website that is missing or could be improved? (Pick all that apply)



4. What content would be most useful to a student or new professional in the field?

- "Accidental maps librarian" content... a way for librarians with different levels of experience to get acclimated to maps librarianship.
- Jargon explanations; resources to refer to; nutshell description/guidance for common on-the-job tasks and situations
- A resources page linking out to things like the Map Librarian's Toolbox, the new best practices guide, etc. It doesn't need to be a fleshed out portal, but something like a "top ten resources to get you started" page would be nice since so many map librarians and catalogers don't come from cartographic or geospatial backgrounds.
- Cataloging & metadata
- How to get involved in the field, webinars and other helpful resources, ALAConnect
- Quick links/FAQ for ready access tools and information resources related to our profession
- Ways to get involved that include meeting established peers, Ways to learn new skills, Knowing core competencies, Chances to do presentations and articles
- Recorded webinars, more details on joining and being involved in MAGIRT and committees
- link to base line, programs/activities of MAGIRT, contacts of MAGIRT chairs/officers
- List of core sources about map and geospatial librarianship.
- Best Practices; Trends in GIS.
- A "starter pack" of resources. Names of software, important trainings, webinars, publications to learn more.
- Networking and best practices documentation
- How to get involved and LibGuides or guides/bibliographies on specific subjects
- Job/career information - e.g. job opportunities, continuing education, core skills, where to job hunt, how to get a job, networking opportunities, etc.

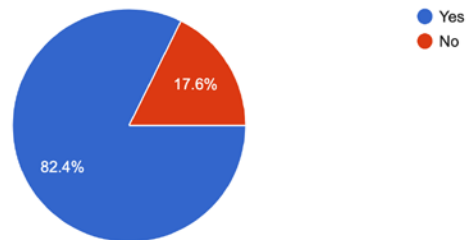
6. Rank the following areas of MAGIRT's web presence in order of how useful they are to you. 1 = most useful; 7 = least useful

ALA Connect	Online Guide to US Map Collections	Publications	Webinars	Conferences	Get Involved With MAGIRT	Administrative content (information on committees, chairs, and policies)
2	6	4	1	3	7	5
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	2	5	4	6	7	1
2	4	1	2	1	4	5
2	4	1	5	6	7	3
5	6	2	3	4	7	1
1	7	4	3	6	5	2
1	4	3	5	2	6	7
6	4	5	2	1	7	3
5	3	2	4	6	7	1
4	1	4	3	3	1	3
6	7	4	1	2	5	3
7	1	2	4	5	3	6
1	3	6	2	4	5	7
6	1	5	2	3	4	7
7	6	5	4	2	3	1
3	1	2	5	6	7	4

IV. Online Guide to US Map Collections

8. Are you aware of the Online Guide to US Map Collection?

17 responses



9. What information from the Online Guide to US Map Collections do you find most useful, and what could be improved?

- Robust information about institutions! Improvement on geographical and subject strength searching
- Noticed a few from my region are missing, eg GMU and Mount Vernon
- What I find most useful is that it makes it easy for me to find the contact person for collections around the country - I think an improvement would be expanding to include Canada
- More faceted / filtered searching to locate by subject specialty, size of collection, etc.
- locations of collections and contacts for those collections.
- Inclusion of smaller collections.
- Larger menu; more helpful links leading to related up to date information (news and feature stories, etc.)
- I find the map very helpful and that it is online. Some instructions on how to search by keyword would be helpful. Searching for "topographic" in the only search box I saw got one result.
- Links to the institutions/collections on the map would be extremely helpful



Nominations are now open for the 2022 MAGIRT Honors Awards!

This award recognizes or is given to honor an individual AND/OR organization who stands out due to outstanding achievement(s) and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the Round Table. The recipient of the award does not need to be a MAGIRT member. The selection committee welcomes all kinds of ideas for nominations.

Nominations will be accepted through December 31, 2021.

The announcement of the honored award recipient will occur during the Awards Reception at the 2022 American Library Association Annual Conference. The recipient need not be present to receive this honor, though it is always great for us to have the opportunity to hear from our honoree. The recipient receives a certificate, a trophy or similar item, and a cash award, as determined by the MAGIRT Executive Board. Published in base line are remarks made and pictures of the recipient(s). Notification of the award are sent to the director of each recipient's institution as appropriate. Please submit your nominations to sladdusaw@library.tamu.edu with the following information:

- Name of Nominee or Organization (plus mailing address, phone number, and email address).
- Position Title (or Former Position Title) if an individual
- A brief statement (one page or less) that explains why this individual or organization should receive the MAGIRT Honors Award, based on the criteria noted above. Please be clear, concise and provide details in support of your nomination.

The MAGIRT Nominations and Awards Committee (which is comprised of the MAGIRT Immediate Past Chair, Chair, and Vice Chair) will select the winner. The list of [previous awardees](#) is available on the MAGIRT website.

Sierra Laddusaw
Texas A&M University Libraries
sladdusaw@library.tamu.edu



ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BIBFRAME: A Manual for Understanding Version 2.0 and Related Tools

A data model designed to replace the MARC 21, BIBFRAME uses linked data principles to make bibliographic data more useful both within and outside the library community. This [guide](#) provides an overview of BIBFRAME 2.0, the editor, and the database.

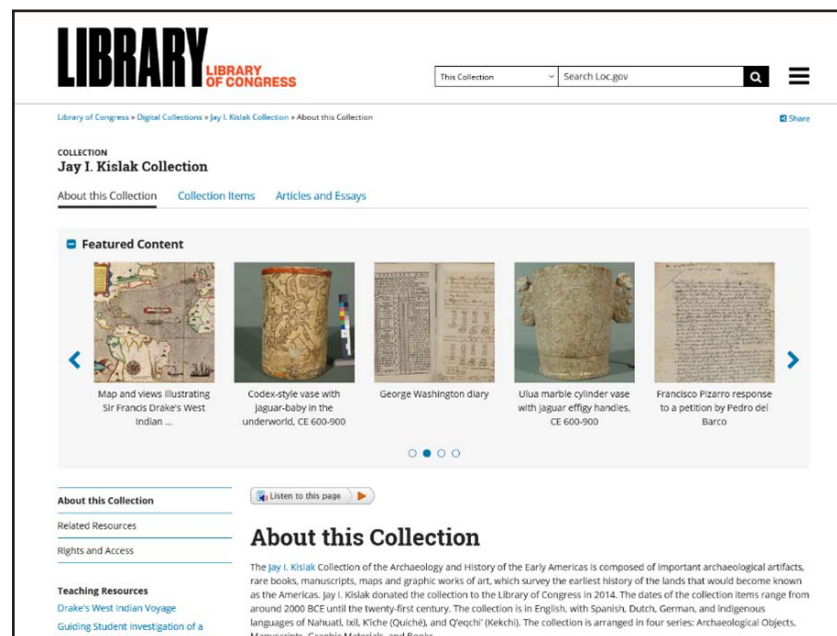
The screenshot shows the BIBFRAME website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Library of Congress logo and the text "RESEARCH GUIDES". Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads: "Library of Congress / Research Guides / Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access (ABA) / BIBFRAME: A Manual for Understanding Version 2.0 and Related Tools / Introduction". The main heading is "BIBFRAME: A Manual for Understanding Version 2.0 and Related Tools". A subheading states: "A data model designed to replace the MARC 21, BIBFRAME uses linked data principles to make bibliographic data more useful both within and outside the library community. This guide provides an overview of BIBFRAME 2.0, the editor, and the database." On the left, a navigation menu lists: "Introduction", "What is BIBFRAME?", "BIBFRAME and Linked Data", "BIBFRAME Editor (RFP)", "Searching BIBFRAME", "Non-Latin Scripts in BIBFRAME", "BIBFRAME Glossary", "BIBFRAME Website, Listserv, and IDL/OC.GOV", and "Contact Us". The "Contact Us" section includes an email address (btfcomments@loc.gov), a BIBFRAME Listserv link, and a mailing address for the Network Development and MARC Standards Office. The main content area is titled "Introduction" and explains that BIBFRAME is the foundation for the future of bibliographic description. It lists three key goals: differentiating conceptual content from physical/digital manifestations, unambiguously identifying information entities, and leveraging/exposing relationships. It also mentions that in a web-scale world, it is imperative to be able to cite library data in a way that differentiates the conceptual work from the physical details. A large "bf : BIBFRAME" logo is displayed on the right. At the bottom, there is a section titled "BIBFRAME vs. MARC21" which explains that MARC21 focuses on catalog records that are independently understandable, while BIBFRAME aggregates information about the conceptual work and its physical carrier.

Geography and Map Division Celebrates GIS Day 2021 with a Cartographic Look at the 2020 U.S. Census

The poster is for "GIS Day 2021" presented by the "THE GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION". The title "GIS Day 2021" is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the subtitle "Mapping Ourselves: Geographic Information Science and the 2020 Census" is in smaller black letters. The date "November 17, 2021" is at the bottom. On the left side, there is a vertical graphic with the word "BIBFRAME" in large, stylized, orange and white letters. The Library of Congress logo is in the bottom left corner. The background is a light gray with a subtle pattern.

On November 17th, Geography and Map Division organized a virtual GIS Day at the Library of Congress, which focused on the complexities of the 2020 Census. The keynote presentation was given by Deirdre Bishop, chief of the Geography Division at the U.S. Census Bureau. This was followed by three technical papers by David Van Riper, director of Spatial Analysis at the Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation at the University of Minnesota; Richard Leadbeater, director of State Government Solutions for the GIS software company, Esri; and John Hessler, a specialist in Geographic Information Science at the Library of Congress and a lecturer at Johns Hopkins University. Their presentations centered on historic census data, the application of the census to congressional redistricting and the controversy over the new method of private data protection used by the Census Bureau in 2020. The program can currently be viewed [here](#).

The Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Archaeology and History of the Early Americas



Geography and Map Division unveiled the New Kislak Collection [Online Finding Aid](#) and [Digital Collection](#). The Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Archaeology and History of the Early Americas contains important archaeological artifacts, rare books, manuscripts, maps, and graphic works of art that survey the earliest history of the lands that would become known as the Americas. Representations of selected items, including more than 300 archaeological artifacts, are featured in the new digital collection. Created through the work of many divisions across the Library, these resources will improve the public's ability to discover this major historical collection. For additional information about the collection, see the [Geography and Map Division's blog](#).



NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

"Were all the maps in this world destroyed and vanished under the direction of some malevolent hand, each man would be blind again, each city be made a stranger to the next, each landmark become a meaningless signpost pointing to nothing."

- Beryl Markham, *West with the Night* (1983)

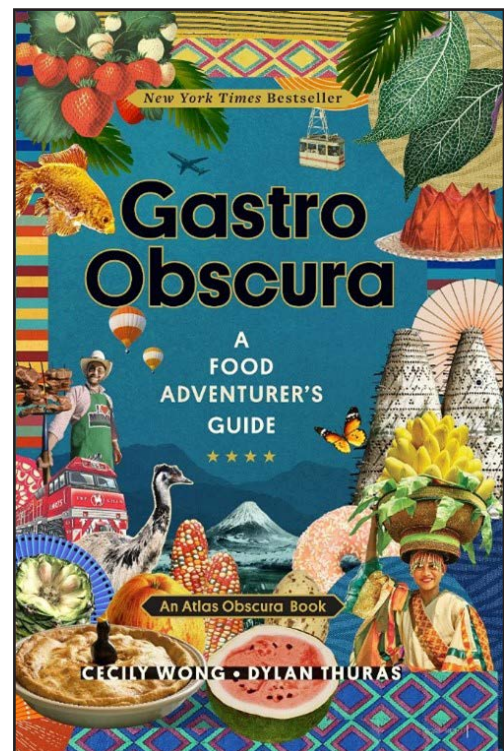
Introduction

As many academic librarians can likely agree, this fall semester has been tough. Many of us have returned to our physical collections but are still teaching and providing research help virtually. During this uncertain time, I was grateful to have new print and digital items to review and share. I hope you find value in these and are able to peruse some with the free time winter hopefully brings.

Books

Wong, Cecily and Dylan Thuras. ***Gastro Obscura: A Food Adventurer's Guide***. New York: Workman Publishing, 2021 (ISBN: 9781523502196). 438 pages: color illustrations, color maps; 27 cm. List price: \$42.50.

If you don't know about [Atlas Obscura](#), it is quite possible you are reading this from under a rock. Both editions of *Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders* have been covered in three *base line* issues (base line 37 (6): 15, base line 40 (2): 27, base line 41 (4): 35-36). In addition to the book and robust website, the company also hosts immersive trips, online courses, virtual experiences, an iOS app and a podcast. If you follow their posts or participate in any of these events, then you likely have heard about *Gastro Obscura*, a division of the website focusing on "unique places to eat and drink". It was only time before they published a book focusing exclusively on fascinating locations and culinary oddities for foodies.



As of November 2021, the website hosted a map with 743 "gastro" places to explore. The book boasts coverage of over 120 countries. Like the internet counterpart, many of the

entries were suggested by the Atlas Obscura community. The book's contents are divided into eight major sections. Notably, these are not partitioned solely by continent: Europe – Asia – Africa – Oceania – Canada – The United States – Latin America – Antarctica. Each entry in the guide spans one-half to two pages, and includes the food or drink's name, its country of origin (or where it is most popular), an anecdote or short history about the food, and a description of its ingredients. Most importantly, each entry includes a blurb about "how to try it", whether by visiting storefronts, browsing outdoor markets or ordering online. For crops, seasons are mentioned as well (such as for *duruka* on page 235).

In addition to the individual entries focusing on foods in specific regions, there are two-page spreads dedicated to a "Pantry Staple" having a broader geographical range, such as the entry for pickles, highlighting sauerkraut, umeboshi, name, pickle juice and kimchi (p. 256-57). Other topical pages cover "Table Etiquette in the Victorian Age" (p. 6), the Arabic coffeepot called a *dallah* (p. 94-95) and quirky fast-food restaurants (p. 224-225)

Gastro Obscura is a fascinating book you can devour straight-through or explore in random bite-size pieces. It is a perfect coffee table book (all terrible puns intended). For those still working on holiday shopping, it is likely to be an appreciated gift for any foodie or traveler.

Brown, Michael. ***Bibliography, Finding Aid and Index to Israeli Topographic Maps 1915-1970***. 2022 (244 pages).

I was given a free copy of a bibliography of Israeli topographic maps. This extensive finding aid is available in PDF and print, with pricing information outlined below.

- PDF. Purchase includes an edition in Jan 2022 and June 2022. Price is \$95.
- Print. Purchase includes an edition in Jan 2022 and a discount print or free pdf version in June 2022. Price is \$120.

Please send orders and requests for additional information to:

Michael Brown

43 Crestwood Drive

West Orange, NJ 07052

michael858791@gmail.com

Brown's guide helps users locate Israeli topographic maps published in the span of 1915-1970, many of which are available digitally. The bibliography lists approximately 2,000 maps with scales ranging from 1:5,000 to 1:125,000.

As the introduction explains, there are 13 libraries or organizations referenced as source institutions. Maps are found in the physical and digital collections of Haifa University, National Library of Australia, Tel Hai College, University of Florida, and Survey of Israel, to name a few. Institutions have been assigned abbreviations, which are listed in parentheses after each map found in their collections. When the source institution's abbreviation is bolded, this indicates the map is available digitally. The author provides URLs for the institutions, serving as starting points for researchers to track down the maps online or in

the physical collection. Purchasing information for many of the maps (in either hard copy or digital form) from the Survey of Israel in Tel Aviv is provided as well.

Brown plans to continuously update the bibliography and release new editions semi-annually. This will allow the author to not only add new maps, but to also update any outdated web addresses and fix other errors.

This 244-page document is an expansive list of maps organized in an easy-to-use format. However, there are some edits that could be made in future editions to prevent confusion. Many maps appear with the bolded institution acronyms but no individual URL to the specific map, implying users can use the main URLs in the introduction to track the maps down online. However, several maps on approximately eight pages throughout the bibliography include a direct link to the map. In some instances, this is hyperlinked and blue (making it a clickable link). In other cases, the link is black and can't be clicked. It is unclear whether these links were left behind in the author's editing of the final document, or if they appear specifically for these for any reason.

Another issue I had while reviewing this bibliography is related to the "system" numbers provided with each map. These long numbers appear to be barcodes corresponding to the catalog record in each institution's collection, but the author does not give a description of these in the introduction. This reviewer questions how useful they are in each case. For example, the *Hebrew U* numbers do not bring up any records when searched in that university's Primo catalog. However, the *Haifa U* barcodes immediately bring users to the records for the listed map. An explanation of what the system numbers mean would be welcome in the bibliography's introduction. Alternatively, removing the barcode numbers until a time when all the catalogs can be searched by the public using the URLs provided may help clear any confusion.

On a related note, sometimes the barcode numbers are italicized. There is no indication of why this would denote anything significant about the map itself. As these are rare occurrences, they are assumed to be formatting errors. A final proofread may help eliminate any of these issues, as the author hopes to do in future editions.

When I select items for review in *base line*, I aim to choose an assortment of atlases, web maps and applications to review, and don't stray too far from my own expertise so I can provide valuable feedback to the MAGIRT membership. In my work at University at Buffalo, I haven't had any opportunity to assist patrons with Israeli maps research, and I don't work with maps for the region on a regular basis. While this bibliography isn't typically something I would delve into for a detailed review, I am sharing my thoughts here with purchasing information as it is likely to be a useful resource for many readers of *base line*.

Web Resources

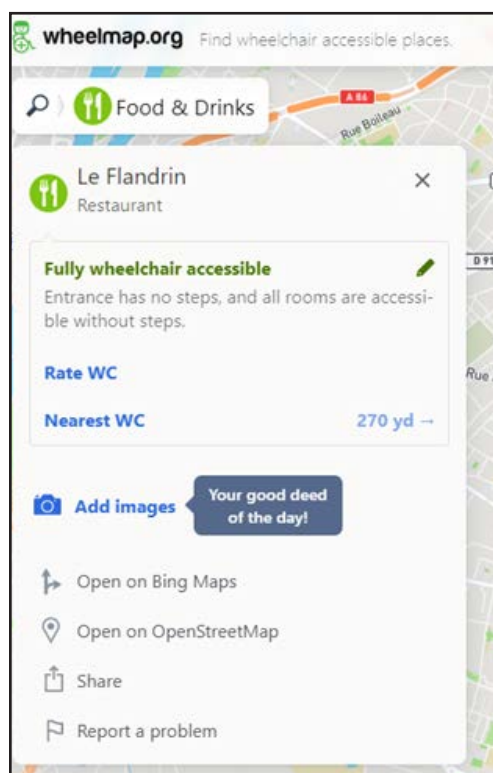
Wheelmap <https://wheelmap.org/search>

Hey, Google Maps users! Did you know you could find wheelchair accessible places using Google Maps? No? I didn't either – until I took time to look it up. According to a [May 2020](#)

[Google blog post](#), users can switch on an *Accessible Places* feature in their settings to “have wheelchair accessibility information more prominently displayed in Google Maps”. I am not a wheelchair user, but frequently spend time with family having difficulty using stairs, so this feature is welcome. However, as mentioned, I wasn’t aware of its existence until after I found a resource more suitable for wheelchair users, *Wheelmap*.

Wheelmap lets you “mark and find wheelchair accessible places – worldwide and for free”. The website features a traffic light system consisting of four icons to indicate locations that are fully wheelchair accessible, partially wheelchair accessible, not wheelchair accessible or where accessibility is unknown. Those that are partially or fully accessible are further divided into locations with accessible restrooms (marked with a *WC* for water closet). Based on OpenStreetMap, users can search for an address, or jump directly to specific types of places using the listed icons for shopping, food & drinks, transport, leisure, hotels and more.

As I do with most web mapping tools, I tested this with a search for my campus here in Buffalo, New York. It appears my location has not been added yet, and the website asks me to rate the wheelchair accessibility of the place and add images.



Realizing I may not get a full idea of the capabilities of this map if I focus on United States locations, I did a search for Paris, and end up looking at several entries for education and food categories. I came across a marker on the map for *Le Flandrin*, a fully wheelchair accessible restaurant. The detailed notes expand on why this rating has been selected, including that the entrance and all rooms have no steps. There is also an opportunity to either rate the location’s restroom or find the nearest accessible restroom.

The success of *Wheelmap* depends on data submitted by users. This crowdsourcing directly from users with the best knowledge of what is useful to them as wheelchair users is one of the things making this website so valuable. The FAQ lists other ways to become involved, including options to “organize a mapping event, become a *Wheelmap* Ambassador, promote the *Wheelmap* Widget or become a donor.”. The importance of community efforts leads me to check the data for Google Maps’ *Accessible Places* feature. Per the May 2020 blog post, their information

is also crowdsourced from Local Guides and business owners.

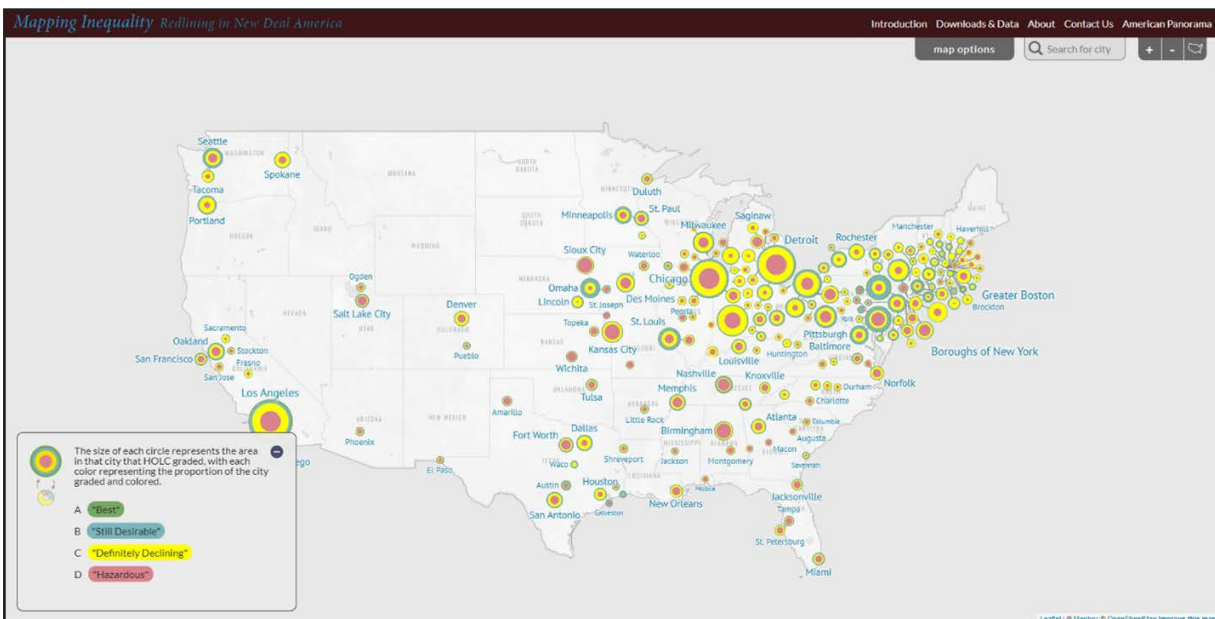
Wheelmap is available for on-the-go use via an app for iPhone and Android devices. I tested this on my Motorola as I walked around campus. The features mirror those available in the browser version. As expected, the app isn’t very useful since no users have submitted information for my area yet. However, I am looking forward to contributing review to help wheelchair users around me navigate.

[Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America](#)

The United States government played a key role in creating racially segregated neighborhoods by preventing nonwhites from owning homes beginning in the 1930s. As detailed in Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law* (published in 2017), the Federal Housing Administration refused to insure mortgages in predominantly African-American neighborhoods. Doing a simple search for *redlining* on Youtube or Google will result in many wonderful sources to gain a sufficient understanding of why this policy still affects the health and education of people living in redlined communities today. Delving into the devastating effects of redlining, while deserving of an entire column, is outside the scope of this review. I urge all readers to explore this on their own if they haven't already.

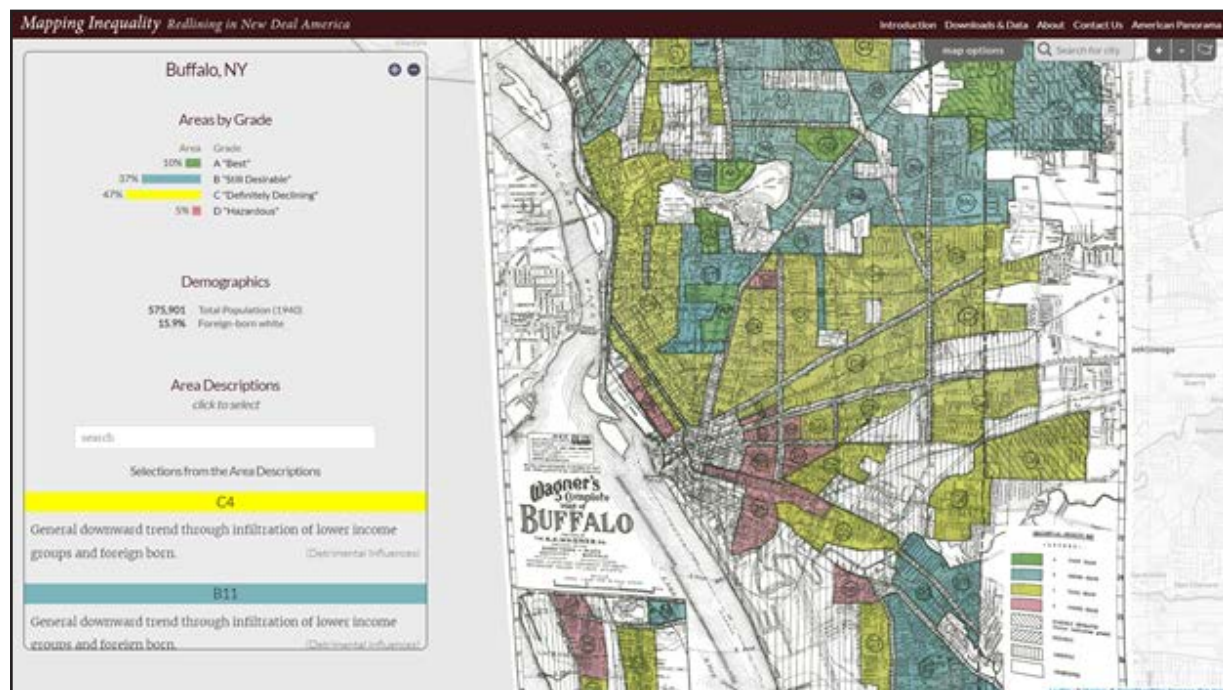
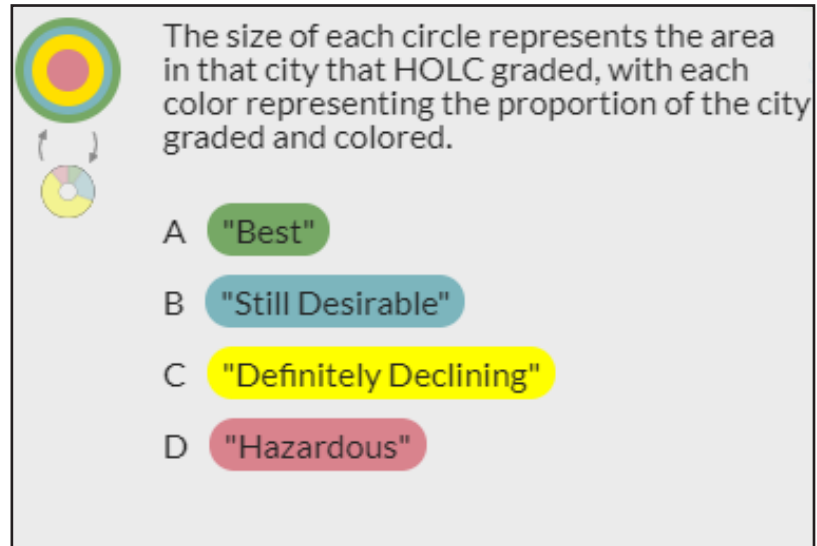
How did mortgagers decide when a person wasn't worthy of lending money to? "Residential security maps" created by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) (working with private mapmakers) highlighted neighborhoods considered dangerous investments for lenders. Those neighborhoods deemed hazardous appeared in red on the maps, hence the reason this practice is known as *redlining*. Digitized HOLC redlining maps can be explored in an exhibit from University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab, *Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America*. A colleague came across this website during genealogical research and shared it with me, and since then I've been proud to see it highlighted in my employer's internal antiracism course.

Mapping Inequality encourages users to explore their neighborhoods and think about how redlining policies have shaped the human landscape of their cities. The main exhibit website opens on a map created with LeafletJS and Mapbox, where users have the ability to zoom, search and pan around the United States map dotted with red, yellow, blue and green circles. The size and color of these circle indicate the HOLC grades for the region, as outlined in the accompanying screenshots.



Clicking on the circle icons bring up the HOLC map overlaid on the OpenStreetMap data. Additional data is displayed on the screen, including the percentage of areas in specific grades and the 1940 demographics for the region shown. The data window also includes a searchable box where users can search keywords to find additional notes for “Area Descriptions”, which are clarifying marks highlighting why the region was given the grade.

Of course, my first stop on this map was in Buffalo, NY – my hometown. The street I grew up on was rated C7 “Definitely Declining”. The detrimental influences are: “Distance to city’s center and quality of buildings.” Digging deeper, the area my father grew up in, the East Side of Buffalo, was C4 because of “General downward trend through infiltration of lower income groups and foreign born.” The summary also notes that this section includes “most of Buffalo’s large Polish and German population— in this case a substantial type of citizen.” Buffalo is known to be one of the most racially segregated cities with extremely poor and disadvantaged communities. It is surrounded by affluent suburbs with excellent school districts. Viewing this map and accompanying data makes the main cause of this discrimination shockingly clear.



All scans, data and images are available on the website's "Downloads & Data" page. This includes the HOLC maps, which are scanned mainly from the National Archives and in the public domain. The spatial data is available as both a Shapefile and GeoJSON download, with additional data hosted on their GitHub site. Data is also in the [ArcGIS Living Atlas](#). *Mapping Inequality* is one exhibit of many in [American Panorama: An Atlas of United States History](#). I look forward to exploring more of this wonderful website in future base line issues.

Conclusion

Thank you to MAGIRT members and *base line* readers for sticking with me for two years! I look forward to continuing this journey in 2022. As always, I welcome suggestions and collaboration. Please reach out if you have anything to share.



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