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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.

Editor: John A. Olson
Government and Geo-Information Librarian
Syracuse University
E-mail: jaolson@sy.edu

Distribution Manager: Mike Smith
Subject Specialist for Maps, California Gov Info, GIS
Coordinator, UCSD
E-mail: mls003@ucsd.edu

Cataloging Editor: Tammy T. Wong
Senior Cataloging Specialist
Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress
E-mail: twon@loc.gov

New Maps and Books Editor: Kim Plassche
Sciences Librarian, Liaison to Geography & GIS
University at Buffalo
E-mail: kf43@buffalo.edu

Membership and Marketing Committee Chairperson:
Erin Cheever
E-mail: erin.cheever@gmail.com

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

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MAGIRT OFFICERS:

Chairperson:
Min Zhang
Head, Metadata and Stewardship Section
Geography & Map Division
Library of Congress
E-mail: mizh@loc.gov

Vice-Chairperson (Chair-Elect):
Kevin Dyke
Maps and Spatial Data Curator
Oklahoma State University
Email: kdyke@okstate.edu

Secretary:
Laura Kane McElfresh
Cartographic Metadata Librarian
University of Minnesota
E-mail: mcelf008@umn.edu

Treasurer:
Pete Reehling
Digital Scholarship Librarian
Digital Scholarship Services – USF Libraries
E-mail: reehling@hotmail.com

Assistant Treasurer:
Iris Taylor
Senior Cataloging Specialist
Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress
E-mail: itaylor@loc.gov

Past Chairperson:
Sierra Laddusaw
Maps Curator, Digital Scholarship Curator
Map & GIS Library – Cushing Memorial Library & Archives
TAMU 5000
E-mail: sladdusaw@library.tamu.edu

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FROM THE CHAIR

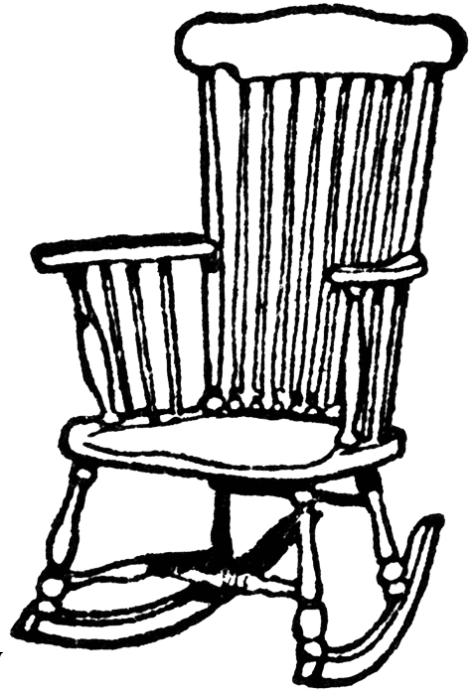
MIN ZHANG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Greetings all,

Happy Chinese New Year of the Tiger! I hope you all are doing well and staying healthy, happy and safe. The past year has brought many stressful and challenging situations that have impacted our lives in many ways. But now the situation has started to loosen up and we have something to look forward to an in-person conference for the upcoming ALA 2022 Annual Conference in Washington DC. It will be our first non-virtual conference since the Pandemic.

In anticipation of the enthusiasm and excitement from map librarians, the MAGIRT Executive Board has been busy planning for the annual conference. I have submitted a request to the LC ALA Annual 2022 Planning Committee which is responsible for coordinating meetings and conferences at LC. I'm happy to report that the Planning Committee has reviewed and tentatively approved my proposal for a MAGIRT event. Final approval is pending.



I proposed a tour of LC's Geography & Map Division on June 24, 2022, between 3:00 pm-4:30 pm. Participants will tour various areas of the Geography & Map division, including acquisition, processing, collections, and our research and service center. The tour will be followed by a display of thematic cartographic collections. MAGIRT members and past chairs Wangyal, Tammy, and Iris have provided great suggestions for the exhibit. We will showcase the G&M collection relating to inclusivity, diversity and history. This will include maps on lynching and freedom rides, topographic sets of WWII maps, Japan's map of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Nazi war atlas of Operation Barbarossa. We will try to display highlights that meet the wide interests of MAGIRT members.

I have also visited some local restaurants trying to scout out a possible award dinner venue. Let's keep our fingers crossed and the ALA Annual will be held as planned. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in DC in June.

Thank you, as always, for your continued engagement and enthusiasm.



ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

New Story Map on How Geology Shaped the Development of Cities in the U.S.

A new Story Map created by Geography & Map Division (G&M) explores how the physical features of the North American continent influenced the development of cities in the eastern United States along the Atlantic Seaboard Fall Line. The Story Map brings together materials from G&M, the Prints & Photographs Division, and the Manuscript Division with GIS data to tell an enduring story of American history and geography. View the Story Map here: [How Geology Shapes History](#).

Preferred browsers are Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari.



The purple line on this map follows the approximate location of the Atlantic Seaboard Fall Line.



Minutes of the MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

January 25, 2022

Time: January 25, 2022, 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Present: Erin Cheever, Craig Haggit, Tim Kiser, Laura McElfresh, Kim Plassche, Kathy Rankin, Amy Runyon, Tammy Wong, Iris Taylor, Min Zhang

Guest: Emily Drabinski, candidate for ALA President

Regrets: Kevin Dyche, Sierra Laddusaw, Wangyal Shawa

1. Call to order - 3:00 pm Eastern

2. Call for changes to Agenda

- a. ALA Presidential candidate Emily Drabinski is planning to drop in to talk with us

3. Secretary--Minutes from past meeting

- a. Minutes were distributed via email for comment/approval and have been published in *base line*. This allows more flexible access for Board members to offer comments, as well as a quicker turnaround time for publication.

4. Officer Reports

a. Chair (Min Zhang)

1. For ALA Annual, CCC and the Cataloging IG needed to switch their meeting order because CCC needs the report from the IG. Liaison Danielle Ponton approved the exchange. Both meetings will take place Sunday, June 26, 2022
 - a. 9:00-10:00 am: ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cataloging Cartographic Resources Map Cataloging Interest Group (Amy Runyon, Chair)
 - b. 11:00 am - 12:00 noon: MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee (Tim Kiser, Chair)
2. Reminder: there have been phishing emails going out from Min, maybe other Exec group members. Be careful & check the address.

b. Vice Chair (Kevin Dyke) - no report

c. Secretary (Laura McElfresh) - no report

d. Webmaster (Craig Haggit)

1. Uploading *base line* when it comes out; updating committee assignments as needed. Erin is taking the lead on reimagining the website. They have a meeting coming up.

e. Treasurer (Pete Reehling/Iris Taylor)

1. Pete has not received an updated financial spreadsheet; so our financials should be the same (or, Iris points out, small increase -- it's a pandemic so we're not spending anything!)

f. Past Chair (Sierra Laddusaw)

1. We have someone running for chair-elect: **Tim Kiser**! Yay! Thank you, Tim. (Sierra missed the deadline for ballot submissions; but we can all write Tim in on the ballot.)
2. Turns out the assistant treasurer was not slated for election this year; treasurer is a three-year term with the assistant elected every other year. ("The treasurer is a three-year position: first year served as assistant, second year as treasurer, and third year as treasurer while training the new assistant.")
 - Pete is the current Treasurer for 2021/22; Iris is Assistant.
 - Pete will roll off after ALA Annual 2022 and Iris will move into the Treasurer role as solo Treasurer for 2022/23. We will elect an Assistant Treasurer next election (2023).
 - Following ALA Annual 2023, Iris will stay on for 2023/24 as Treasurer and will train the newly elected Assistant Treasurer.
3. Based on point 2 – we need to update our handbook to reflect this. The assistant treasurer position appears nowhere in our handbook! Sierra has started draft edits and will share as soon as she can.

5. Old Business - nothing from previous minutes

6. New Business

a. Discussion: updates on the Proposed MAGIRT event -- ALA 2022 Annual Conference Meetings & Programs

1. LC has formed an ALA Annual 2022 Planning Committee which is responsible for coordinating the conference at LOC. All proposals for LOC-sponsored and co-sponsored events, meetings, and other functions are required to submit to the Planning Committee for review and approval. Min submitted a request for a MAGIRT event, and it has received initial approval. Final approval is pending.
 - i. June 24, 2022, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm - tour of LC Geography & Map Division! Might have to split into 2 groups for safe distancing.
 - ii. We will tour various areas of the Geography & Map division, including acquisition, processing, collections, researching cartographic resources. Top three event space preferences are:

- LMB02: Geography & Map Reading Room
 - LMB02: Geography & Map Conference Room
 - LMB02: Geography & Map Vault enclosure area
- iii. A few items will be on display. Wangyal, Tammy, Iris, and Min had provided suggestions for this small exhibit.
 - It's a work in progress; showcasing the whole collection, relating to inclusivity & diversity within the collection itself.
 - Maps on lynching; Freedom Rides; trying to pull a variety of new highlights rather than the usual maps you see.
 - iv. The event will be open to all ALA attendees, but the target audience is MAGIRT members.
 - v. Would have liked to have specialists offer seminars; but due to Omicron & continued COVID uncertainty, we're proceeding more cautiously.
2. Min's comments on the event proposal: "We have hosted tours and exhibitions to the Map & Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) members during ALA annual events in the past. Several G&M staff are MAGIRT members who know the collections and MAGIRT members well. We can customize a well-rounded program for map librarians nationwide. It will be a substantial outreach program to promote LC's cartographic collections and research resources."
 3. Tim says the tour of LC G&M was the highlight of the 2019 ALA Conference!

7. Committee/DG/IG Reports

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

1. (See Past Chair report re: Asst Treasurer & Bylaws)

b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (Tim Kiser)

1. Ad-hoc meeting last Friday, 1/21/22:
 - a. Discussed ISBD draft document released in December. Ultimately concluded: Don't Panic.
 - b. Recap of Policy Statements Round Table of last Tuesday

c. Education Committee (Kim Plassche)

- Still looking for volunteers to serve on Education Committee!
- Working w/ Carol McAuliffe on a webinar about the Online Guide to Map Collections; aiming for early March.

- Other ideas for webinars? Things you would like to teach? Contact Kim!
- d. Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG Coordinator (Wangyal Shawa)**
 1. Proposed some ideas for LC ALA Annual exhibit
- e. Membership & Marketing Committee (Erin Cheever)**
 1. Looking to schedule a meeting to talk about ALA Annual
 - a. Would like to give away some swag! Ideas welcome.
 - b. Is there a budget? - Iris says please submit proposals for what they think they will do, what \$\$ they need; she & Pete will look over it & respond. (Just send an email with budget breakdown.)
- f. Online Presence Oversight Committee (vacant)**
- g. Publications Committee (vacant)**
- h. Cataloging of Carto Resources IG (Amy Runyon)**
 1. Also getting back into the swing of things after the holidays
 2. Following CCC meeting, talked about DEI initiatives. Would like to talk about that some more -- initiatives afoot in our various libraries
- i. Map Collection Management DG (Craig Haggitt)**
 1. Planning to meet in DC (Min has sent out ALA meeting times to all EB members but can send again)
- j. Freedom to Read Foundation (Iris Taylor)**
 1. This liaison position has been in place for a long time! Iris serves as the liaison now and attended the 2022 ALA Virtual January Meeting.
 2. Of possible interest to MAGIRT members: FTRF has identified geofencing as a developing issue.
 - Geofencing creates a virtual boundary around a geographic area; when a smartphone (e.g.) crosses a geofence it will trigger a computer action.
 - This is usually used for targeted notifications or advertising, but can also be used for tracking purposes and has been framed as an invasion of privacy. If you have concerns, reach out to FTRF or to Iris.
 3. Iris's full report is included at the end of these meeting notes (Appendix A).
- k. WAML liaison report (Katherine Rankin)**
 1. 2021 WAML Conference was meant to be at Univ of BC in Vancouver; but closure of US/CAN border → online conference.

- i. Preconferences on writing documentation for spatial resources; remote sensing methods & learning resources; rebuilding Map Librarians' Toolbox
 - ii. Keynote presentation: Native Land Digital
 - iii. 2022 meeting tentatively scheduled for Hawaii (in person)
- 2. WAML business meeting was November 9, 2021
 - i. New WAML website on WordPress; *WAML Information Bulletin* also on Wordpress
- 3. Kathy's full report is included at the end of these meeting notes (Appendix B).

1. CC:DA Report (Min Zhang)

- 1. With LibLearnX taking the place of traditional Midwinter (LibLearnX was just this last weekend, Jan. 21-24) CC:DA will meet after LibLearnX and after the Jan. 25-27 MAC meetings. No meeting has been scheduled yet.

8. Welcome ALA Presidential candidate Emily Drabinski!

[Emily Drabinski's Platform](#)

Emily is an instruction librarian; has served on *College & Research Libraries* journal. Is running for ALA President because she thinks now is the time to make good on promises for equity and inclusion. Emily has a background in labor unions, which she believes will position her well to help advocate for library workers. Interested in hearing our thoughts about what we think ALA should be doing for its round tables. Some of the most important work takes place at the round table level -- what can ALA do to support this work?

- a. Min thanked Emily for visiting; her statement echoes what Iris was talking about with regard to diversity and inclusion. Also appreciates labor union experience.
- b. With regard to round table issues: we hope they do not start talking about minimum memberships again. Round tables with specialized scopes have limited membership potential; but we need to remain independent.
- c. This group is incredibly important to us. The main value of ALA for some of us **is** MAGIRT; it would be lost if we were merged with another group.
- d. Could save overhead by sharing some organizational infrastructure (elections, mission statement functions, other procedural matters) with other smaller groups
- e. Labor unions - librarians will form a union but then the governing body (city, state, etc.) will not recognize it. How does Emily see that playing out?
 - 1. E.g., Denver -- before CUNY, Emily was at a smaller private university with a union; wanted to act in solidarity. Organizing is so local; need to train people to advocate (meaning, organize within a unit -- form

a union, down to even pushing for office supplies.) ALA has left this piece kind of hanging. The right to collectively bargain is important to library workers!

2. ALA could put this message out and could also help people develop skills.
- f. Smaller venues for conferences (LibLearnX, etc.) -- will ALA also reduce costs? Salaries aren't great right now, let alone for people in non-MLS positions. Hard to say now because of the pandemic, but what does Emily think?
 1. Emily is a director and still finds costs prohibitive! ALA has proposed a new membership structure: 4 instead of 11 membership types; higher salary cap to bump into higher dues bracket. ALA is reevaluating everything with regard to revenue streams. (Conferences are proving difficult.) Emily is not certain what the solution will be but agrees that this is important. (Mutual aid? Institutionalize the costs in some way?)

9. Council news - Iris

- a. Council passed updates to bylaws regarding the number of members restriction for the roundtables: minimum 150 people to stand as a round table over a three-year period. (Two small RTs were merged, but we should not be in any danger.)
 1. Iris is not sure when this will take effect.
 2. Min points out we still want to recruit and retain new members -- especially young-career librarians! MAGIRT could benefit from new blood.
 3. The relevant Council Document ([2021-2022 ALA CD # 25-25.2](#)) from the 2022 ALA Virtual January Meeting is available via the Virtual January and Annual Conference Council Meetings page or [directly from this link](#).

10. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 29, 3pm Eastern

11. Adjournment: 3:52 pm Eastern



Appendix A: Freedom to Read Foundation, MAGIRT's Liaison Report

January 25, 2022

by Iris Taylor, MAGIRT/FTRF Liaison

FREE EXPRESSION AND CIVIL LIBERTIES ADVOCACY The Freedom to Read Foundation regularly advocates for fundamental rights and civil liberties through correspondence and statements directed to legislatures, organizations, and government bodies.

Here is a summary of the topics Discussed at the meeting:

New Litigation

- **Coleman v. Grand**: FTRF joined the brief authored by counsel for the Committee for Freedom of the Press. The case provides support protection for speakers making comments on matters of public concern, such as sexual harassment in the music industry. In the argument, the statements made concerning sexual harassment in the music industry, made in the early days of the #MeToo movement, concern an issue of vital public interest that should be protected speech.

The plaintiff has appealed that decision, arguing that New York state law should not apply in federal court. He also argues that the young musician's statements address "purely private matters" and do not constitute "an issue of public interest" for purposes of the anti-SLAPP law. The brief joined by FTRF argues that the Anti-SLAPP law applies because the case involves a substantive matter. That actual malice is the correct standard to be used in the case.

- **Happ v. Facebook**: The lawsuit concerns the extent of the legal protections provided to online intermediaries that host third-party content, including libraries that offer users access to platforms and websites.

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals has reversed that decision, holding that Section 230 does not provide immunity from state law-based intellectual property claims. FTRF joined by counsel for the Electronic Frontier Foundation. FTRF argued that excluding state publicity rights claims from Section 230 immunity would impair the ability of online platforms to support user-generated content - including libraries. Make sure their sites comply with the most restrictive state laws.

CURRENT LITIGATION

Supreme Court Case resolved in favor of the plaintiff's first amendment rights. For example, Brandy Levy versus Mahanoy, most well-known, the lawsuit filed by a high school cheerleader expelled from her school's cheer team as punishment for posting a profanity-laced Snapchat post. The courts ruled that the First Amendment protected Brandi Levy's Snapchat post; it did not create the kind of substantial disruption that would justify her punishment. Especially since the post was made off-campus and outside of school hours and must respect their students' First Amendment right to express unpopular or dissenting views.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FTRF

Has made progress on implementing the recommendations of the FTRF Task Force on Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice.

The FTRF Board has also established the Intellectual Freedom and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee, chaired by Cindy Hohl. The Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice Symposium, program planning led by a task force chairs by Sukrit Goswami and Sophia Sotilleo. The event title is, Where Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice Meet: A Call to Action. The current plan is to hold two half-day virtual events in July 2022. The Symposium will explore the intersection of intellectual freedom and social justice -and how we might empower individuals to act and engage in advocacy for intellectual freedom and social justice.

DEVELOPING ISSUES:

At each meeting of the FTRF Board of Trustees, members of the Developing Issues Committee choose current topics to discuss to inform members of the Board about potential future challenges and legal issues. Among the issues for discussion and consideration during the 2021-2022 term that may be of interest to MAGIRT is Geofencing. In addition, there are many current cases developing.

Geofencing is a "location-based technology service" which creates virtual boundaries around a specific geographical area. When a mobile device or radio frequency identification device (RFID) enters or exits a geofence. It triggers an action sent from a computer app or other software. For example, targeted notifications and advertisements might be sent to a person's mobile device when they enter a geographic area, about a nearby store or business. Usually, geofences are used for marketing purposes but also can determine the locations of smartphones, vehicle fleets, pets, and other people.

Donate to the **JUDITH F. KRUG MEMORIAL FUND**. The fund supports projects and programs that carry on Judith's mission to educate librarians and the public about the First Amendment and the importance of defending and advocating for the right to read and speak freely. For example, The Krug Fund Banned Books Week Grants. A major initiative of the Krug Fund is lending its support for local Banned Books Week celebrations in schools and libraries across the country.

You can always become a Freedom to Read Foundation member.



Appendix B: WAML Liaison Report to MAGIRT Executive Board January 2022

The 2021 WAML conference was originally planned to be in person in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the University of British Columbia, but since the United States-Canada border was closed when the conference was being planned, it was decided to hold it virtually on October 26-29th, 2021. Preconferences on learning how to write better documentation for spatial resources, modern remote sensing methods and learning resources, and rebuilding the WAML Map Librarians' Toolbox were held on the 26th. The keynote speakers were Christine McRae and Victor Temprano of Native Land Digital. Daniel Cole of the Smithsonian Institution also made a presentation on The Relationship Between Indigenous and Euro-American Maps Over Time. Other presentation included topics such as cartographic literacy and social justice, indoor space modeling with 3D Web GIS for library asset management, building a shared archive of western Canadian topographic maps, capturing the complex histories of German World War II captured maps, compiling and mapping police involved deaths in Canada, plans and profiles of the Colorado River, and recent trends in maps and geospatial academic position descriptions. 178 people registered for the conference, 60 paid a registration fee that went to scholarships, and 60-85 people attended each presentation.

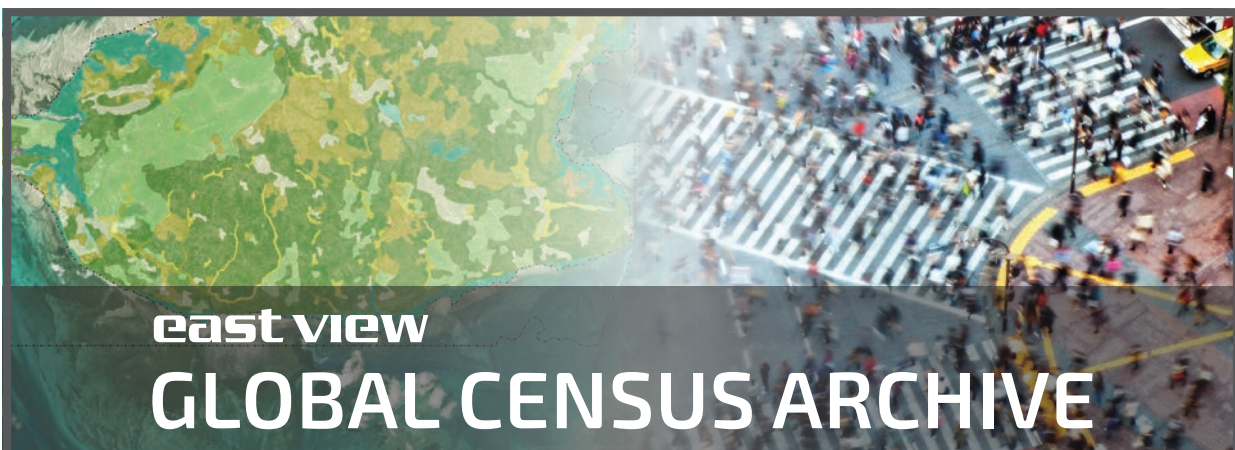
Lightning talks were also given on such topics as an update on the role of libraries in geography and GIS education, managing digital georeferenced aerial imagery collections, and fire insurance maps finding aids. Each day there were virtual social hours using Gather including one dedicated to topics of interest for students interested in Map and GIS librarianship, and early career information professionals.

The WAML business meeting was held on November 9, 2021. WAML has a new website running on Word Press. An ad hoc committee is working or reviewing the job descriptions for appointed positions, and another ad hoc committee is working on diversity, inclusion, and equity. WAML is also working on consolidating its branding and improving the Map Librarian Toolbox, which will have a format that allows more authors. The Information Bulletin is also on Word Press. Georgia Brown is the new News and Notes editor. ACMLA has reduced its membership fees for retirees, so maybe WAML will also reduce its membership fees for retirees. There are 109 WAML members, 8 honorary lifetime members, and 4 paid lifetime members. The total includes 19 new members. WAML is in healthy financial shape. WAML's president is Evan Thornberry, the vice-president/president elect is Katherine Strickland, treasurer is Bruce Godfrey, secretary is Kevin Dyke, and past president is Matthew Toro. The 2022 WAML meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in person in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Rankin, WAML Liaison





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LATEST GCA RELEASES

Publications

- **Brazil 2010 Census:** 108 publications
- **Guyana 2012 Census:** 91 publications
- **Mexico 2010 Census:** 163 publications
- **Peru 2017 Census:** 499 publications
- **Suriname 2012 Census:** 18 publications

GIS Data

- **Argentina 2001 Census:** 92% pop. cov., ADM 3, 512 census units
- **Chile 1992 Census:** 97% pop. cov., ADM 3, 342 census units
- **Ecuador 2001 Census:** 100% pop. cov., ADM 6, 32,115 census units
- **Tanzania 2012 Census:** 98.7% pop. cov., ADM 5, 108,465 census units

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NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

"If you never open a map until you're lost, you're missing out on all the fun."
- Ken Jennings, *Maphead* (2011)

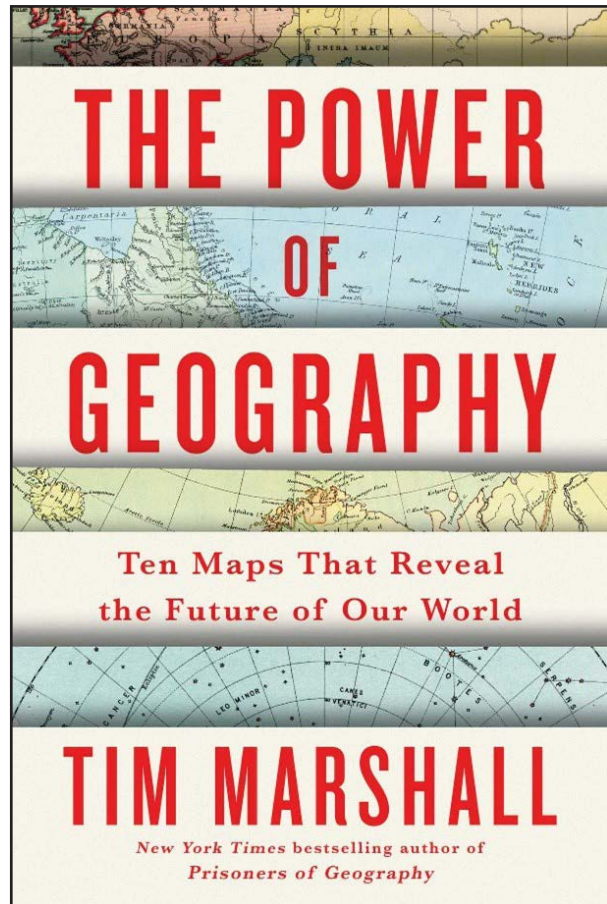
Introduction

This issue's column unintentionally has a theme. I accidentally focus my attention on sequels to popular books and resources. I had the pleasure of delving into two 2021 follow-ups to popular releases. These new volumes are worthy sequels and deserving of praise equal to those given to the preceding books. I also explored a new resource focused on toxic pollution. The ProPublica map of industrial air pollution isn't a new version of NLM's retired TOXMAP, but it is a much-needed replacement for citizens to evaluate their cancer risk due to nearby sources.

Books

Marshall, Tim. ***The Power of Geography: Ten Maps That Reveal the Future of Our World***. New York: Scribner, 2021 (ISBN: 9781982178642). 294 pages: maps; 24 cm. List price: \$27.00.

Tim Marshall is a familiar name to many in the United Kingdom and abroad. The British journalist has appeared on BBC and Sky News, and has also published seven books on history, culture, current events, and geography. Tim Marshall's impressive resume and global travel, combined with in-depth research, brings us the 2021 release ***The Power of Geography: Ten Maps That Reveal the Future of Our World***. This follow-up to 2015's *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World* provides a crash course in the history of nine global regions (plus one that is literally out of this world). Marshall focuses on the myriad ways physical, human, and political geography shape the past, present and future. While the book's title advertises ten maps framing the text's arguments,



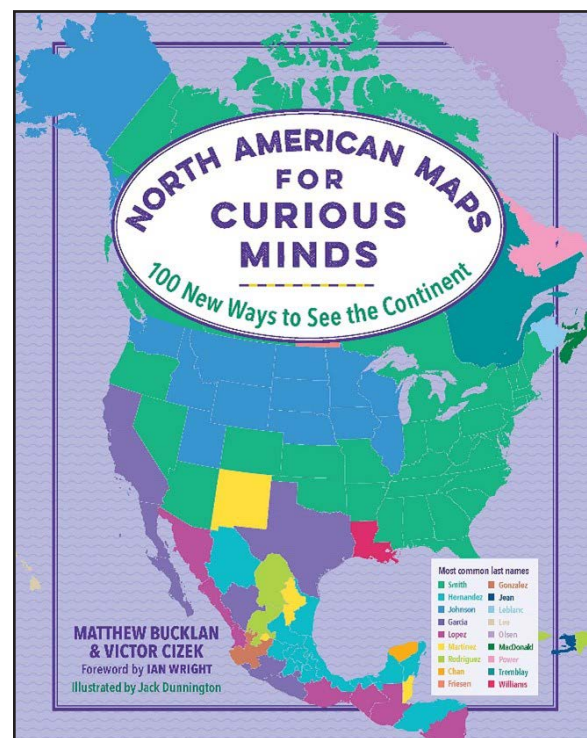
cartophiles will be thrilled to find there are at least two or three maps in each chapter. The maps lack details we are accustomed to seeing in our collections. They are relatively small and most show just a few countries, but the labels and features highlighted provide sufficient context for the author's text.

The specific countries and regions covered are named in the book's ten chapters: Australia--Iran--Saudi Arabia--The United Kingdom--Greece--Turkey- The Sahel--Ethiopia--Spain—Space. Each chapter serves as an extremely concise history of the nation or region discussed. Marshall focuses on instances where geography played an important role in critical events. He often draws on his own travels as he attempts to draw the reader into the setting. Whether he is recounting his own experience witnessing the 2009 riots in Iran (p. 59) or his friendship with the BBC cameraman Simon Cumbers who was murdered as the result of a terrorist attack while reporting in Saudi Arabia in 2004 (p. 79), Marshall's personal anecdotes reveal his authority as a well-traveled journalist.

This book is not an atlas, so readers shouldn't expect to open this up and dive into colorful annotated maps. However, the description of geographical features and settlements in Marshall's text are comparable to having a map read to you. In fact, I was delighted to find this available as an audiobook. I was able to seamlessly shift between reading the eBook and listening to the audiobook without feeling I missed something in the illustrations, since there are so few and can easily be turned back to. I mention the formats used to "read" this book merely to demonstrate the wide accessibility of this volume for libraries and readers. *Prisoners of Geography* was a bestseller, and *The Power of Geography* is likely to be just as popular with readers of all levels and disciplines.

Bucklan, Matthew, Victor Cizek and Jack Dunnington (Illustrations). ***North American Maps for Curious Minds: 100 New Ways to See the Continent***. New York: The Experiment, 2021 (ISBN: 9781615197484). 194 pages: maps (chiefly color); 24 cm. List price: \$19.95.

Followers of the website [Brilliant Maps](https://brilliantmaps.com/) or readers of 2019's *Brilliant Maps for Curious Minds: 100 New Ways to See the World* (reviewed in base line 41 (2): 16) will be delighted to see a new compilation of maps focusing on the North American continent. This volume includes 100 maps grouped by topic: 1. Geography -- 2. Politics and Power -- 3. Nature -- 4. Culture and Sports -- 5. People and Populations -- 6. Lifestyle and Health -- 7. Industry. These thematic groupings are notably different than the nine chapters in *Brilliant Maps*, which featured chapters devoted to national identity as well as crime and



punishment. This new release features different authors and illustrator than the previous release, which may contribute to variations in chapters and style.

Ian Wright, the 2019 book's author, writes the foreword to this volume. Wright points out the book was researched and written during the COVID-19 pandemic and speculates how many thematic maps will be altered following this period in history. In particular, he is interested in seeing maps detailing changes in commuting times and anxiety five years from now. In fact, the authors do touch on the COVID-19 pandemic, most notably on a map showing the results of a CDC survey of people's experiences with anxiety and depression January 6 through January 18, 2021. This date was chosen due to noticing US peaked in daily confirmed new cases of the virus on January 8 of that year.

While this book covers the entire North American continent, the introduction notes that those countries with state-funded research institutions appear more frequently. Indeed, we do see an abundance of maps related to Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The authors made a clear effort to include other countries, most obviously in maps that don't draw on complex data sources, such as *Identity crisis: What even is North America?* (p. 10); *Just keep swimming: The first country you'll reach, coast to coast* (p. 18); and *On dry land: States and provinces not touching an ocean, gulf, or bay* (p. 20).

The 100 maps in this book map out difficult truths, such as maps 74 and 75 which chart out how the square mileage of indigenous homelands in the United States declined from 3.8 million in 1491 to just 200,000 today (p. 92-93). There are also playful topics represented, such as on map 50 which charts place names appearing in Billboard no. 1 song titles (p. 68). The illustrator uses color graphics to visualize the data. In map 50, for example, he uses simple but recognizable illustrations of each song's performers as icons. Another example of smart graphics is seen in map 53, *How the stacks stack up: 20 largest physical public library collections in the United States*, readers can refer to the colorful piles of books in various sizes to determine the relative sizes of each collection (p. 67). The clever and colorful way of depicting data on the maps in an easy-to-read method makes these maps truly "brilliant".

A detailed bibliography of sources follows the map chapters. The list includes citations for data, images, and map concepts. The listing of these sources by chapter/map allows readers to easily track them down.

While this book is inspired by the companion website Brilliant Maps, a search of the website did not reveal if all the maps in this book have been posted online. If one can find the original maps online, obtaining a copy of this book is still worthwhile. The authors chose maps that, when grouped together, tell important stories about the North American continent (as seen in the indigenous land change pages). I look forward to seeing more of this series published and will remain a fan of the Brilliant Maps website.

Web Resources

Shaw, Al and Younnes, L (2021, November 2), [The Most Detailed Map of Cancer-Causing Industrial Air Pollution in the U.S.](#), ProPublica.

“It’s not a secret that industrial facilities emit hazardous air pollution.” ProPublica gets straight to the point in the introduction to their air pollution map. Toxic pollution isn’t a secret but mapping that data on the web has proven harder to do in recent years. Many of us remember TOXMAP from the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM). This tool allowed users to map data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Superfund programs, and it was a favorite of researchers across various disciplines from geography to medicine, and everyone in between. Unfortunately, in late 2019 the database was shut down. According to NLM the data were “integrated into other NLM products and services”, however [TOXMAP](#)’s dissolution left a gaping hole when it came to visualizing the dispersal of toxic materials spatially.

My colleague here at University at Buffalo Libraries, a biological sciences librarian, was incredibly disappointed when TOXMAP ended. He rallied a medical library colleague and me to update our library research guides with a suitable alternative. We tried to fill the gap with websites such as [Mapping Waste](#), a powerful tool for exploring pollution hotspots in my region. We live just miles from Love Canal, which may give you an idea of what is lurking underground and in the air around Western New York. That same biological sciences librarian must have been dwelling on the loss of TOXMAP for a few years. Just last November, he shared ProPublica’s own toxic release map with me.

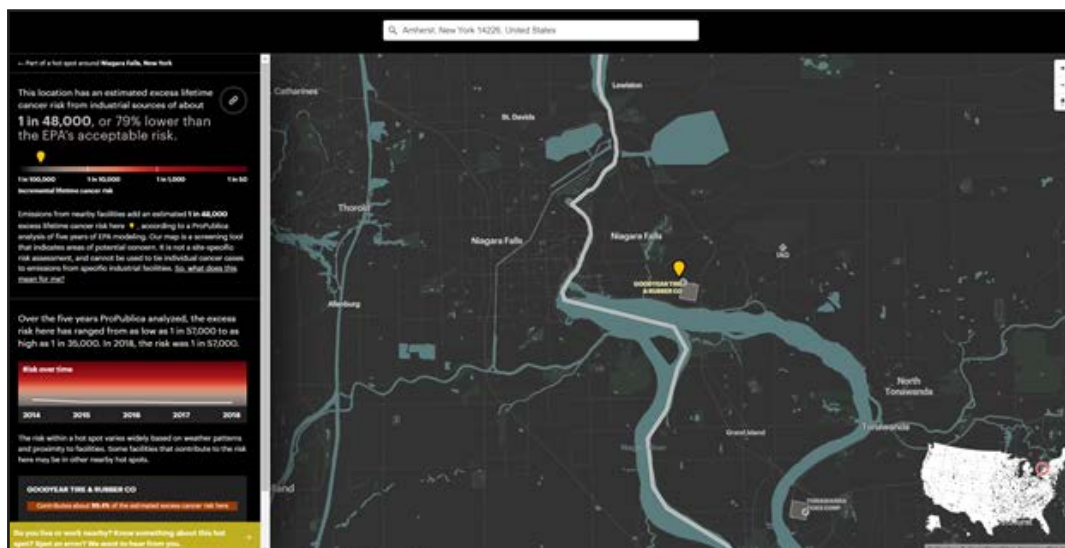
Who is ProPublica? According to their *About Us* section, the organization is “an independent, nonprofit newsroom that produces investigative journalism with moral force.” They focus on stories related to racial justice, the environment, health care, criminal justice, and others. Their air pollution map crosses these major themes to hold toxic polluters responsible. Their map is the result of a two-year analysis of “billions of rows of EPA data” showing air pollution from industrial sources in the United States. Analysts used the Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) model, looking at emissions, weather, and point source information. In an article detailing how the map was made, ProPublica points out although EPA does have its own National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), this new map differs in several ways, including the fact that it is not hindered by estimating cancer risk at the census tract level and allows five years of data to be mapped (as opposed to NATA’s one year).

ProPublica’s Toxmap shows more than 1,000 “hot spots” where 250,000 people are exposed to levels of excess cancer risk (according to the EPA). The map highlights places where the cancer risk is 10 times lower than the EPA’s threshold – anything over 1 in 10,000 – meaning there would be one extra case of cancer due to living in the area and being exposed for a lifetime.

Using my home in Niagara County as a starting point, I see a message that the “nearest hot spot is 5.8 miles away in or around Niagara Falls, New York”. Clicking on the button to see the hot spot, the map moves to the area near “Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co” and a window with additional information about that region appears. Data includes population in the hot spot; the average risk (1 in 48,000 or 79% lower than the EPA’s acceptable risk, in this case); and the highest risk (which is the same as average risk for this example). There is also an opportunity to contribute information if you live in the hot spot and see something

wrong in the data or information presented. Clicking the icon for the industrial source (Goodyear) brings up information about the facility, including what pollutants it emits and how much of the estimated excess cancer risk it contributes (99.4% for this example). A graph showing the risk over five years is shown as well.

Exploring beyond my own immediate region was a bit challenging. The grey labels used



for industrial facilities are very similar to the labels for towns and cities, so it is difficult to know where to click to view other point sources. A grey target icon also appears near greyed out hot spot areas, but at smaller scales these are increasingly hard to see. The map itself occupies a small window on the page following the introductory text. Moving this out into a separate page may make this easier to use.

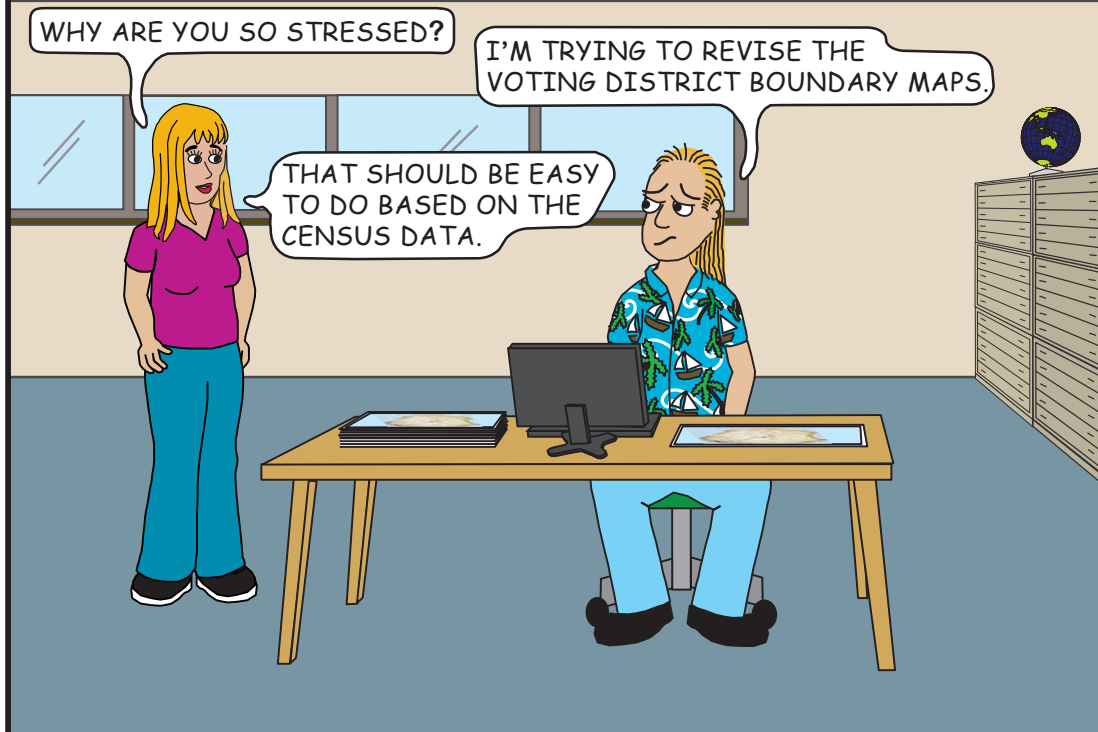
While this isn't an exact swap for NLM's TOXMAP, it is valuable for visualizing a longer period of data than NATA. The detailed information provided for each point, the detailed methodology, and the explanation of what the data means to the average person are excellent additions. I look forward to seeing this updated as more data becomes available.

Conclusion

As we adjust to so many new habits and ways of work in a pandemic world, I am trying to appreciate electronic books more. In previous columns I made my preference for the printed volume known, but as more librarians are asked to turn to digital lending, I know I must, as well. The books reviewed on this column were accessed via Proquest Ebook Central and Hoopla Digital with my institutional and public library access. I have two physical books waiting for my April column but will continue to seek out atlases and related books in any format available. If MAGIRT members are interested in specifics regarding ease of use, please let me know and I can include those details in future reviews.



GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs



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