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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

We are deeply saddened by the passing of MAGIRT member Nancy Kandoian (1952 - 2022). We are all mourning the loss of this kind, gentle, super-helpful, and knowledgeable friend. MAGIRT members who worked, interacted or had exchanges with Nancy benefitted from her erudite knowledge and passion for rare, cartographic cataloging. She will be greatly missed by MAGIRT and the map community at large. Our board members and past chairs Tim Kiser, Iris Taylor, Sierra Laddusaw, and Maggie Long will work together to prepare an ALA memorial resolution in honor of Nancy Kandoian for her dedication and contributions to ALA and MAGIRT communities.



At the Exec Board meeting on May 31, members also discussed our options for conflicting meeting places and schedules. The decision was to combine the ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cataloging Cartographic Resources Map Cataloging Interest Group meeting with the Cataloging and Classification Committee meeting. We will meet at the Georgetown University Room at the Marriott Marquis from 8:30 am – 10 am on Sunday, June 26th. Please spread the word.

As we prepare for the first in-person conference since the Pandemic, Geography & Map staff are elated about hosting MAGIRT members at the Annual. We will not only give a tour of the division, but we have also invited G&M cartographer Tim St Onge to give a talk on “Connecting Communities with People through Cartography.” This talk focuses on how Story Maps are utilized across the library and how web mapping enhances our understanding of our vast collections. In addition, we will also showcase some of our treasured collections at the end of tour. We have selected the popular “Pearl Harbor Map, 1941”. A StoryMap and blog based on the map were one of the top four most visited web sites at www.loc.gov. Hundreds of comments were generated.

In May, we acquired the largest 18th and 19th century miniature globes from the Kislak Family Foundation. The globes come from both North American and European makers and represent 200 years of globe making from some of the most important craftsmen in the US, France, Germany and the UK. Combined with our current holdings, this makes G&M the largest holder of this type of geographic ephemera in the world, and represents a near complete documentation of this kind of globe making from its beginnings to the end of the 19th century.

We are looking forward to your visit and showing you our treasures.



MAGIRT 2022 Annual Conference Meetings Schedule

Friday, June 24th

10:30a – 12:00p	Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) (NOTE: MAGIRT officers are only ones “required”/expected to attend) (Washington Convention Center 202A)
3:00 - 4:30p	Tour Geography & Map Tour and Exhibition (Library of Congress Madison Building: Geography and Map Reading Room LMB02)
Evening	MAGIRT Dutch Treat Dinner or similar (TBD: any restaurant near LC)

Saturday, June 25th

11:00a -12:00p	Geographic Technologies (GeoTech) Committee Meeting (Marriott Marquis – University of DC room)
1:00 – 2:00p	MAGIRT Chair Program Census 2020 from the perspective of maps, GIS, and data librarians (Washington Convention Center 159A-B, listed only under GODORT)
6:30 – 8:30p	Honors Award Event (Farmers & Distiller @600 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC)

Sunday, June 26th

8:30 – 10:00a	ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cataloging Cartographic Resources Map Cataloging Interest Group & Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC): (Marriott Marquis; Georgetown University)
1:00 – 2:00p	Map and Geospatial Collection Management Discussion Group (Washington Convention Center, 204C)
4:00 – 5:30p	Membership and Marketing Committee (Washington Convention Center, 101)
4:00 – 5:30p	MAGIRT Executive Board/Membership Meeting (MAR-Marquis Salon 10)

MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

May 31, 2022

Time: May 31, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via Zoom

Present: Kevin Dyche, Craig Haggitt, Sierra Laddusaw, Maggie Long, Laura Kane
McElfresh, Amy Swanson (formerly Runyon), Iris Taylor, Min Zhang

1. Call to order - 3:03 pm Eastern

2. Call for changes to Agenda

- a. none

3. Secretary--Minutes from past meeting

- a. Approved & [published](#) in *base line* 43:2 (April 2022)

4. Officer Reports

a. Chair (Min Zhang)

- 1. Last time, some members expressed an interest in hybrid meetings for ALA Annual, but this is no longer a possibility: we've learned that ALA has changed its policy about hybrid meetings at the ALA Annual Conference.
- 2. Remote participation in hybrid meetings at ALA Annual requires paid registration for the Virtual Experience. (Virtual meetings outside of ALA Annual -- like our webinars and non-Annual Board meetings -- can still be open and free of charge.)

b. Vice Chair (Kevin Dyke)

- 1. Awards Dinner is Saturday June 25th, 6pm at [Farmers & Distillers \(600 Massachusetts Ave NW\)](#). Kevin reserved a room with space for 16 ppl.
- 2. Chair's Program is also Saturday the 25th in Convention Center. We have Frank Donnelly, Michelle H, and Andrea Johnson joining us (all in person). Should be a lot of fun talking about Census 2020 & related matters!
- 3. RTCA (Round Table Coordinating Assembly) has been discussing dues normalization; feels like \$15 will be the new norm for standardized dues. KD thinks this will work and would appreciate any views on the dues. There should be one more RTCA meeting before ALA Annual, then they meet 6/24.
 - a. This is cheaper than the \$20 dues MAGIRT members are currently paying. Will the decreased revenue be a concern in the future? -- Sierra says it should be ok since we are not paying for Midwinter meeting space anymore.

c. Secretary (Laura McElfresh)

1. Deadline for *base line* is this Friday at the end of the day. I'll be sending minutes out for approval as soon as I can -- please get back to me by Friday morning (June 3rd) with additions, corrections, or just to say it looks ok. (It's Min's farewell *base line* as Chair; next one is after Annual officers changeover)

d. Webmaster (Craig Haggitt)

1. Got Amy's new name updated in the system!
2. Craig will be on vacation June 3rd, so if *base line* is issued on Friday it'll get uploaded the following Monday.

e. Treasurer (Pete Reehling/Iris Taylor)

1. Pete sent a note to John -- no updated report for budget. Latest spreadsheet we have is Nov 2021.

f. Past Chair (Sierra Laddusaw)

1. MAGIRT Honors Award recipient will be at the dinner (and knows they will be receiving the award!)
2. Still have vacancies for OPOC and Publications Chairs -- please suggest names to Sierra so she can invite people to fill these positions.
3. Memorial resolution for Nancy Kandoian at ALA Annual -- Iris will talk about this more during "New Business". When Tim returns from vacation on June 6th they can get started on filling out the form. (Need to submit the form and documentation online.)

5. Old Business

a. Hybrid meetings & new ALA policy

1. In the past, a committee holding an onsite meeting could let members not at the conference participate virtually in a hybrid meeting at no additional cost.
2. For this year's (2022) Annual Conference, ALA's new policy is that **committee members who participate virtually in hybrid meetings need to register for the virtual version of the conference**, which is called The Digital Experience.
3. This change affects **only hybrid meetings taking place during the dates of the Annual Conference**. If you're holding a completely virtual committee meeting before or after Annual, there is no cost to participate in that meeting. Completely in-person meetings held in DC with no virtual participation are also not affected.

6. New Business

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

1. Min worked with Danielle to negotiate our schedule, but it got messed up. We have several discrepancies with the schedule we requested.

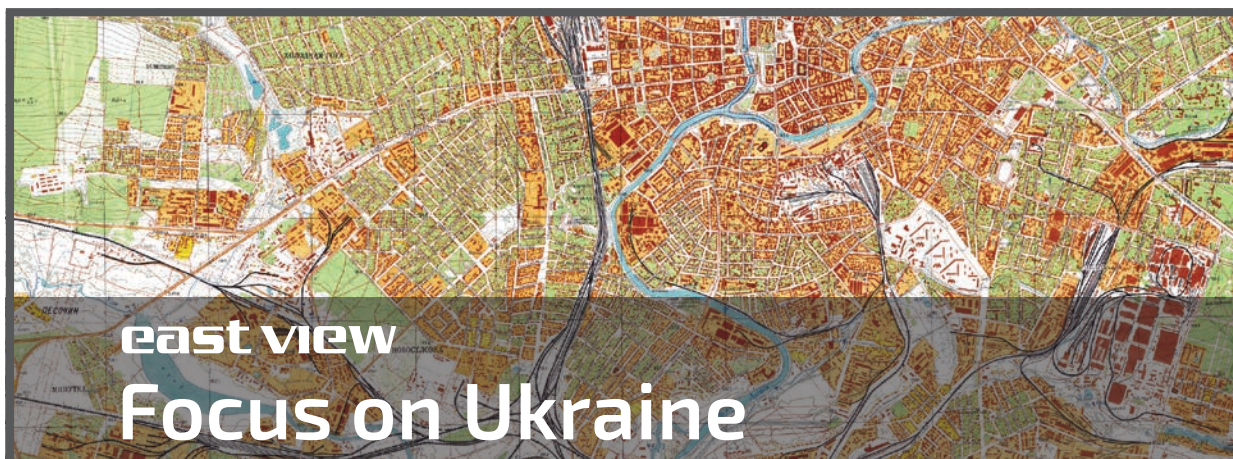
- a. CCC conflicts with the MAGIRT Cataloging Interest group -- overlapping times in different buildings.
 - i. Min was told that if we want further changes, she'll have to get Core to help combine the two meetings.
 - ii. Tim had asked to start the meeting a little later than 8:30.
 - iii. Final decision: 8:30-10'ish at the Marriott Marquis, Georgetown University Room. Min will email Danielle and ask if the meetings can be merged in the ALA Meeting Scheduler; will delegate someone to put up a sign at the Convention Center.
 - b. Membership & Marketing Committee and Exec Board/Membership Meeting are at the same time in different places.
 - i. Iris says that Membership & Marketing is usually small, but most of the people who attend will also need to attend the Board meeting.
 - ii. We will probably need to keep both; ppl will have to make choices and then Membership and Marketing people can join the Board/Membership meeting in progress.
 - iii. Maggie informs us that in 2017 there was no Membership & Marketing meeting because no one showed up; in 2018 it may have been held during MAGIRT All Committees; in 2019 it was combined with OPOC (see MAGIRT schedule in [base line 40.3](#), June 2019).
 - c. Min will send a message to MAGIRT on ALA Connect and also on MAPS-L about our schedule changes; will also follow up with Danielle.
2. Library of Congress Geography & Map Division Tour and Exhibition: maps have been pulled for display; people who chose them will be there to talk about the items they've selected. (There's supposed to be a place on ALA for people to sign up for the tour. Anyone can sign up and attend, not just MAGIRT members.) If there are more than 15 people signed up, we will have to split into groups for COVID safety.
 - a. Min did not make a restaurant reservation for post-tour dinner; attendees can choose a location on the fly.
 3. Saturday, 5-8pm the Jefferson Building at LC will be open; main Reading Room will be open; there will be some program tables showcasing programs & items from the collection.
 4. Spotlight Time - Erin should be there representing Membership & Marketing.

7. Committee/DG/IG Reports - none

8. Adjournment - 3:42 pm Eastern

Respectfully submitted,
-Laura McElfresh

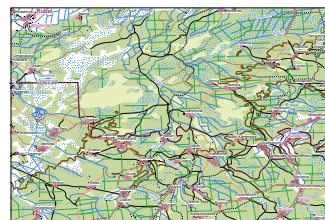




Authoritative local producers of geospatial, statistical and other relevant publications abound in Ukraine, yet availability and acquisition has long been challenging – now more so than ever. With its unparalleled sourcing capabilities, **East View Geospatial is able to provide current data from Ukraine** and has the resources in place to source the most up to date content regardless of the present challenges.

CURRENT UKRAINE DATA OFFERINGS

- Current large-scale (1:10K, 1:50K, 1:200K) topographic base maps—GIS vector, web services, single sheets
- Very large-scale topographic mapping (1:2K, 1:5K) over 1800 cities and towns including Sevastopol, Simferopol, Chernobyl, Mariupol, Kherson, Kharkiv
- Terrain Analysis of Ukraine—154 total reports, full country data on soil conditions, topography, vegetation, hydrography, populated places, roads, bridges, and climate; available as database, XML feed, print or e-book
- Geological mapping (1:200K, other) in GIS vector, explanatory notes
- Soil mapping (1:200K)
- Statistical agency (central, local) publications, including rare provincial census reports
- Latest Population Census of Ukraine (2001)—over 400 volumes at country and provincial levels, available as print, e-book, XLS or GIS-edition
- Statistical, boundary and geographic name data at all levels (ADM1/2/3/4)
- Elevation models and 3D urban for analysis, visualization, training
- Local nautical and river charts in raster and vector format
- National atlases
- Carto-bibliographies/reference databases of all published maps in Ukraine



► For more information about available Ukraine datasets please contact geospatial@eastview.com.



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ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Library Event Celebrates the Legacy of Claudius Ptolemy

The work of Greek mathematician Claudius Ptolemy sits at the foundations of western science, and influenced Renaissance philosophers, mathematicians, and mapmakers for centuries. On May 20, the Geography & Map and the Rare Book and Special Collections Divisions hosted a lecture by John Hessler on the lasting influence of Ptolemy and a display of nearly every early edition of Ptolemaic atlases printed between 1472 and 1600, including the first Greek edition put together by the great Renaissance humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam. The event brought together for the first time 33 rare editions of Ptolemy's *Geographia* and was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Philip Lee Phillips Society, The Friends group of the Geography & Map Division. The lecture, "Ptolemy and the Birth of Cartographic Reason" and the display were live-streamed. Both the lecture and the display are available on the Library of Congress YouTube channel [here](#).



Ptolemy's *Geographia*



NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

"Every time that Americans need a geography lesson, they go to war to learn it."
- David J. Bertuca

Introduction

It is with a very heavy heart that I write the introduction to this month's column. The map librarian community was sad to learn about the passing of Nancy Kandoian this May. Many of us have shared our fond memories of her on MAPS-L, and I expect to see more tributes to her in this issue of *base line* and during ALA Annual. However, as a newer librarian to this wonderful community, I initially was hesitant to share my thoughts in these public places. As I reflected upon my interactions with Nancy, I realized my column is the perfect venue to honor her.

I started writing this column only in February 2020. I was excited but nervous, because I knew I was a new kid on the map librarian block. Would anybody care what I had to say about new atlases? Who was reading this? I immediately felt welcomed into the community when I received an email from Nancy A. Kandoian at The New York Public Library in April 2020. She provided feedback about my first two columns and asked if I could include pricing information in my citations. Nancy's appreciation and suggestion helped ease fears I had as I continued my column, and I am forever grateful.

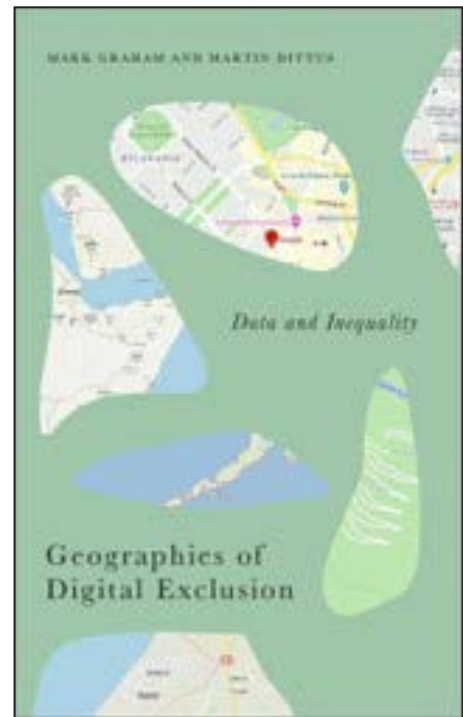
Nancy Kandoian worked with me as a Regional Coordinator for the Online Guide to U.S. Maps. We teamed up to tackle Region 2, which includes our home state of New York. As others have mentioned, Nancy was an experienced professional, but she never revealed she knew more than I about any task we set about accomplishing. We shared some (virtual) laughs together when we realized her work email account was blocking my messages, and navigated communication via multiple platforms. Nancy was an incredibly hard worker, and eager to contribute as much as she could to the project. She always took the time to fill out availability polls and attend meetings, even when she was away from her library.

Unlike many fellow MAGIRT members, I never had the chance to meet Nancy in-person. We communicated by email and Zoom for just over two years, yet she left an impression. I'm incredibly sad to hear of her passing, but I appreciate the opportunity I had to learn from her.

Books

Graham, Mark and Dittus, Martin. ***Geographies of Digital Exclusion: Data and Inequality***. London: Pluto Press, 2022 (ISBN: 9780393651515). 194 pages: illustrations, maps. List price: \$26.95.

Indulge me for a moment and think about the last time you navigated a new city or stopped in a new neighborhood on your way home from work. Did you fold out a paper map to plot your route, or simply type an address into your GPS-enabled map app? I must admit MAGIRT members are more likely than the average person to use a paper street map, but for many people, Google Maps, Apple Maps, Waze, MapQuest, and similar tools are a familiar feature of daily life. I keep my GPS display turned on for every trip, even though I can navigate the familiar 35-minute drive to work with my eyes closed at this point. I like to anticipate traffic jams or detours, and the helpful map assistant is great at keeping me on time. As a professional immersed in the world of information, and more specifically, digital geographic information, I do think about the mechanisms behind the magical directions calmly relayed to me via my Jeep's speakers. However, I have never thought about the inequities that are inherent in the processes driving this useful technology.



Mark Graham and Martin Dittus explore the concept and consequences of digital exclusion by focusing on “two of today’s most important sites of maps and geographic information -- Google and Wikipedia -- and the representations they create of the world” (p. 20). To determine where inequality in data presented in these websites hide, the authors examine several factors including the location of volunteer participants adding information, the languages that information is added and displayed in, the breadth of geographic locations covered, and the limitations of the platforms themselves. This book is part of the Radical Geography series, which includes, among others, *Disarming Doomsday: The Human Impact of Nuclear Weapons since Hiroshima* (Becky Alexis-Martin), *Unlocking Sustainable Cities: A Manifesto for Real Change* (Paul Chatterton), and *Space Invaders: Radical Geographies of Protest* (Paul Routledge). Per the introduction by the Series Editors (Danny Dorling, Matthew T. Huber, and Jenny Pickerill), Radical Geography is a series of books including “critiques of existing government policies and alternatives to staid ways of thinking about our societies” (p. 10). This volume is an appropriate addition to the series, as it examines a broad range of issues related to inequity in digital geographic information and offers specific guidance for tackling these problems.

This book packs an incredible amount of background information, anecdotal stories, and analysis of current data into fewer than 200 pages. Although the focus is on Wikipedia and Google Maps, the authors examine other platforms. This book is highly recommended, and

I cannot do the authors justice with a summary of the vast information they cover. Some of the hidden facts behind the geographic data we access every day I found especially illuminating are listed below.

- Many of the vernacular names for neighborhoods we see on digital maps (such as Dalston in East London) lack clear borders, but locals understand what those names refer to. Data related to these localities is collected by hand. The authors share that one firm, Urban Mapping, hires college graduates to scour local blogs, home listings, and city plans to determine neighborhood names (p. 36).
- Users unknowingly share geolocation data when they complete a CAPTCHA (p. 38).
- Google Maps was initially free, but it now incorporates advertising through “promoted pins”, branded place markers on the map that increase the visual prominence of particular venues” (p. 46). Given that much of the Google data is a result of unpaid labor (pulled from business reviews, CAPTCHA data, and Wikipedia entries), the use of the data for a commercial geodata product is controversial.
- The authors examined data related to Wikipedia articles published about specific places in the world, regardless of the language edition the Wiki article is published in. Geographic coordinates can be added to articles as geotags, but these are limited since only one coordinate can be assigned for an article topic, so large shapes or regions (such as rivers) are not represented accurately (p. 56).
- One large factor contributing to unequal representation in digital geographic information, specifically when it comes to platforms relying on crowdsourced data, is that volunteer labor is not possible in all regions of the world. Contributing to Wikipedia or similar websites is a source of unpaid labor, and unfortunately each person with a desire to participate “enjoys the economic conditions that allow them to spend time” doing so (p. 112). As a result, many Wikipedia entries published about African and Asian topics are written by outsiders, typically living on other continents, and lacking local knowledge. This misrepresentation is revealed not only between the Global North and Global South, but also as revealed by data showing German citizens contribute most of the content about their European neighbors.
- Digital representation matters as it results in social segmentation. One example of this is the new feature on the Waze app, allowing routing around “dangerous areas” (p. 137).

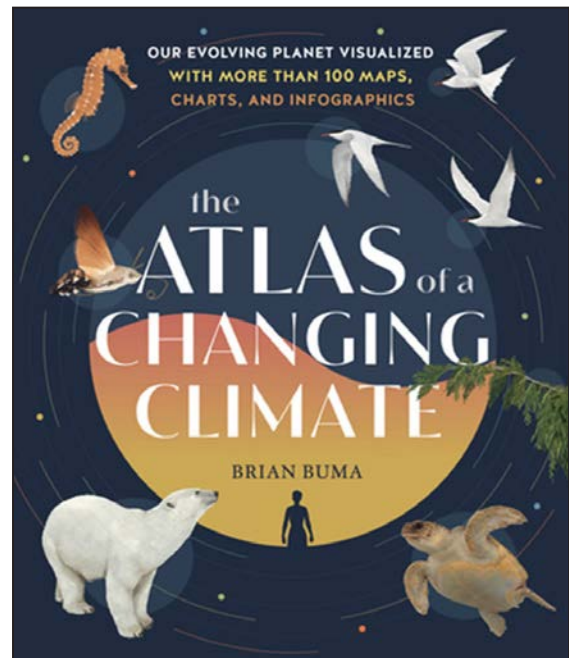
One of the central themes of this book is the inequality of crowdsourced geographic information. Generally looked upon as a benefit, especially when it comes to mapping unmapped regions during a time of crisis, the reliance on volunteer participation from people in the Global North creates an inaccurate representation of the Earth on these platforms. The authors capture the extreme importance of their research and recommendations in a few lines early in this book (p. 25), and I would like to end my brief review with this quote.

“The entire reason why lines on a map matter is because maps do more than depict the world. They change the world. They impact how we interact with the world and understand the world. In doing so, they shape the world itself.”

Access note: I read this book via ProQuest Ebook Central. The format of the book lends itself nicely to an eBook option, as the maps and figures do not span more than one page. However, I was unable to copy large swaths of text correctly (despite the option being available). I assume this is a result of anti-piracy measures, but it hampered my ability to take notes while reading. The authors may consider requesting this be remedied to make their text more easily accessible.

Buma, Brian. ***The Atlas of a Changing Climate: Our Evolving Planet Visualized with More Than 100 Maps, Charts, and Infographics.*** Portland: Timber Press, 2021 (ISBN: 9781604699944). 282 pages: illustrations, maps. List price: \$35.00.

Daily, we see the news stories about the devastating effects of climate change. We struggle to understand the increased instances of wildfires, coastal flooding, and species loss. Our elected leaders and respected scientists argue about the best methods to slow climate change – or if it even exists at all. As we navigate the onslaught of information about what climate change is doing to our planet and what we can do to stop it, we can forget the bigger picture. How did we get here? How do the various systems and mechanisms on our planet interact and influence global climate change?



Dr. Brian J. Buma, professor of ecology at University of Alaska and University of Colorado-Denver, brings us back to the basics of the issue in his 2021 release, *The Atlas of a Changing Climate: Our Evolving Planet Visualized with More than 100 Maps, Charts, and Infographics*. Beginning with an introduction to *Charting the Natural World*, he discusses Alexander von Humboldt's contributions to science and biogeography, noting how his map of Chimborazo (*Tableau Physique*, 1807) can demonstrate climate change as it can be compared to current maps showing that species have migrated up the slope. The remaining chapters of the book are divided by major systems influencing and affected by climate change: Atmosphere – Water – Land – Cities – Life.

As promised by the title, each chapter features numerous historical and original maps and infographics. Various interconnected themes are covered in the graphics and accompanying text. Beginning with the basics of how we influence the global atmospheric pool, Dr. Buma challenges readers to examine how much they “really know about the atmosphere at the scale it functions – globally?” To convey how interconnected our world is, and how our own actions generate global climate change effects in another continent or country, he begins with a map of the *Particle Pool*, pulled from a NASA Global Circulation Model platform for the day of August 23, 2018 (p. 22-23). The map shows hotspot sources of particles and their reach, such as North American wildfire pollution reaching across the North Atlantic Ocean.

The idea is expanded upon with an illustration showing the earth's air currents. This theme is continued in the following chapters in many detailed and understandable original maps. Dr. Buma concludes his atlas with a quite simple point, that our "atmosphere is a common pool, and we are ruining it" (p. 242).

Unlike many other books published in the last few years, Dr. Buma does not lead with a discussion of COVID-19 but waits until his final page to consider how it relates to humanity's impact on the planet. "Nearly this entire book was written in quarantine. While the virus itself is not a human creation, it flourishes in the habitat we have created; it is a creature that thrives on density." (p. 247). The brief mention of the virus is a refreshing break from pandemic worries, reminding us that climate change remains a global emergency despite other tragedies humanity faces.

This book can serve as a textbook for an introductory course about climate change, or as a refresher for those familiar with the intricacies of the issue. Readers hoping to learn more about climate change will be delighted to see a comprehensive bibliography of suggested reading listed by chapter (p. 249-258). *The Atlas of a Changing Climate* calls to mind a similar atlas reviewed last year, *Climate Change Emergency Atlas* by Hooke, Berhout, and Dow (*base line 42 (2): 9-11*). The two volumes complement one another perfectly. Buma's atlas explains the science behind global climate and climate change, while touching on our impact on these processes. Hooke's book focuses on the causes of anthropogenic climate change and the specific actions needed to slow it. I recommend adding both atlases to your library or home collection.

Conclusion

To my fellow MAGIRT members that are meeting in D.C., enjoy! See you back here in August.



**Find all other news items and announcements when you
log on to**

[MAGIRT – ALA Connect](#)

GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs

HOW TO SOLVE A TOUGH PROBLEM WHILE DESCRIBING A RARE MAP

1) MAP CATALOGER GETS FRUSTRATED



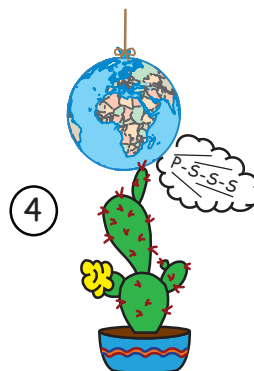
2) CAT SITS ON KEYBOARD TO CONSOL HER



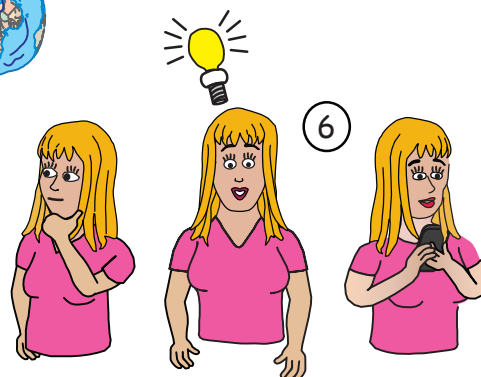
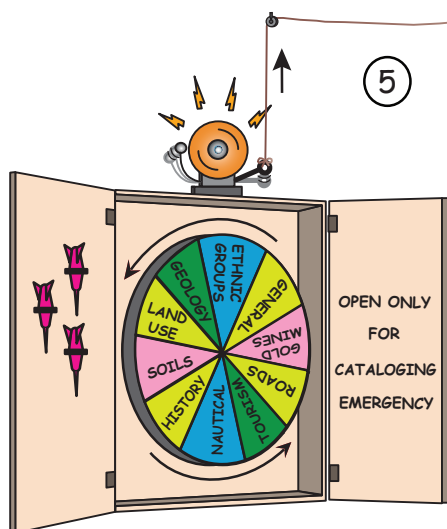
3) CATALOGER SQUIRTS CAT
WATER FALLS ON CACTUS PLANT



4) CACTUS PLANT GROWS UNTIL
NEEDLES PUNCTURE INFLATABLE GLOBE



5) GLOBE LOSES PRESSURE AND SINKS,
SETTING OFF ALARM, WHICH CAUSES
CATALOGING EMERGENCY BOX TO OPEN



6) CATALOGER THINKS ABOUT USING DARDBOARD
BUT CALLS NANCY KANDOIAN FOR ADVICE INSTEAD

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