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  
Tel: 315-443-4818  
E-mail: jaolson@syr.edu

**Distribution Manager:** Mike Smith  
Subject Specialist for Maps, California Gov Info, GIS Coordinator; UCSD  
Tel: 858/534-1248  
E-mail: mls003@ucsd.edu

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

**Digital Mapping Editor:** VACANT

**New Maps and Books Editor:** Kim Plassche  
Sciences Librarian, Liaison to Geography & GIS  
University at Buffalo  
Tel: 716/645-8168  
E-mail: kf43@buffalo.edu

**Membership and Marketing Committee Chairperson:** Maggie Long  
Special Collections Cataloger  
Wesleyan University  
E-mail: longmml88@gmail.com

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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.

**MAGIRT OFFICERS:**

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

**Vice-Chairperson (Chair-Elect):**  
Min Zhang  
Cataloging Team Leader  
Geography & Map Division  
Library of Congress  
E-mail: mizh@loc.gov

**Secretary:**  
Paige Andrew  
Cartographic Resources Cataloging Librarian  
Pennsylvania State University  
E-mail: pga2@psu.edu

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

**Assistant Treasurer:**  
Kevin Dyke  
Maps and Spatial Data Curator  
Oklahoma State University  
Email: kdyke@okstate.edu

**Past Chairperson:**  
Iris Taylor  
Senior Cataloging Specialist  
Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress  
Tel: 202/707-8529  
E-mail: itaylor@loc.gov

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From The Chair

Sierra Laddusaw
Texas A&M University

Time has both flown by and moved at a crawl, I missed having the opportunity to see members in person at ALA Annual but have been amazed with how we have continued to move forward on projects, put together a very successful webinar series, and navigate our pandemicly challenged lives!

I encourage all our members to consider running for a position on the MAGIRT board or volunteering to serve as a committee chair, I can personally attest to how serving the organization in this way is a great personal growth opportunity and the chance to work closer with the amazing members. The Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer positions will be on this year’s ballot. Additionally, the chair positions for the Membership and Marketing Committee, Online Presence Oversight Committee, and Publications Committee are open. If you have questions about any of these positions please contact me and I am happy to provide information on the responsibilities that go along with them.

Another opportunity to get involved with MAGIRT and have an impact on the larger profession is to volunteer to be a regional coordinator for Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections. If you are interested in learning more about what a regional coordinator does or the project in general contact magirtonlineguide@gmail.com I've signed up to be a regional coordinator and am having a time fun contacting map collections around the state of Texas!

Plans for our MidWinter meeting are quickly being solidified. After six months or so of living in “Zoom Land,” and holding our Annual meeting virtually this past summer, many of us are now pros with Zoom. I hope to see you at one or more of our MidWinter sessions, when finalized, the schedule will be posted on the MAGIRT webpage and distributed via ALA Connect and our Listserv.

Continue to stay safe!
RDA Beta Toolkit Developments

September 2020 RDA Beta Toolkit Release

A new release of the RDA Beta Toolkit was published on September 16th. The release introduces new features and functionality as well as some relocating of RDA content. For a full explanation of notable changes to the RDA text see [Notes on the September 16, 2020 RDA Toolkit Release](#). The functions and content of the site are still under development.

The September release includes the introduction of three new elements: Timespan: *beginning of*, Timespan: *ending of* and Manifestation: *reference source of*. All three are inverses to existing relationship elements. Some elements now include mappings to the IFLA Library Reference Model within the Element Reference section.

This release includes the introduction of translations of RDA in Finnish and Norwegian and are accessible to all users. Both translations are partial but include a full translation of user interface and most of the RDA instructions.

Another major change in this release is the restructuring of the Resources tab of the RDA Beta Toolkit. A new menu item “Community Resources” has been added and much of the content related to abbreviations, capitalization, initial articles, etc., has been moved here.

The release will be the last made to the beta site. In December the beta site will switch over to official RDA status. The current official version of RDA Toolkit will remain accessible to RDA Toolkit subscribers for the foreseeable future.

RDA Beta Toolkit – LC/PCC Policy Statements Project

Staff in the Library of Congress Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP) are mapping existing LC-PCC Policy Statements (LC-PCC PSs) to the RDA Beta Toolkit, which will become the “new” RDA. Simultaneously, existing policy statements are being analyzed to identify (1) content that can be added directly to the RDA Beta Toolkit in the form of an Option application, and (2) content that will be transferred to metadata guidance documents that will be housed outside of the RDA Beta Toolkit. Click [here](#) to access the PowerPoint.

RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel

The channel host videos of RDA-related presentations and training videos on how to use RDA Toolkit. Click [here](#) to access the channel.
Introductions to RDA Beta Toolkit Site, Beta Site – Navigating

As part of the RDA Beta Toolkit series, the video demonstrates how to navigate the RDA Beta Toolkit. Includes tips on using Toolkit features but does not cover search. Click here to access the video.

Introductions to RDA Beta Toolkit Site, Beta Site – Subscribing to Documents

The video demonstrates how to subscribe to shared documents to RDA Beta Toolkit. Click here to access the video.

Introductions to RDA Beta Toolkit Site, Beta Site – Searching

The video reviews the full range of search options available in the RDA Beta Toolkit. Click here to access the video.

Introductions to RDA Beta Toolkit Site, Beta Site – Saved Searches

The video demonstrates how to use the saved searches features on the RDA Beta Toolkit site. Click here to access the video.

Presenter: Kate James (Former RDA Steering Committee Examples Editor)

Learning Resources for Cataloging

Identity Management Principles to Rethink Traditional Authority Control (Part of 2020 LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries)

In its 2018-2021 Strategic Directions, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) has highlighted the importance of the shift from traditional authority control to identity management. What are the plans for experimenting with identity management in the Library of Congress projects related to BIBFRAME? This presentation will look at the use of Wikidata and other “trusted” sources to provide personal name access to BIBFRAME descriptions. Different configurations for this extension of access to personal names will be explored, such as continuing, lightning, or eliminating traditional name authority control for these entities. Click here to access the video.

Presenters: Paul Frank, Judith P. Cannan (Library of Congress)
MAGIRT WEBINAR

Mapping Prejudice

Please join us for the next free webinar co-hosted by MAGIRT and WAML. It is scheduled for **Friday, October 23rd at 2pm EDT/11am PDT**.

**Register online**

Our speaker will be Ryan Mattke of the University of Minnesota.

**Abstract**

Mapping Prejudice is mobilizing people of all ages and backgrounds to map racial covenants. Racial covenants are legal clauses in property deeds that barred people who were not white from buying or even occupying certain parcels of land. The project has developed an innovative methodology to map these covenants while catalyzing community conversations. The result is a digital, interactive map. The process of making that map – and the dataset that undergirds it – has proven a powerful vehicle for social change. Those who contribute to the map are forced to confront structural racism. Covenants are irrefutable examples of racially discriminatory practices. Engagement with these documents drives participants to identify systems-level solutions to contemporary housing problems. In addition to this mobilization, the map and the dataset are invaluable resources for policymakers and researchers who want to demonstrate how structural racism perpetuates inequalities. This talk will describe the project and its methods, cartographic and otherwise, and the social progress made, so far, toward a more honest future.

**About the Speaker**

Ryan Mattke is the Map & Geospatial Information Librarian and Head of the John R. Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota, as well as Adjunct Faculty in the Masters of Geographic Information Science program, where he teaches a graduate class on Spatial Digital Humanities. In addition, he is the Project Lead for the Big Ten Academic Alliance Geospatial Data Project and one of the co-founders of the Mapping Prejudice Project.

Learn more about the Mapping Prejudice project at its website: [https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/](https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/)
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Object-based classification of the City of Madison, Wisconsin from public-domain NAIP aerial photography: impervious/built-up, wetland, low vegetation and trees.

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Volunteering gives you benefits you can’t ignore. Not only does it make you a better person, but it makes you a true leader as well.

The MAGIRT Nominations Committee seeks individuals for candidateship for the following positions:

- **VICE CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT** (1-year term, 3-year commitment to serve as Vice Chair, Chair, and Immediate Past Chair)
- **SECRETARY** (2-year term)
- **ASSISTANT TREASURER** (1-year term, 2-year commitment to serve as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer)

Please nominate someone or nominate yourself by completing this form before 5:00 pm (ET) November 20, 2020 or email Iris Taylor, if interested.

(The ALA form for the nomination application process closes on Thursday, December 3, 2020)

All terms officially begin July 1, 2021. Visit here for more information and a list of our current MAGIRT officers, committee chairs, coordinators and liaisons.

Contact Iris Taylor, MAGIRT Past Chair and Chair of the Nominations Committee, itaylor@loc.gov

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**MAGRIT OPEN POSITIONS**

We have three committee chair positions that are open, if you are interested in serving in one of these positions please email me and Tammy (won@loc.gov) by October 16th.

Open chair positions, these are a two year appointment:

- **Membership and Marketing Committee**
- **Online Presence Oversight Committee**
- **Publications Committee**

For more information on committee chair responsibilities see the MAGIRT Manual.

Feel free to contact me with questions,

Sierra Laddusaw
sladdusaw@library.tamu.edu
She/her/hers
MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting
Minutes of August 10, 2020

Date: August 10, 2020
Time: 11:00am – Noon CT
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendees: Sierra Laddusaw (Chair), Paige Andrew (Secretary), Iris Taylor (Past Chair), Min Zhang (Vice-Chair), Craig Haggit, Kevin Dyke, Maggie Long, Wangyal Tshawa, Tammy Wong, Dorothy McGarry, Danielle Ponton (ALA Staff Liaison), Joy Suh, Eric Glass

Call to order
Sierra called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. (central standard time)

Call for changes to Agenda (Sierra)
Sierra called for anyone to suggest changes to the agenda that was sent out to Executive Board members on Friday, August 7, 2020. There were no changes recommended.

Secretary--Minutes from June 29, 2020 (Paige)
Paige called for any corrections or additions to the June 29, 2020 Membership and Executive Board meeting held during the MAGIRT virtual annual meeting. These will be published in the forthcoming August 2020 issue of baseline. No changes were received.

Officer Reports
a. Chair (Sierra)
Recently wrote and turned in her first Chair’s column for the August issue of baseline. She and Iris figured out a way to “virtually” pass the gavel formally, this will also be a part of the upcoming August baseline so be on the lookout for it.

b. Vice Chair (Min)
Announced that since, at the moment we are not aware of whether there will be an in-person versus virtual ALA Midwinter Meeting, plans for especially social events are unknown. Danielle noted that ALA is leaning towards holding the 2021 Midwinter Meeting virtually but that is not official; she will keep us informed as to a decision when she knows it.

c. Secretary (Paige)
Paige sent out an updated roster of officers/leaders to all Executive Board members last week asking that individuals’ information be reviewed for accuracy or needed changes, for any other errors noted, and any updates about who are the members of individual committees. Some officers and leaders have since replied and Paige
has continuously updated the roster, others have not. It is hoped that the remaining leaders will do so by the end of the week so that a complete roster can go to Danielle in order to update information on our website.

d. Webmasters (Colleen, Craig, Megan)

Craig reported that he is currently working on changing the current “Resources” tab on the MAGIRT homepage to be one for information related to the new Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections, with the tab title changed today and content work ongoing. Items existing on the current Resources page will be moved to appropriate locations elsewhere within the website, possibly also to ALA Connect. All three are working on changes/improvements to the website currently.

Craig also recently attended a meeting focused on how the MAGIRT website and our ALA Connect site can ideally work together in terms of what content belongs where.

Colleen, Craig and Megan have set up bi-monthly meetings to continue work on both the website and Connect and to consistently maintain communications among them.

e. Treasurer (Kevin)—Finance Report

No report. Kevin is in a “learning phase” and recently viewed an ALA budget office training video that was daunting. Danielle assured him that if he works closely with her he will learn the details involved, including also those things which must go to her to do because they can only be done on ALA’s side.

f. Past Chair (Iris)

Iris noted that formal announcements and information about nominations for offices and the MAGIRT Honors Award will be forthcoming from her in the near future. Danielle will email Iris the information on officers/offices for the elections. In addition, Danielle gave Iris the deadline for when nominees for offices must be submitted to the ALA online bio form that is part of the ballot when that is created, the deadline is December 4th. This gives Iris a timeline for when to get the task of recruiting completed. If you have ideas for nominees for either MAGIRT leadership positions for the forthcoming elections (winter 2021) and/or for the MAGIRT Honors Award, please reach out to Iris. Iris is serving as MAGIRT’s liaison to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Old Business (DISCUSSION)

a. Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections Update

Paige and Craig, who are members of the Online Guide’s working group, provided an update of that team’s work since the MAGIRT Virtual Annual Meeting. They have met regularly in order to focus on setting up a long-term administrative structure to keep the project running, set up a presence on the MAGIRT website, and continue to recruit Regional Coordinators (RCs). So far there are about 5-6 volunteer RCs to help with reaching out to individual map collections that were part of the 2006 directory but not in the current version to get them to add their data or to do that work themselves. Documentation to guide the work of the RCs is coming together. Craig has established a location for the Online Guide on our website, repurposing the “Resources” tab and moving information currently under “Resources” to other
appropriate locations. The team will meet with RC volunteers on September 2\textsuperscript{nd} to begin a training process.

b. Embargoing \textit{base line} newsletter

Sierra introduced the topic noting that the idea of putting current issues of \textit{base line} under something like a 6-month embargo period for MAGIRT members only before being made open to anyone came from the Membership meeting held at the MAGIRT Virtual Annual Meeting. The goal is to provide something substantive to MAGIRT members in return for the $20/year dues being paid. Discussion revolved around acceptance of the idea in general, length of an embargo period, making it a “rolling embargo” on an issue-by-issue basis, etc. If the idea is accepted Danielle noted that other round tables put their newsletter behind a firewall on a Publications Committee or similar site and make it password-accessible to members only.

Iris brought up a related discussion from our Midwinter meeting about removing the membership fee for joining MAGIRT, Danielle indicated that this is something ALA would not support.

Maggie noted that the entire membership should have a say in this possibility and would like a survey to be created and sent out to garner feedback so that the members decide how to proceed. This idea was approved.

Paige suggested that the work of this topic be put into the Publications Committee’s hands since they are responsible for the newsletter and that they could create a survey (Maggie volunteered to assist) and provide results to the Executive Board along with any recommendations they have about the idea.

\textbf{Action Item:} Sierra will follow up with the chair of the Publications Committee to move forward on needed tasks related to the issue.

c. Membership advertising pieces

Maggie reported on where the process stands of getting a new Membership brochure created with the help of ALA. There was activity in place at the ALA Midwinter virtual meeting and then the pandemic put everything on hold. However, Maggie, Iris, Sierra, and Danielle recently met with Tina Coleman (ALA) to get the project re-started. This was a productive meeting, and the goal is to have a “rack-based flyer” in place by October. The content of the flyer will be created with the idea that portions of it can be re-purposed/re-used in other communication contexts such as postcards or via social media platforms such as Facebook, and also on our website. Once text has been completed it will be shared by Maggie with Executive Board members for feedback, then finalized and ALA will take over doing the production work.

\textbf{New Business (DISCUSSION)}

a. ALA Connect and group adoption

\underline{Training videos}

Sierra noted that the link she provided in the agenda cannot be found anywhere else and encouraged everyone to make time to view the training videos, which she found to be helpful and thus ALA Connect to be user friendly.
Committee/Discussion Group/Interest Group Reports

a. Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee (Tammy)
   Tammy reported that Wangyal’s award announcement will appear in the August issue of base line. Thanks go to Danielle for publishing it in an ALA press release. As soon as Tammy receives the link to it, she will post it on MAGIRT Facebook and Twitter accounts.

b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (Tim)
   Paige reported on the activities of the RDA Restructure and Redesign Task Force (3RTF), which has been the primary focus of the CCC the past few months. That group is almost done with a complete review and revision of the MAGIRT CCC Cartographic Cataloging Using RDA Best Practices document, which will then be the basis for a new Application Profile. That will allow our cataloging community’s recommended practices to be incorporated into RDA.

c. Education Committee Discussion Group (Kevin)
   Kevin announced the next webinar is this Friday and is about the Johns Hopkin University’s famed COVID19 dashboard, noting that the content will be targeted to those who use GIS in their work and research. He also announced that we have a webinar forthcoming for September and Ryan Mattke has agreed to talk about the University of Minnesota’s Mapping Prejudice Project that launched earlier this year. When a date and other details are in place announcements will go out via email and other means.
   Future webinars need to be established, Kevin has a list of topics and ideas to work from but willing to have anyone volunteer to deliver a webinar or workshop and/or assist in the work of putting these together.

d. GeoTech Committee Discussion Group (Wangyal) – no report.

e. Membership and Marketing Committee (Maggie)
   See information already given elsewhere in these minutes.

f. Online Presence & Oversight Committee (Megan) – no report.

g. Publications Committee (Abbey) – no report.

h. Cataloging of Cartographic Resources Interest Group (Maggie) – no report.

i. Map Collection Management Discussion Group (Craig) – no report.

j. MAGIRT/GODORT (GIS) Discussion Group Coordinator (Joy) – no report.

Announcements
   No announcements.

Adjournment
   Sierra concluded the meeting at 12 p.m.

Reported by:
Paige Andrew, Secretary, MAGIRT
It is again time for the MAGIRT Honors Award…

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS!!

Calling all MAGIRT members to nominate a person or organization for the 2021 MAGIRT Honors Award.

This award is given to honor an individual AND/OR organization who stands out because of their 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 accepted through January 31, 2021.

The announcement of the honored award recipient(s) will occur during the Awards Reception at the 2021 American Library Association Annual Conference. The recipient(s) need not be present to receive this honor, though we do all enjoy the opportunity to hear from our honoree(s). The recipient(s) 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 is sent to the director of each recipient's institution as appropriate. Please submit your nominations via this form or email the following information to itaylor@loc.gov:

- 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.

Be well and stay safe.

Iris Taylor
Iris Taylor, MAGIRT Past Chair
itaylor@loc.gov
NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

‘A map is the greatest of all epic poems. Its lines and colors show the realization of great dreams.’
- Gilbert H. Grosvenor (1875-1966)

Introduction

Halloween 2020 lands on a Saturday and during a full moon. We might be celebrating a bit differently as we avoid spreading COVID-19, but my family is still looking forward to our favorite holiday. To get the MAGIRT membership into the spooky mood and hopefully inspire some unique costumes, this month’s review includes two atlases focusing on mythology, monsters and ghosts.

Books


The Atlas of Monsters: Mythical Creatures from Around the World is a unique take on the traditional children’s atlas. The book begins with a fictitious letter addressed to the editor at Mercator and Co Mapmakers in London. The letter’s writer is Ruth Briggs, the Librarian at Hardacre Manor in Berkshire. Ruth describes the discovery of a mysterious bundle of papers nearly 400 years old in the manor. The maps, travel log and descriptions of “secret creatures all over the globe” are penned by a mysterious figure Cornelius Walters (p. 6). The Atlas of Monsters is a reproduction of these pages by the librarian Ruth Briggs, annotated with sticky notes pointing out suspicious claims by Cornelius Walters.

The atlas’ contents are arranged into 14 geographical regions of varying sizes. These chapters represent areas Walters explored with the crew of his ship (appropriately named Dragon). Each chapter includes a map spanning one to two full pages. As Ruth Briggs explains, although the maps were made 400 years ago, she overlaid “modern international borders and names of places for clarity” (p. 7). The maps include illustrations of the odd beings the Dragon crew members encountered. Countries or
portions of continents with numerous mythical creatures earn their own chapters, while North America and South America get one chapter each. Creases appear where the maps are assumed to have been folded or worn from use. The images of the mythical creatures also appear next to descriptions of the beasts in the following pages, allowing readers to easily match monsters on the map to their accompanying entries.

Ruth Briggs’ valuable research provides historical context for Walters’ descriptions. For example, in the northern Europe chapter, she informs readers “where there are strange rock formations, there are often stories of trolls and other beings turned to stone throughout history, people have needed to explain natural phenomena” (p. 14). She also notes instances where others have claimed encounters with similar creatures. In a later chapter, she points out Walters’ illustration of an animal spotted in Arabia is similar to the real-life Arabian oryx. He “mistook... for the mythical unicorn. He wouldn't be the first” (p. 41).

Introducing the atlas as a collection of mysterious historical documents is a fun way to keep readers engaged with the content of the atlas. Children will feel they are part of the adventure, and work to solve the secret coded messages Walters’ describes in his writings. The gorgeous illustrations are not overly cartoonish or cute. The images resemble sea monsters we see on medieval nautical charts and maps from the era. Many of the illustrations are terrifying, such as the simple depiction of the disgusting Mongolian Death Worm (p. 30). The font has an antique look, which does make it difficult to read in some sections. The slanted typeface coupled with the small font size on some pages cause the lettering to blur. This is significant since many creatures have foreign names. Readers may have a hard time guessing the letters appearing in unfamiliar languages. Some examples of words this reader had extreme difficulty reading without squinting are Pettenedda (p. 20), Svytogor (p. 23), Jinmenju (p. 33) and Leyak (p. 36). Readability issues aside, this atlas is a great addition to any children’s library. If one chooses to use a magnifying glass to help decipher the small typeface, it may add to the authenticity and adventure of reading this one-of-a-kind atlas!


If you are familiar with travel guides, you likely have heard of Lonely Planet. I’ve used their guides in my own travels and tend to recommend them for adult patrons choosing from the many publishers available. It wasn’t until recently I noticed many of the children’s atlases in the local library’s collections are published by Lonely Planet Kids. This imprint is responsible for general reference books like The Flag Book (2019) and atlases such as the Amazing World Atlas: Bringing the World to Life (2014). They also release thematic atlases for children with specific interests, including Atlas of
Monsters and Ghosts. The title and subject matter of this book are similar to The Atlas of Monsters: Mythical Creatures from Around the World, but this book differs in that it is more appropriate for younger children and features a larger ensemble of characters.

This monster atlas is divided into chapters representing regions or continents, with specific topics highlighted in between those regions: Introduction -- Europe -- Greek Mythology -- Middle East -- Asia -- Japanese Monsters -- Africa -- North America -- Central and South America -- Australia -- The Last Challenge -- Water Monsters -- Ghosts of Famous Figures. The book is introduced and narrated by legendary monster hunter Van Helsing. He briefly explains what is needed to physically beat or avoid the monsters in the following pages. More practically, he describes the arrangement of the book into sections with maps and varying levels of detail for each monster or ghost (p. 4).

Lawrence and Hill's The Atlas of Monsters focuses on world mythology, whereas this atlas includes monsters from other sources, such as literature and movies. For example, we see Dracula in “Bran Castle, Transylvania by day” (p. 14-15) and Frankenstein's monster “drifting between Switzerland, England and occasionally the North Pole” (p. 16-17). This atlas devotes more attention to cryptids and ghosts than folklore creatures. Each writeup includes details on where to find the monster, its characteristics and how to defeat it.

The maps for each section are sparsely detailed. Only countries home to a monster or ghosts discussed in the section are labeled. The illustrations of the creatures themselves are extremely colorful and cartoonish, in stark contrast to the classical-looking creatures in Hill's illustrations.

As readers near the conclusion of the book, they are congratulated by Van Helsing and presented one final challenge of defeating “a group of terrifying ghosts” (p. 91). The placement of this chapter is odd, as it precedes the chapter titled Water Monsters. The Famous Ghosts chapter is printed following the Water Monsters chapter. It is unclear whether this is a printing error, as the chapter list follows the same order.

The appearance of a chapter devoted to Water Monsters or Famous Ghosts specifically is an odd choice. The author shares the home of each of the water monsters (Kraken, Iku-Turso, Aspidochelone, Leviathan, Unktehliia and Umibozu) from the coasts of Norway and Finland to Japan. As no map accompanies these two pages, it may be more appropriate to include each water monster with its appropriate regional chapter, or to at least include a map noting the location of each water monster described.

This lighthearted book is a good choice for middle grade readers. It may help foster a love for cryptozoology, ghost stories and mythology. Other books on this topic will provide more historical and factual context for many of the creatures mentioned here (see review for Myth Atlas in base line 41 (1): 31-32). However, there are some interesting factual tidbits included in this atlas. For example, in the entry for the chupacabra, the author lists alternative theories for the chupacabra's identity, including “a coyote with a strange genetic disease” (p. 79). Unfortunately, the same entry is incomplete as it fails to mention the chupacabra has also been “spotted” in places outside of Central America, such as Texas and Puerto Rico.
Modern technology enables humans to journey through the galaxy and beyond through gorgeous photography and intricate maps. Renowned physicist and prolific author James Trefil guides us on such a journey in the second edition of *Space Atlas*. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1969 moon landing, this new edition includes a foreword by Buzz Aldrin. The second man on the moon discusses the history of humankind’s journeys into space, including his own Apollo mission. He also highlights his own plans for humans to occupy Mars.

The introduction includes a history of solar system modelling and mapping, detailing Copernicus' model in *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres* (p. 30), Bessel’s use of telescopes to calculate distances to nearby stars and Hubble’s discovery of galaxies (p. 33).

The first map we see is *Cosmic Journeys*. This illustrated map plots out the travel and exploration of humans in our solar system (p. 36-37). The following maps are star charts. These are accompanied by a brief tutorial for reading the charts, covering key concepts including celestial coordinates, declination, ascension and constellation regions (p. 38-39). There are four total star charts: northern sky summer-fall, northern sky winter-spring, southern sky summer-fall, and southern sky winter-spring. Readers are then taken off the planet to the perspective of viewing space from space. Maps of each planet and their moons are included, as well as Saturn's rings (including the names of gaps and distances of each), some comets, the Milky Way, the sun (showing the core, solar corona and sunspots), and exoplanets in other systems (including a diagram of the TRAPPIST-1 system (p. 239). All heavenly bodies already covered in detail are mapped onto “The Galactic Tuning Fork” map of “seventy-five nearby galaxies arranged using Edwin Hubble’s “tuning fork” classification” (p. 300-301). Cartographer’s notes, labelling and accompanying text help readers understand the complexities of the maps. Data used to create maps is meticulously referenced. Readers will marvel at how much of the universe we have mapped. However, they will also be reminded of Buzz Aldrin's description of the atlas, that “this book is testimony to what we know as well as acknowledgement of our ignorance” (p. 13). Map areas with limited information or needing more research are labeled as *DataUnavailable*.

This is an atlas with a focus on cartography, but the breathtaking photography featured in its pages must be acknowledged. Technical details for each photograph identify how the intricate detail is possible. In addition to the stunning images and elaborate maps,
a complete history of space exploration is given. Other fascinating topics include the formation of black holes (p. 264-268), the calculation of astronomical units and other distances (p. 214-217) and dozens of other tidbits of information. Comets and asteroids are covered with a timeline of recent comet sightings (p. 197), lengthy history of mankind’s scientific exploration of comets beginning with Newton and Edmond Halley to the European Space Agency’s Rosetta Spacecraft reaching a comet in 2014 (p. 198-199).

Children may delight at the photographs of familiar planets within these pages, but this is not a book for young readers. Background information is given for each major topic, but the subject matter is generally dense and requires knowledge in basic astronomy and map reading concepts. A simple one-page glossary of advanced map terms closes out the book (p. 334). Space Atlas is recommended for casual space lovers, high school and college students, and anybody looking for a fascinating coffee table book.

Web Resources

Ancient Earth
https://dinosaurpictures.org/ancient-earth#

Ian Webster
https://www.ianww.com/

PALEOMAP PaleoAtlas for GPlates
https://www.earthbyte.org/paleomap-paleoatlas-for-gplates/

Elassar, Alaa. This map lets you see where your hometown was on the Earth millions of years ago. CNN, August 30, 2020. https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/30/us/map-home-town-earth-continental-drift-scn-trnd/index.html

The moment I've been waiting for since I became a parent has arrived. Not only have I been able to share a favorite movie (Jurassic Park), I am also filling my stepdaughter’s head with crazy ideas about biology, geology and paleontology! Staying safe and away from crowds has given us plenty of time to watch the first three movies and the subpar Jurassic World, but this isn’t a movie review column. I bring this up because my family’s new obsession with dinosaurs coincided with the release of a digital globe allowing us to see what the planet looked like when dinosaurs roamed it (without the assistance of fictional genetic engineering).

The creator of this fascinating Ancient Earth project is Ian Webster, co-founder of the data company Zenysis, former Google employee, and the man behind a slew of other online tools including AdDetector, an asteroid database Asterank, and the “world’s largest dinosaur database” Dinosaur Pictures (for more information about all of Ian Webster’s work, please see the above link). Visualizing the plate tectonic and paleogeographic maps created by C.R. Scotese for the PALEOMAP PaleoAtlas, Webster created this tool to let users pinpoint an address and watch the location drift over time. I tried it by entering my town: Lewiston, New York, US. I asked the tool to show me “What did Earth look like 200 million years
ago?” and watched as the globe spun and revealed where Lewiston was found at that point. Using my mouse or touchpad, I can click and spin the globe image to see the rest of the world at that time. Reference information about the specific time period is shown in the corner of the screen: “Late Triassic. An extinction event is about to happen, resulting in the disappearance of 76% of all terrestrial and marine life species and greatly reducing surviving populations. Some families, such as pterosaurs, crocodiles, mammals, and fish were minimally affected. The first true dinosaurs emerge”. There are 26 time periods to choose from, ranging from 750 million years ago to 0 million years ago (bringing us back to the present). Each of these time periods are accompanied by similar facts indicating what living species appeared at each time. Users can quickly view changes to the planet over time by using the left and right arrow keys to change the era.

If you prefer to view the globe as it appeared during significant events rather than time periods, you can jump to one of many using the scroll bar on the right of the screen. Users can change the view to coincide with the appearance of the first green algae, reptiles, dinosaurs, grass or hominids (to name a few options). There are also options to choose the times of Pannotia or Pangea supercontinents, Jurassic Period or dinosaur extinction directly. The additional reference information combined with the ability to navigate time based on major evolutionary events makes this much more than a tool to view how the planet’s surface was altered due to continental drift. Ancient Earth is a wonderful tool for students of any age to explore how life formed and evolved over time and space.

Conclusion

For those of us in academic libraries, the fall semester is in full swing. Reviewing atlases and maps for base line provides a welcome distraction from endless Zoom meetings, budget woes and virtual consultations. As we continue to focus our efforts on finding quality digital resources and working from home, I am reminded there is nothing as comforting as the smell of a library book. I look forward to the time I can spend each day sharing our physical library materials with our patrons.
Digital Mapping
“YOUR NAME HERE”

From the Editor’s Keyboard

Digital Mapping editor needed

Do you enjoy finding and looking at new GIS programs, geospatial data, and websites? Do you enjoy writing? Then why not combine the two together and be our new Digital Mapping columnist. Tell us about the new geospatial sites that are available.

I would like to encourage any MAGIRT member to volunteer. Let me know if you have an interest in contributing to this important part of base line.

Contact the editor for more details. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone to make a concrete and impactful contribution to our part of the library profession.

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

https://connect.ala.org/magirt/home
HEY POPS! WANT TO GO HIKING IN THAT NEW STATE PARK TODAY?

SURE! I'LL TAKE ALONG A MAP SO WE DON'T GET LOST.

WE DON'T NEED A PAPER MAP, DAD! I HAVE AN APP ON MY PHONE.

MY APP SAYS WE SHOULD GO THIS WAY...

WHO SAYS "WE DON'T NEED NO STINKING MAPS (OR APPS)"

MY MAP SAYS WE SHOULD GO THAT WAY...