From the Chair

MAGIRT Honors Award - Nominations

Treasurer’s Report

On the Cataloging/Cataloguing Front

Digital Mapping – Contributor needed

New Maps and Cartographic Materials

Great Moments in Map Librarianship

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

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

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The ALA Midwinter meeting will be held virtually this year, we saw great turnout at the virtual Annual meeting over the summer - hopefully we will see a repeat of that in January 2021. This will be the last Midwinter as we have known it, with ALA shifting to hosting what is currently being called the “New January Event” starting in 2022. I am sad that we will not be meeting in person in January and that we will miss out on the always wonderful field trip and social hour. Watch the MAGIRT website, Connect page, and listserv for the meeting schedule announcement and Zoom room link.

A task force, under the Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA), has been working hard to draft a proposed standardized Round Table bylaws document in response to the Forward Together recommendation for standardizing bylaws, governing structures, and dues across the Round Tables. I have posted the draft document and a link to the feedback form on our ALA MAGIRT Connect Page. Feedback is due by February 1, 2021.

We are now about a year into our new normal, I hope everyone has and continues to stay healthy. Wash your hands, wear your mask, and cross your fingers that we will see each other in person soon!
It is again time for the MAGIRT Honors Award…

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
MAGIRT Treasurer’s Report

Current Reported Balance = $56,695 (31 MAR 2020)

FY2020 Closeout Summary (ending 31 AUG 2020) is expected in next report.

FY2021 (beginning 1 SEP 2020) expenditures are expected to be attributed to the account overhead. Expenditures associated with the Virtual Midwinter Virtual Meeting are expected to be minimal (if any).

The latest report is now seven+ months out of date and any expenditures associated with our FY20 closeout have yet to be shared. That being said, no major round table expenditures have been brought my attention and I foresee no major issues with our account balance, current budget, and FY21 expenditures.

Pete Reehling
Treasurer

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

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

Recent topics as of Dec 1st

- Monthly Connect protip: How to use My Networks in Connect
- RTCA Bylaws Template Draft
RDA Beta Toolkit Becomes Official RDA

The beta version of RDA Toolkit will become the official version of the RDA standard on December 15th, around 8 pm CST (UTC -6).

The beta Toolkit will “switchover” to the access.rdatoolkit.org URL on this date and will no longer be in beta status. The RDA text at this site after December 15 is the stable and authoritative version of the standard.

The original Toolkit will move to a new URL: original.rdatoolkit.org (you might want to bookmark the URL). Access to the original Toolkit will continue through links in the Resource tab and in the top banner of the Toolkit. Links to both the original Toolkit and the current beta site will still resolve as expected.

Both versions are accessed through an existing Toolkit subscription; a new license/subscription is not needed for the new official version. Free trial subscriptions remain on offer.

The original Toolkit, though, will not be available interactively forever. The switchover does NOT start the yearlong countdown clock on the original Toolkit, which will remain available at the new URL. The decision about when to begin the final countdown for removing internet access to the original Toolkit will be made by full agreement of the RDA Board and the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) at an undetermined future time.

Orientation and training

- **RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel** includes short videos to introduce key concepts and tips on using the redesigned RDA Toolkit.

- **Presentations** available on the RSC website.

- **RDA Lab Series** consist of six webinar modules of four 60-minute sessions will explore key RDA concepts. Modules include Relationship Basics, Nomens, Manifestations, Persons, Works, and Aggregate Manifestations (which will be offered again in 2021)

- **Introducing RDA: A Guide to the Basics after 3R** by Chris Oliver serve as an introduction and overview of the changes associated with the 3R Project (available Spring 2021).

RDA to MARC21 (Bibliographic/Authority) Mapping

For catalogers who are familiar with MARC21 format, you might be interested in the MARC21 Mapping and the Special Searches section below. The MARC21 Mapping is now
located at the Element level. On any given Element page, you can open the “Element Reference” box (Figure 1) and there is a “MARC21” option (Figure 2) that will show you specific MARC fields, indicators, subfields, and recording method associated with that Element (Figure 3).

Figure 1.

Figure 2.
Searching RDA Toolkit

On the Beta site, in the menu bar along the top of the screen, scroll down to Help's “Searching RDA Toolkit” section, you will find “Special Searches” for a description on finding elements using MARC fields and Instruction Numbers.

Here are some searching tips on MARC21 Mappings and RDA Instructions Numbers.

Special Searches

MARC 21

Users can search the RDA Toolkit by entering MARC 21 fields, indicators, and subfields. For example, a search of “264 *1 $b” (using quotation marks, asterisk for missing empty indicators and a dollar sign as a delimiter) will return 3 results, including “name of publisher.” The terms “Authority” and “Bibliographic” can be added to further limit the search.

Original Instruction Numbers

Some instruction numbers from the original RDA Toolkit have been included to facilitate locating RDA instructions. Simply enter the instruction number in the search box using quotation marks; the search results will collect any exact matches. Users should be aware that the mapping of original instruction numbers to new RDA instructions is limited. If an instruction number yields no results, try shortening the instruction number by one or two digits. For example, a search of “7.5.1.3” (using quotation marks) will yield no results, but a search of “7.5” (using quotation marks) will return a hit on “equinox.”

LC to Participate in Wikidata Pilot

The Library of Congress will participate in the PCC Wikidata Pilot through the Library’s BIBFRAME Pilot initiative. A group of BIBFRAME Pilot participants will test the use of Wikidata as a source of controlled access in BIBFRAME descriptions, in addition to traditional sources of controlled access, such as the LC/NACO Authority File. This workflow will serve as the basis of a shift from traditional authority control to identity management principles, where catalogers will use linked data techniques to evaluate data from multiple silos of information, and assert “same as” descriptors to similar entities.

View a presentation on Identity Management (by PTCP’s Judith Cannan and Paul Frank) at the recent 2020 LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries. Also, check out the Wikidata presentation for beginners.

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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.

GIS NEWS

For those of you out here with ESRI site licenses, this is just a reminder that the free ArcGIS Desktop Student Trial License is being retired. So, request your licenses now because the website to request these EVA student license codes will also be retiring on February 18, 2021. Activation of these EVA student licenses will continue until December of 2021. Rest assured that licenses will still be valid for 1 year from the date they were activated.
"To put a city in a book, to put the world on one sheet of paper -- maps are the most condensed humanized spaces of all...They make the landscape fit indoors, make us masters of sights we can’t see and spaces we can’t cover."

**Introduction**

As we look forward to 2021, we are likely facing budget uncertainties in our libraries. Whether your library has decided to devote more funds to electronic holdings, or your map and atlas budget has already been cut, I hope my reviews will help you purchase wisely.

**Books**


In the introduction to *The Sky Atlas*, Edward Brooke-Hitching notes the lack of reference material published about the history of celestial maps: “this is the most overlooked genre of mapmaking” (p 12). The shameless self-professed cartophile and author of *Phantom Atlas* (reviewed by David Bertuca, *base line*: 38 (2): 22-23) attempts to fill that gap with this volume. *The Sky Atlas* is a survey of the tools and physical representations of humankind’s exploration of the universe. Brooke-Hitching introduces readers to a variety of sky maps from civilizations spanning time and the globe, including numerous star charts, ceremonial dancing coats depicting the constellations from the shaman of the Koryak (p. 9), Native American Pawnee elk skin sky map (p. 19), the Nazca Lines in Peru (p. 24) and more.

Brooke-Hitching begins at the beginning in *The Ancient Sky* section, with prehistoric examples of celestial cartography, including Stonehenge, the Nebra sky disc, and Berlin Gold Hat (p. 22-25). He continues to explore more advanced skywatching techniques, tools
and accompanying mythologies for civilizations including the ancient Babylonians, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks and Jains. Here we are introduced to their important works of celestial cartography including the Venus tablet of Ammisaduqa (p. 32-33) and the Dunhuang star map (p 36).

The Medieval Sky section of the atlas points out the common misconception that the Middle Ages were “Dark Ages” for invention and innovation as many believe (p. 68). To prove this is not the case, he describes Islamic astronomy and its spread to Europe. The invention of the “most important practical tool of medieval astrology”, the Islamic “star-taker” or astrolabe by the Islamic astronomers is detailed alongside photographs of the instruments (p. 75-76). He also describes the effect of the printing press on celestial mapping, and astronomical observations in Mesoamerica by Inca, Maya and Aztec sky watchers.

The third section of the book is aptly titled The Scientific Sky. Here we meet the familiar figures Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei, Johannes Hevelius, Isaac Newton and Edmond Halley. We also learn about the contributions of less familiar astronomers and scientists.

The atlas culminates with The Modern Sky, detailing the contributions of William Herschel, who is known for building his own telescope with curved mirrors and discovering that nebulae change shape. Rather than simply listing notable scientists and their discoveries, Brooke-Hitching shares fascinating side stories, such as that of the Great Moon Hoax, when The Sun newspaper printed evidence, allegedly from William Herschel’s son John, of beings and a civilization existing on the Moon (p. 188-192). Readers are also introduced to “Pickering’s Women”, the team of women sky watchers responsible for classifying and cataloging hundreds of thousands of stars (p. 218).

Brooke-Hitching assumes the reader has some background knowledge of modern astronomy. For example, he launches into a description of observations made with the Hubble Space Telescope (p. 234) and continues to mention the remarkable device a handful of times, but does not give a detailed history of the creation or launch of the telescope. Given the amount of text dedicated to explaining the stories of similar inventions, this absence is hard to miss.

Reading this book is akin to walking through a museum dedicated to celestial mapping, accompanied by a very energetic docent. Brooke-Hitching showcases notable artifacts, photographs and maps as he tries his best at a comprehensive whirlwind tour. Unfortunately, each image only covers a small section of a page. Readers wishing to view details such as map labels will need a magnifying glass or a proper citation to find the maps elsewhere.


Base line readers may wonder why I devote so much time to reviewing atlases for children. There are many wonderful thematic atlases published for kids. Sharing these atlases are
a great way to introduce young explorers to the world and map reading. They are also a fantastic way for adults to revisit their favorite places or learn about a new place! *Atlas of Adventures: Travel Edition* will inspire kids to travel the world and learn about other cultures through food, sports, nature and sightseeing. The atlas begins with a world map showing labeled continents spanning two pages. The book is arranged by continent. The contents read: Europe -- North America -- Central & South America -- Asia & the Middle East -- Africa -- Australia & Oceania-- Antarctica. Each chapter begins with an illustrated map of the continent or region, showing every country labeled regardless if they are covered in a special entry in the following pages. The chapter devotes a 2-page write up and illustration detailing 3-5 of the destinations labeled on the continent map. These pages include inset maps showing where specific locations appear in the chapter’s region.

Readers are invited to follow two adventurers as they travel through the book. The characters can be found skygazing in Finland (p. 10-11), riding a gondola in Venice’s Grand Canal (p. 20-21), and dancing the samba at Carnival in Brazil (p. 42-43), to name a few. The summaries and illustrations provided about each of the tourist destinations include definitions of foreign terms such as Senegalese kaftans (p. 68). The information is appropriate for middle-grade readers and a general audience.

The book finishes with a “Can You Find?” prompt encouraging readers to locate 58 objects or places pictured throughout the book. Each thing includes a keyword and country or region name, which makes the task a bit easier. The book includes other activities to engage readers in the content, such as a direction to count how many fish are included in the entry about the Great Barrier Reef (p. 74).

An oversight in this book causing confusion is found in pages 50-51 introducing readers to the hot springs in Nagano, Japan. Similar to preceding chapters, the pages include a foreign term and an English translation or explanation. This section repeats the definition of the term “onsen” several times. At the top of page 50, we see: “Hot springs, or onsens, have been enjoyed...”. Immediately below that, we are then told “There are more than 3,000 onsens, or hot springs, across Japan.” Finally, on the adjacent page 51, “hot springs, or onsens, can be found in areas where there is volcanic activity.” These redundancies seem to have been missed by the editor.

The accurate labeling and inclusion of inset maps in this book place it high on my list of atlases to recommend for children. The activities and variety of themes presented will


The publisher of *Atlas of Adventures: Travel Edition* has a knack for saturating the market with great atlases for children. Earlier this year, they also published *50 Maps of the World*, a book packing a ton of content into slightly more than 100 pages. This atlas takes readers on a whirlwind tour of nearly every country in the world in just 50 maps. However, the use of an additional atlas is encouraged to “plan your own journey around the world”, as a Publisher’s Note states that because the maps in the book are intended to tell a story, they are “not drawn to scale, nor do they reflect the longitudinal and latitudinal lines of each country” (p 1). Although the maps are not correctly scaled, there are key elements included that help readers orient themselves, including an inset map of the world with the countries discussed in each chapter shaded.

The Contents are displayed on a colorful illustrated map of the world, with corresponding page numbers listed next to each country. While individual countries are distinguishable by shape with varying colors and shades, only countries that are covered in the following chapters are labeled. The book includes a page outlining how the book is set up and how to explore its pages. Readers are introduced to the Welcome Box, People of Note, Moments to Remember, Spotlight, key Facts and Country Icons. Readers are also taught about the symbology for the maps, including lines for Capital Cities, Largest Cities, Country, Border Line and coloring for Body of Water and Bordering Country.

Major landmarks, buildings, people of note are displayed on the map of a country, which span only one and a half pages. The accompanying page includes a timeline with Moments to Remember, a Key Facts chart, and a short introduction to the country depicted. Moments
to Remember include military conflicts, milestones like legalization of same-sex marriage in the country, World Cup victories and disastrous events like the 2019 destruction of Notre Dame cathedral by fire (p. 4). Some countries are featured on their own maps, while others are grouped together, as seen in the map of United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia (p. 54-55), as well as Scandinavia (p. 30-31). Due to the large amount of illustrations and text on the maps, these are not good representations of the geography and the recommendation to refer to an additional atlas is appreciated.

Although this book was published very recently in 2020, it is a reminder of how quickly names of countries can change. In fact, the introduction to the book asks readers to consider what a country is, and continues to describe how “a country may exist for a while, and then not exist at all.” (p. 2). Readers are reminded when we look at countries in the atlas, we are learning about people and history that may have not been part of that named country in the past. Examples given are East and West Germany, as well as Czechoslovakia. The book states this region is now Czech Republic and Slovakia. Of course, we do now officially know the former as Czechia.

Following the maps, readers are treated to a search and find activity for illustrated object such as a Pottery, a Shamrock, Dahlia, Elf School, Lemur and Sapphire Mines (p. 104-5). This task is significantly more difficult than Search and Find in Atlas of Adventures, as geographical clues aren't given with these objects. The final pages include a glossary defining a wide variety of key terms and an illustrated list of country flags.

Due to the overcrowding of illustrations and text on the maps and lack of scale, the maps in this book are not useful. However, the cultural and historical background provided for each country make this a good reference work for middle grade students.

**Web Resources**

**MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) Live Subway Map**

[https://map.mta.info/#@40.70949,-73.97853,14z](https://map.mta.info/#@40.70949,-73.97853,14z)


[https://vimeo.com/470020599/74757d3b17](https://vimeo.com/470020599/74757d3b17)

If you aren't local to New York City, and haven't traveled recently (not many of us have), you may have missed the news about the new MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) Live Subway Map released in October. The Beta version release coincided with the publication of video highlighting the history of the region's transit system and its maps. This video and accompanying press releases generated excitement for what is admittedly a very neat tool.
The map can be viewed on a laptop or desktop computer or, more practically, on a mobile device via a browser. If accessing the map on a laptop or desktop, the first view of the map includes a legend containing icons and a list of the train lines. Users can click each line for updated information about service delays. The map zooms to the line that is clicked. Users can also click on a station. Clicking on one station shows data related to what routes stop there and if the station is handicap accessible. It also populates a list of the next 24 trains stopping there, with detailed information for that line. Riders can plan ahead and click Tonight (9pm-6am) and Weekend for alerts about service at those times on that particular line. At the time of writing (October 2020), navigating to nighttime service information brings up a message: “The subway is closed each night between 1 AM and 5 AM while we clean our trains and stations.”

When viewing the map via a smartphone browser, the initial display is a bit different. Travelers can see the same map with route lines, but must tap to open the index displaying
the individual routes. Tapping a route will display similar information as the desktop experience, but in a more compact view.

I have visited New York City a handful of times and remember my anxiety as I tried to decipher the iconic MTA map. I tend to rely on tourist or phone app maps for even just walking around a new city, and see this new map as incredibly valuable. I feel more confident in saying I may visit the city again in the future!

An October 2020 *Curbed* article explains the work for this map was done pro bono by the firm Work & Co., with the intention of gaining experience and enticing other transit authorities to commission similar tools. My hometown of Buffalo, New York’s light rail line doesn’t compare to NYC’s system in size — it spans only 6.4 miles and consists of one line. However, there are more than 40 bus routes operating in the Buffalo-Niagara region. Although I no longer travel by public transportation daily, at one time I would have loved an up-to-date map like this when I spent hours waiting for rerouted buses on my way to school and work.

**Conclusion**

There are several great atlases, maps and cartography books set for publication in late 2020 and early 2021. Some of those I am looking forward to reviewing are:


HI! A FRIEND TOLD ME I COULD BORROW SOME MAPS FROM YOUR COLLECTION.

I DON’T CARE. I’D JUST LIKE THEM TO BE COLORFUL.

OKAY, WELL, IT WOULD HELP ME SELECT SOME FOR YOU IF YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT YOU’RE GOING TO USE THEM FOR.

OH, I’M JUST GOING TO USE THEM TO WRAP CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

DON’T WORRY! SHE’LL RETURN THEM AFTER SHE FOLDS AND TAPES RIBBONS TO THEM!