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base line

a newsletter of the

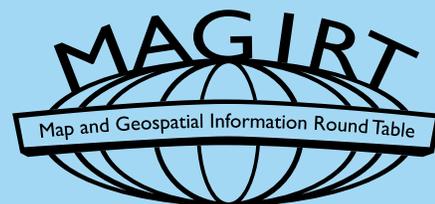
Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

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

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FROM THE CHAIR

KEVIN DYKE

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Hello MAGIRTers! I have just a few items to bring to your attention with this issue's column. First, MAGIRT's bylaws are in the process of being revised and the revisions will be shared with the membership as soon as possible. These revisions are taking place across all ALA round tables and coincide with round table membership due standardization. Stay tuned for more information.

Next, thanks to the efforts of Education Committee chair Kim Plassche, our colleagues in the Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML), and Angela Lee from Esri, MAGIRT will be co-hosting a two-hour hands-on workshop on Wednesday, November 30th entitled Image analysis in the cloud: Introducing ArcGIS Image for ArcGIS Online. I know I am excited to learn more about this software as a service offering.

Looking forward to the 2023 Annual Conference in Chicago, MAGIRT is cosponsoring a panel featuring speakers from the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Newberry Library, University of Chicago, and the Chicago History Museum. These representatives will share their experiences and ongoing projects related to the digitization of historical maps of Chicago and the creation of geospatial metadata. As a native of the Chicago suburbs and former library assistant at the Newberry Library, this program is particularly intriguing to me, but I think it will be a fantastic experience for all. Just one more reason to look forward to Annual! One last Annual tidbit is that we will have the opportunity to tour the Newberry and see some of its storied cartographic collection in person. At the moment, the tour is planned for the afternoon of Friday, June 23rd, but given how long we have until then, that timing is subject to change.

If you have anything you would like me to address or include in my chair's column, or if you would just like to get in touch, don't hesitate to contact me at kdyke@okstate.edu. Thank you, and see you next time!



ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

New StoryMap Commemorates 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam

September 17 marked the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, the bloodiest single-day battle of the Civil War. In a joint effort, Manuscript Division and Geography & Map Division recently published a StoryMap exploring this battle, its geography, its participants, and the Civil War at large. [Antietam: "The Most Terrible Battle of the Age"](#) utilizes selected correspondence, maps, books, photographs, and other collection items to provide a new and interesting view of the events. The resource also features an interactive map that pinpoints the locations of battlefield photographs taken in the aftermath by Alexander Gardner and James Gibson.



A new StoryMap, Antietam: "The Most Terrible Battle of the Age," was released by Manuscript Division and Geography & Map Division to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam

New Interactive Map and Timeline Visualization Launches

The Serial and Government Publications Division launched the first [interactive map and timeline visualization](#) using Instant Apps, a part of the Esri suite of tools. This map displays the approximate publishing locations of over 3,000 digitized newspaper titles available in *Chronicling America*. Users can adjust the timeline slider to explore which newspaper

titles were published and where, or interact with the map to narrow in on states, counties, and cities to view which digitized newspapers are available for specific regions in the U.S. This visual browsing tool is particularly useful to researchers who know the approximate date range and region they want to research, but don't know if digitized newspapers are available for that time and geographic area. The newspaper dataset is also available for users to download if they want to create their own data visualization.



Chronicling America Interactive Map and Timeline Visualization



Nancy Kandoian Memorial Book video

The link below is provided for the membership to view the book of memories given to the family of Nancy Kandoian at her memorial service.

[Memorial Book](#)

MAGIRT Honors Award

We are accepting nominations for the 2023 MAGIRT Honors Award.

This award is presented to a person or an organization in recognition of outstanding achievement and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the Round Table.

Please submit the nomination to mizh@loc.gov with the following information:

1. Name of Nominee or Organization, plus mailing address, phone number, and email address.
2. Position Title (or Former Position Title) of an individual.
3. A brief statement (one or two paragraphs) that explains why this individual or organization should receive the MAGIRT Honors Award.

The award recipient will be announced and honored during the MAGIRT Awards Reception at the 2023 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago. The recipient need not be present at the conference to be chosen, though we do all enjoy the opportunity to raise our glasses to the Honored. The recipient receives a certificate, a trophy or similar item, and a cash award. Remarks made at the awards reception and pictures of the recipients are published in *base line*.

The winner will be selected by the MAGIRT Nominations and Awards Committee (Which is comprised of the MAGIRT Past Chair, Chair, and Vice Chair). Here is a list of our [past winners](#).

Please send your nominations by January 31, 2023.

We look forward to your nominations!

Min Zhang
MAGIRT Past Chair and Chair of the Nominations Committee



Image Analysis in the Cloud: Introducing ArcGIS Image

Presented by Angela Lee and Canserina Kurnia from (Esri)

Please join us for a special workshop co-sponsored by
ALA's Map & Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT)
and the
Western Association of Libraries (WAML)

Date: Wednesday, November 30th

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm PST/1:00-3:00pm EST

Note: You will need access to an ArcGIS Online account with the ArcGIS Online user type extension enabled to complete the hands-on exercises.

[Click here to register for the hands-on session](#)

ArcGIS Image for ArcGIS Online is an Esri Software as a Service (SaaS) offering that provides capabilities for hosting, analyzing, and streaming imagery in the cloud. Join this hands-on workshop to learn how to get started using ArcGIS Image for ArcGIS Online. You will learn how to upload and host imagery, visualize LANDSAT and other multi-spectral satellite imagery, and perform common analysis workflows such as change detection and feature extraction.

Do you have an idea for a MAGIRT webinar? Would you like to present about an innovative project, research or another topic relevant to map and geospatial librarianship? Please reach out to [Kim Plassche](#) (MAGIRT Education Committee Chair).

Kimberly Plassche
Senior Assistant Librarian
SUNY at Buffalo

NEW MAPS AND CARTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

"Maps are love letters written to times and places their makers had explored."

- Peng Shepherd, *The Cartographers* (2022)

Introduction

I stole the practice of adding a quote about maps or geography at the top of this column from David Bertuca. It is the perfect excuse to highlight an author or speaker that also loves maps. I try to pull these quotes from obscure sources during my daily work – I'm always looking and listening for somebody to say something insightful or humorous about cartography. Once, I heard one of the characters in my toddler's *Barbie: Life in the Dreamhouse* cartoon say something about needing a map when they were lost. Of course, she's three, so I couldn't rewind the episode right then without subjecting myself to a tantrum. I tried to find that quote later by jumping around her recently watched episodes, but I never did hear it again. But now I know more about Barbie, Skipper, and their friends than I ever thought I needed to. I just hope they did find their way out of the woods without that map.

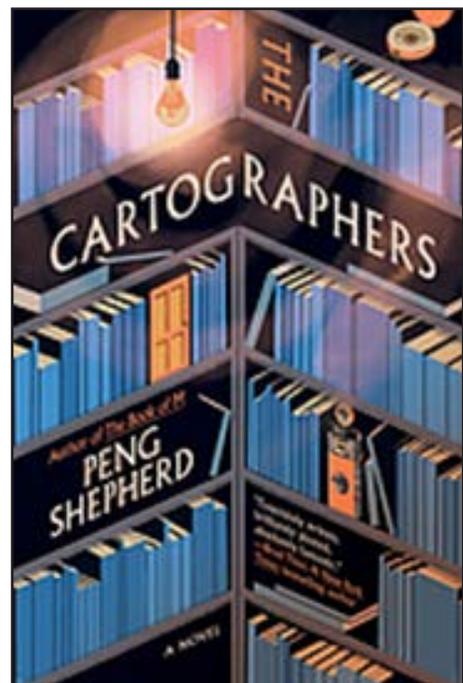
In this issue of *base line*, I am reviewing a book about a fictional group of cartographers and map librarians. There are many quotes in this book that deserve a place at the top of this column, because this book is in fact itself a *love letter* to maps. It was hard to choose one, but I think this does sum it all up quite well.

Books

Shepherd, Peng. *The Cartographers: A Novel*. New York, New York: William Morrow, 2022 (ISBN: 9780062910691). 391 pages: illustrations, maps. List price: \$27.99.

The Cartographers is the first novel I reviewed for this column. [Coincidentally, the third book I review in this issue can also be classified as fiction.] I started reading this one as leisure reading. However, I quickly realized that MAGIRT members would be as excited about this book as I am. It may not be an appropriate addition to your map and atlas collection, but I urge you to connect with your colleagues in charge of ordering fiction and add this to your library.

Peng Shepherd, author of *The Book of M* (2018) and *The Future Library* (2021), drew inspiration for her latest novel from a real-life cartographic drama.



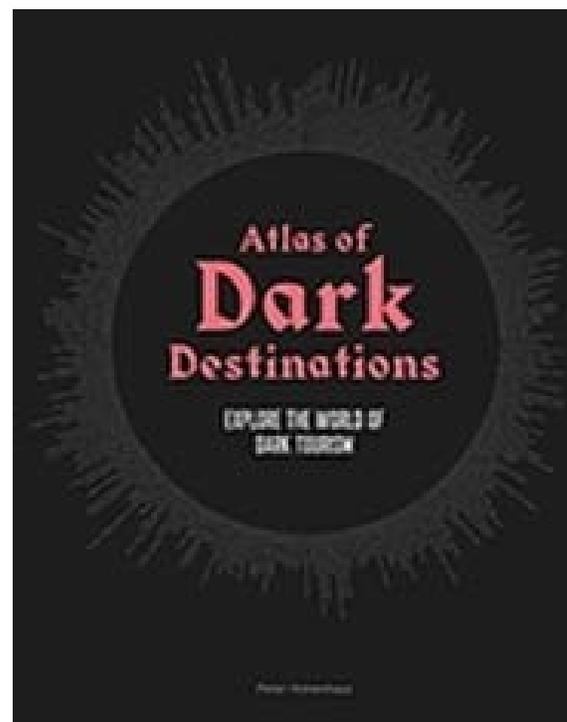
Copyright traps and phantom settlements are the driving force behind the mysterious magic of the maps in this book. One of the referenced phantom settlements appeared on a real map. In the 1930s, General Drafting Corporation added a fictional town in their map of New York. This intentional inaccuracy was an effort to reveal the fact that Rand McNally and other mapmakers were stealing their maps in lieu of doing their own surveying work. Instances like this may not be a surprise to map librarians and curators, but the rest of this story doesn't finish the way we would expect. When Rand McNally was called out for including Agloe on their own maps, they argued that the town indeed did exist. How is this possible? Well, a building named Agloe General Store existed on the spot, and now the name lives in infamy. If you want to hear more about this fascinating story, NPR published a [story](#) about this in 2014, and Shepherd discusses it in Season 9 Episode 2 of the [Book Club Girl](#) podcast.

Maps drive the action and appear almost as characters themselves in numerous fictional works, so one may wonder why this book deserves such praise. The author clearly did her research. The protagonist encounters Sanborn atlases and name drops several other well-known old maps in our libraries, while also giving antique European maps special attention. In her description of the lives New York Public Library (NYPL) Map Division employees and other scholars in the field, readers are drawn into a seemingly glamorous life. My colleagues would likely argue that really their lives are much more ordinary than Shepherd's characters' are, but seeing our careers and interests depicted in such a fascinating way is thrilling. In addition to the familiar sights of maps and their lovers, the book's mysterious and fantastical story will keep anybody (cartophile or not) hooked until the end.

I deliberately avoided reading any press or reviews before I finished this book, and I hope everybody else can have a similar experience. This review is more succinct than my others, but this is necessary to avoid spoiling the plot.

Hohenhaus, Peter. *Atlas of Dark Destinations: Explore the World of Dark Tourism*. London: Laurence King Publishing, 2021 (ISBN: 9781913947194). 352 pages: color illustrations, color maps; 27 cm. List price: \$29.99.

According to a 2019 Washington Post article exploring the phenomenon known as dark tourism, concisely described as "visiting places where some of the darkest events of human history have unfolded", this pastime isn't new. J. John Lennon from Glasgow Caledonian University claims dark tourism can be traced as far back as 1815, when people watched the Battle of Waterloo from their carriages. I was first made aware of the strange hobby when Netflix aired eight episodes of *Dark Tourist*, which tracked David Farrier's travels around the world to locations including the site of the



Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan, the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan, and even the hangouts of real “vampires” in New Orleans. The show ended, like many others, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Plans to continue the series haven’t been announced.

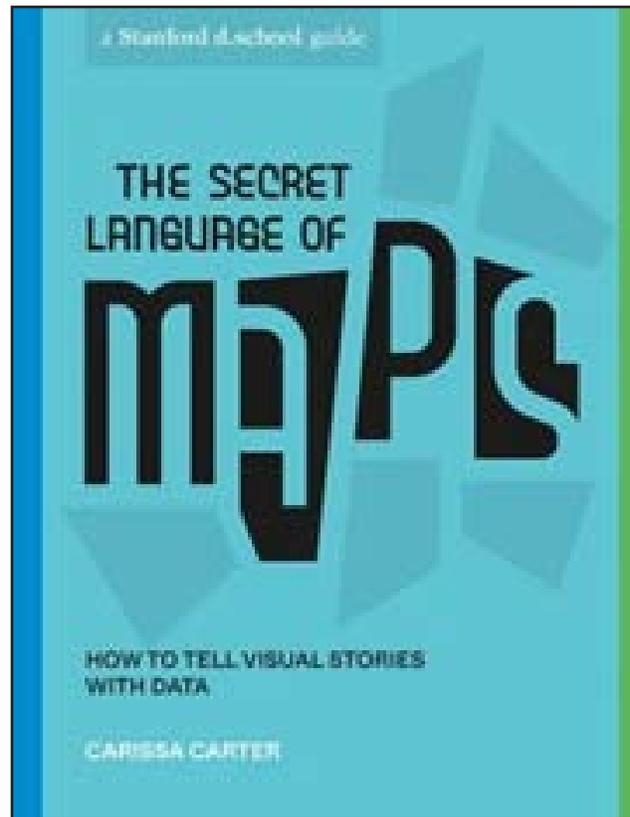
In 2021, Peter Hohenhaus released his *Atlas of Dark Destinations*, which may have kept tourists satisfied during (and following) a pause on global travel. Hohenhaus is the creator of dark-tourism.com website, but insists his book is not a summary of the content on the site. In fact, the author directs readers to look at his site for more information about specific locations since in the book “so many of the entries have had to be kept concise.” (p. 11). The atlas’ introduction gives a brief explanation of the meaning of “dark tourism” and argues in favor of the term and practice. Approaches it from an academic sense... Points out in his introduction he does not cover war zones, extreme dark tourism locations (such as Aokigahara forest in Japan), paranormal or fictional locations (like haunted houses or horror movie locations) (p. 8-9). The atlas is very slim on maps. As the author points out himself in his *About this Book* section: “This is an ‘Atlas’ inasmuch as it is geographically organized, roughly from the northwest to the southeast, starting on the West Coast of America and ending in the South Pacific. Geography is not the main focus here, however, and simple maps are given at the beginning of each section only for general orientation.” (p. 10).

What does this atlas include? Quite a bit. Each of the 300 locations is given a star rating out of five, as well as a “Dark Rating” out of ten. The first rating is intended to give a measure of general quality of the location as determined by a visitor. This rating indicates ease of access, multilingual resources, and other “practicalities” one would expect from a travel rating. In addition to the rating, the author gives suggestions for navigating to locations more easily and points out when travel to certain locations is exceedingly expensive. These tips also cover general travel in the regions, especially when there are few transit options due to location, such as getting to Montserrat, or to Cuba with political concerns at play (p. 41). The second rating is an indication of how dark the location is, in other words, the rating will be lower for a museum or monument related to, for example, an event resulting in no casualties rather than a massacre. The ratings are both helpful in different ways and given the fact that the author professes to have visited most of the sites, they are reliable. Occasional boxes listing “Dark Stats”, such as the numbers of victims and other statistics highlight atrocities related to the events discussed. A brief history of the significance of the listed site is given as well – sometimes an entry spans half a page, and other entries cross two.

This book is recommended for fans of the Atlas Obscura website or books. The themes covered overlap, but it should be noted there is no trace of lightheartedness in *Atlas of Dark Destinations*, understandably. Dr. Hohenhaus’ exposure to the dark destinations combined with an almost academic examination of the related events result in an excellent book for those that plan to tour the locations. Or, if readers prefer to stay in the comfort of their homes, they can just experience them vicariously through the descriptive writing, clear photographs, and meticulous editing of this volume.

Carter, Carissa. *The Secret Language of Maps: How to Tell Visual Stories with Data*. Emeryville, California: Ten Speed Press, 2022 (ISBN: 9781984858009). 169 pages; chiefly color illustrations; 19 cm. List price: \$14.99.

According to their [website](#), the instructors at Stanford d.school “believe everyone has the capacity to be creative”. Formally known as The Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, the center invites students across disciplines to partake in experiential learning and tackle real-world problems in the classroom. The school is expanding its teaching beyond the University on their website’s “d.school Public Library” and via a new series of “Stanford d.school guide” books. *The Secret Language of Maps* is just one title in a collection that also includes two other 2022 releases, *Design for Belonging: How to Build Inclusion and Collaboration in Your Communities* (Wise) and *Navigating Ambiguity: Creating Opportunity in a World of Unknowns* (Small).



The author of this guide, Carissa Carter, strives to help readers learn innovative ways to use data to tell a story. Carter, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Stanford d.school, takes a unique approach in accomplishing this task. Her book begins with Chapter 1 of *Murder, She Mapped: A Mystery Story*. Readers are introduced to Marion Marlow, a fictional character returning to her hometown following the death of her mother. Our heroine begins to uncover the mystery of her best friend’s disappearance years earlier following the opening of a mysterious envelope containing a map. The premise of this fictional story is reminiscent of one of the mysteries or psychological thrillers I read in my leisure time. However, solving this mystery requires piecing together several pieces of evidence, including a USGS map, a photograph, a hand drawn map, a poem, and a family tree. In between chapters of the fictional story, Carter introduces practical data visualization design topics such as “what is a map”, using Venn Diagrams to piece together data, and starting a map from one of three places (data, bias, or craft).

The use of the word *map* in this book’s title may be deceiving. Carter’s definition of map includes charts and timelines – anything that “shows spatial relationships in a visual way” but are not necessarily geographic (p. 14). This book invites readers to think about telling convincing stories and working with data in different ways. Although this book may not be appropriate for a map or atlas collection, it is a great addition for an academic library collecting materials to support the use of data visualization in research and publishing.

Conclusion

Maps are often plot drivers or characters in their own rights in many pieces of fiction. [I'm looking at you, Harry Potter's Marauder's Map.] I've read and reviewed many books about literary and fictional maps, but these tend to appear mainly in children's or fantasy novels. It truly is a coincidence that my copy of *The Secret Language of Maps* came in before this column became due. This happy accident allowed me to review my first two fiction titles for map enthusiasts. If these reviews leave you eager to explore more, I recommend checking out the [Maps of Imaginary Places Collection](#) at Texas A&M University Libraries. This extensive collection gathers not only literary maps, but also music, tabletop gaming, and television maps (to name a few categories). This collection may inspire you to start your own.



From the Editor's Keyboard



COLUMNIST WANTED!

We have an upcoming opening for someone who would like to write the **New Maps and Cartographic Materials** column. It is sad to report that our current columnist can no longer contribute into the new year due to the increased duties at her institution.

If you enjoy finding and exploring new atlases, maps, GIS data and map websites and also enjoy writing, why not combine the two together and write about them.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make an impactful contribution to our part of the library profession. I would like to encourage any MAGIRT member who is interested and wishes to continue this important column in *base line* to contact the Editor for more information or if you are interested in writing this column. It also looks great in that tenure or promotion portfolio.

GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs

GET THIS! A SENATOR INTRODUCED A BILL REQUIRING PUBLIC BUILDINGS, WHAT HE CALLS TERRORISM TARGETS, TO BE BLURRED ON SATELLITE IMAGERY! AND, SINCE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IS ALSO CLEARLY A TERRORIST TARGET, ALL IMAGERY OF ROADS SHOULD BE BLURRED TOO!

OH, SO, NOTE TO TERRORISTS:
EVERYTHING BLURRED IS WORTH BOMBING.



I HOPE THEY DON'T WANT ME TO GO OVER
OUR MAPS WITH 'WHITE-OUT' TO COVER
THOSE CRITICAL BITS OF GEOGRAPHY NOW...

