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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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base line is published electronically six times a year: in February, April, June, August, October, and December. All older issues of base line are now freely available on the MAGIRT website.

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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312.944.6780  
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Greetings from Michigan and happy Fall! Here at Michigan State University we have welcomed our largest undergraduate enrollment on record — 40,000+, out of a total enrollment of 51,000+. The energy and enthusiasm of our students is inspiring, and thanks to our Map Library I know at least some of them will come away from MSU with a new or deepened appreciation for maps and geography.

MAGIRT’s executive board has met twice recently, and I am happy to report some good news in our efforts to rebuild MAGIRT’s volunteer base, following the disruptions of the pandemic: Please welcome Sean Tucker, the new chair of our GeoTech Committee and GIS Interest Group; and Maggie Tarmey, our new Social Media Coordinator. Thanks also to past chair Kevin Dyke for volunteering to serve as webmaster, and secretary Laura McElfresh for volunteering to serve as interim newsletter editor, starting in 2024. Also thanks to vice chair Erin Cheever for helping publicize our openings!

As you can see, some of our officers are serving dual roles, and we’re always looking for more volunteers. Whether you’re looking to build new skills, apply your talents, or just want to pitch in and help MAGIRT thrive, please speak up and we’ll find a role that will be a good fit for you.

The board is also discussing ideas for MAGIRT to provide online presentation opportunities for our members. To that end, watch for an announcement of an online forum in the works for this winter, with presentation opportunities ranging from lightning talks to longer, more formal presentations. Keep an eye on MAPS-L and ALA Connect for details in the months ahead. If you would like to assist with planning or staging the event, please email me at tkiser@msu.edu.

Also watch for details of a fun event for professional development and networking coming in November: Queertacular, a multi-roundtable ALA event planned for Friday, November 3rd, which will include an interactive panel of participating roundtables, a comics reading, a short film screening, and, courtesy of MAGIRT, a Queer Geographies trivia game.

In closing, if you have comments, suggestions, ideas, or words of wisdom, I invite you to share them with me or any other member of the Executive Board. We rely on your input to help us move forward!
MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting  
August 21, 2023  

Time: Monday, August 21, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via Zoom  

Present: Erin Cheever, Tim Kiser, Maggie Long, Laura McElfresh, Susan Moore, John Olson, Wangyal Shawa, Amy Swanson, Iris Taylor, Min Zhang  

Regrets: Kevin Dyke, Kathy Rankin  

1. Call to order - 3:02 pm Eastern  

2. Call for changes to Agenda  
   a. Visit with John Olson — moved to beginning of meeting  

3. Secretary--Minutes from past meeting  
   a. Published in the August issue of base line; thank you again to everyone who helped!  

4. Visit with John A. Olson — discussing workflow, time commitment, etc. for base line editorship  
   a. John took over from Steve Rogers; inherited an Adobe InDesign template from Steve.  
      i. The newsletter is published bimonthly (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec)  
      ii. Template has all the fonts and layouts so that the look & feel of the publication is easy to maintain; also has a folder of commonly-used graphics (officer pictures; seasonal images).  
   b. Has his workflow written down so as to convey to a successor:  
      i. 2 weeks out: call for contributions goes out to an email list John maintains. Then he’ll send out a 2nd call. Will also get requests for advertising space; sends Danielle a message to invoice the advertiser. (Doesn’t usually receive confirmation). Price depends on placement; more $$ next to “Great Moments”  
      ii. Every August, updates front matter (list of officers, etc.) and email.  
      iii. Saves a blank copy of template as a worksheet for latest issue, then places content into the issue. (Embedded photos usually extracted & saved separately)  
      iv. Reads through to make sure text flow is alright, placement correct, links are ok  
      v. Creates PDF; notifies Chair & Webmaster; Webmaster posts to MAGIRT website. (No Webmaster last time = had to post to ALA Connect for the time being.)  
   c. InDesign can be complicated, but is easy to use. There’s a tutorial on LinkedIn Learning.  
   d. Any questions from people interested in taking over as Editor, please contact John.  
      i. August issue is usually biggest (bc ALA content) — usually takes 8-12 hours. A small issue might be as little as 6 hours. Also depends on how much reworking the articles require; how much formatting in InDesign. John tends to format & input articles as they come in.  
      ii. Epub file output option in InDesign? — There are several options; most of what we’ve done is PDF. Can set up different parameters in InDesign. InDesign also optimizes image file size — decrease resolution as much as possible without loss of clarity.  
      iii. John gets his InDesign access through his work’s university-wide Adobe license. MAGIRT could pay for access for someone who needs it.  
   e. Thank you, John, for your years of reliable service!
5. Officer Reports
   a. Chair (Tim)
      i. Our list of vacancies is daunting! All ideas for rebuilding our base of volunteers are welcome.
      
      ii. Programming ideas
          1. Winter/spring online presentation opportunity? Smaller events during the year ahead? Our Interest Groups have tended to stick to the discussion model rather than presentation. Might we branch out to online presentations? It’s a simple, lightweight thing to do. Tim attended WAML virtually this past week and enjoyed the presentations; would like MAGIRT to explore perhaps a small online conference.
             a. Wangyal: ALA schedule largely for committee meetings; likes the idea of online conference, opportunities to present. GeoTech has been doing lightning talks at ALA but beyond that, time constraints at ALA don’t really allow it.
             b. MAGIRT used to have two in-person conferences per year, but with no more Midwinter we only have one. Maybe do an online Midwinter? Something like Core Interest Group Week (March)?
             c. Erin: maybe a monthly (or other regular frequency) program series? (Monthly could be a lot, and regularity is important.)
                i. Emphasis should be on promoting MAGIRT — how to join, how to renew, meet officers
                ii. We already have two people ready to go; gives us a cushion to find more presenters. Also after the first two, re-evaluate & see how often we could go. Erin could go first; Tim maybe in October.
                iii. Support needed? — get Kevin to create the event, through ALA account; advertise it; get Tim there to introduce the speaker (and do PR for MAGIRT!)
                iv. Important to not give up after the first few; payoff might not be immediate, but if we record presentations they can live on. If we keep at it, can raise MAGIRT’s profile.
     iii. ALA Annual Program Jury seeks MAGIRT appointment -- Tim must submit name by 9/1
         1. “The juror commits to reviewing and scoring program proposals between September 25-October 25, 2023. All reviews must be completed by October 25 so that the jury chair can enter final selections by November 8.
             “The time commitment varies based on how many proposals are received and the total number of jurors we end up with. Typically, a juror would have to read through 30-50 proposals. Based on my experience, I could review a few proposals a day for a week or spread it out to 10 a week. Cramming at the end is not ideal for anyone.”
             “Conference Services will provide a juror training and guide during the week of September 18.

         iv. MAGIRT liaisons sought (one for each committee) -- I must submit names by 9/5
             1. ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)
             2. ALA Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE)

     v. (Note: Laura sent out an ALA Connect message re: Program Juror & committee liaisons on 8/25)
b. **Vice Chair** (Erin)
   i. (See Membership Committee update)

c. **Secretary** (Laura) — no further update

d. **Webmaster** (Vacant)
   i. (Tim) Waiting for response re: training. Laura will also get training.
   ii. Link to [Drupal](https://www.drupal.org) training info

e. **Treasurer** (Iris)
   i. Iris has contacted Danielle for our report and will email it to the Board.

f. **Past Chair** (Kevin)
   i. Attending the final meeting of the task force updating the RT Bylaws template, which just so happened to be scheduled for the same time as this meeting. With the template finalized, I (Kevin) will continue working on updating MAGIRT’s bylaws (which we need to stop calling bylaws by the way, either rules or policies are the choices for the new name). I’ll report more fully at our next board meeting.

6. **Old Business**
   a. Officer and Committee/IG Chair vacancies - consider temporary partnerships (&/or long-term efficiencies?) Erin has a document with updated group descriptions; hasn’t been published yet. Erin will also send out via ALA Connect.
      i. List of vacancies: please submit names to Tim
         1. OPPC (Online Presence and Publications Committee) — newly combined, needs Chair
         2. Map Collection Management DG Chair — Min will recruit.
         3. Cataloging and Classification Committee Chair
            a. Susan Moore has volunteered, thank you!
         4. Geotech and GIS Committee Chair (newly combined as well)
         5. Education Committee Chair (also serves as liaison to ALA Education Committee)
         6. Webmaster (needs ALA-required training)
         7. *base line* newsletter editor (upcoming vacancy December 2023)
         8. *base line* “New Maps and Cartographic Materials” columnist
      ii. Possible emergency partnership measures:
         1. *base line*, OPPC, & Webmaster all intersect (Secretary too?)
         2. Coll Mgmt: partner with Cataloging IG &/or GeoTech/GIS?
         3. Others?
   b. Discussion began at Annual: open up Board meetings to whole MAGIRT membership? Publicize in other places than just ALA Connect? We tried it this time (publicized on MAPS-L) and doesn’t seem like anyone new showed up, but might as well keep at it!
      i. Maybe do publicity on LinkedIn? We had a LI Profile, and Erin created an Organization Page (so folks could use it in their profiles as volunteers)

7. **New Business**
   a. Outgoing newsletter editor John A. Olson is joining us to discuss the role: Workflows, time commitments, etc.
   b. Celebration planning (Tim) — kudoboard.com. OCLC did one for Jay Weitz’s retirement. We also had one for Nancy; link was sent to MAPS-L; also copied people’s messages into the kudoboard. Maggie will take the lead on this.
   c. Chair’s Program: information is due really early — end of September?
8. Committee/DG/IG Reports
   a. Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee (Kevin)
      i. Kevin is at that meeting right now; update at next meeting
   b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (vacant)
      i. Susan is incoming as chair
   c. Education Committee (vacant)
   d. Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG (vacant)
   e. Membership & Marketing Committee (Erin)
      i. October: Game RT Spectacular event (Erin will follow up on date)
         1. Asking MAGIRT to present on the theme of LGBTQ Media (Erin has more info about what they mean here)
         2. From Game RT: “Spectaculars are kind of enigmatic pop-up events full of mayhem and popular culture where we try to bring as many round tables together to celebrate and enjoy each other’s unique perspective from the profession.”
      ii. Monthly MAGIRT member seminar presentations on current projects
         1. Tim & Erin first presenters?
      iii. Looking ahead:
         1. November - GIS day/week/month
         2. LibLearnX in January
         3. Career panel in spring
         4. Student scholarship next year
         5. Collaboration with more RTs
   f. Online Presence & Publications Committee (OPPC) (vacant)
   g. Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG (Amy)
      i. We should try to do Core Interest Group week this year (in March?) Amy can find out more & share with the Board. Tim will help
   h. Map Collection Management DG (Vacant)
      i. Freedom to Read Foundation (Vacant)
         i. Iris may be able to come back as liaison
   j. WAML liaison report (Kathy)
      i. Kathy is unable to be here today but she did participate virtually in part of the 2023 WAML Annual Meeting (Vancouver/hybrid, August 9-11) and will report on that conference at a future Board meeting.
   k. CC:DA Report (Min)
      i. Virtual meetings in July (Fridays, Jul 14 & 21) instead of in-person at Annual. Lots of reports discussed (NARDAC; usual LC reports; discussion of last meeting’s minutes). Min will summarize & send to base line.
      ii. Submitted news release for Nicole Kong’s MAGIRT Award & sent a copy to Danielle, so it might be included in the ALA Awards announcement.

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 26th, 3pm Eastern via Zoom

Adjournment: 4:22 pm EDT
MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

September 26, 2023

Time: Tuesday, September 26, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via Zoom

Present: Sean Tucker, Laura McElfresh, Erin Cheever, Maggie Long, John Olson, Wangyal Shawa, Tara Anthony, Pete Reehling, Kathy Rankin, Min Zhang, Heather Sloan

Regrets: Kevin Dyke, Susan Moore, Amy Swanson, Maggie Tarmey, Iris Taylor

1. Call to order - 3:02 pm Eastern

2. Call for changes to Agenda - none

3. Officer Reports
   a. Chair (Tim)
      i. will be covered in Old Business
   b. Vice Chair (Erin)
      i. Erin will do updates as Membership Chair
      ii. Welcome to Sean Tucker, our new GIS/GeoTech Chair!
   c. Secretary (Laura)
      i. I finally updated the Roster of Officers & Leaders – please look over it to make sure it’s accurate now.
      ii. Tim is also unsure of status of some liaisons; will send out a recruitment call on ALA Connect. It’s hard to get things jump-started once they stall!
      iii. Pete suggests maybe extending terms, as with Treasurer model? Don’t have to be constantly searching for replacement officers. Also, dormant committees are okay! They can be revived as need or interest dictates. (Also also, liaisons go two ways. Which organizations have liaison relationships with us?)
      iv. John points out that we used to get reports from liaisons, but he hasn’t seen one in a long time as base line editor: (Some may get folded into minutes of other meetings — e.g. Cataloging & Classification Committee — but haven’t seen, say, CUAC liaison report in a while.
      v. OPPC - we have people in the various roles; worry about a Chair as need emerges, or if/when the group has a project to do.
   d. Webmaster (Kevin) - new webmaster!
      i. Kevin finished the Drupal training and now has edit credentials, so he’s officially open for webmaster business.
   e. Treasurer (Iris) - attached
   f. Past Chair (Kevin)
      i. No report in this capacity, but see Bylaws committee update below.
4. Old Business
   a. New officers & roles!
      i. Susan - CCC Chair; Sean Tucker - GeoTech Committee/GIS IG Chair; Maggie Tarmey - social media coordinator; Kevin - Webmaster; Laura - interim *base line* editor
   b. *base line* (Tim)
      i. Developments since last meeting - brainstormed over email. Erin has requested usership metrics for *base line* to gauge readership; see if some information needs to be publicized more widely.
         1. John suggests also putting out issues first on Connect (members only), then after a certain time put it up on the website (freely available)
      ii. Publication frequency? Currently bimonthly
         1. John says it's always been bimonthly but could go quarterly. He would suggest that issues should be timed so that the June issue will come out before ALA (March/June/September/December?)
         iii. Still need “New Maps and Cartographic Materials” columnist — it's a lot of work for one person (most recently is ~3 reviews for each bimonthly issue!) May also be something where we look at what the needs are; solicit reviews from the membership.
            1. GIS-related content = niche for us, to contrast with WAML’s book reviews?
   c. Officer vacancies (Tim)
      i. OPPC Chair; Collection Management IG Chair; Education Committee Chair
         1. Tim will keep working on both of these; wants to have a Collection Management IG chair in place by ALA so that the group can meet.
   d. Programming (Tim)
      i. Chair's program at ALA annual
         1. We've been discussing over email; have some good ideas, Iris’s idea (digital mapping & Indigenous America) in particular. Might be good for a 1-hour panel discussion. Iris is reaching out to contacts at LoC.
         2. Other ideas include lightning talks; but this might be even better as an online event, rather than restricting it to an hour and on-site. This way we can leave topics wide open — whatever people want to talk about.
            a. e.g. Accidental Map Librarian; running a GIS workshop on a no-dollar budget; cartographic metadata schemas/cataloging
      ii. Winter online program? — see above re: lightning talks
         1. Questions to answer at a later time: when will the winter program be? Is it MAGIRT members only? (to present? to attend?)
      iii. Planning committee(s)? — Erin; Kevin; Laura; put out a wider call?
   e. Celebration planning (Tim, Maggie L.)
      i. Maggie L. set up our [Kudoboard](#) for Paige, please sign by Oct 1.

5. New Business - is being covered elsewhere in reports, etc.
6. Committee/DG/IG Reports

   a. Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee (Kevin)
      i. The task force to update the round table bylaws template finished meeting, is
         in the process of finalizing versions to send off to the Bylaws Committee. Once
         it’s official, Kevin will continue making updates to MAGIRT bylaws in hopes of
         getting them done Q1 of 2024.

   b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (Susan) - no report

   c. Education Committee (vacant)

   d. Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS IG (Sean)
      i. Sean had onboarding conversation with Wangyal the other day & has some ideas
         about directions for GeoTech/GIS IG.
         1. Emergent relevance: current topics include parcels mapping; AI geocoding
            (LLM)
         2. Education: publish a *base line* article around popular topics? Workshops,
            presentations; reach out to contacts at Esri, other places
         3. Forums: what is our core group (usually about 30% of an organization) interested in?
      ii. Sean & Wangyal will continue working together & Laura will help establish a
          document for asynchronous collaboration.

   e. Membership & Marketing Committee (Erin)
      i. Tentative date for first MAGIRT Member Seminar - October 17 (Erin)
         1.pmET/12pmCT; to be run through Vimeo
         1. Date/time for Tim’s presentation?
      ii. Will send out another MAGIRT position vacancy announcement - 2 members
          recruited last time
      iii. Establish an onboarding process for new MAGIRT leaders?
          1. Quick call for an orientation with Exec Board member and committee
             members/past chair
          2. List of directives for a successful committee; transfer legacy documents
      iv. Planning for Queertacular: November 3 (Friday) from 12-6pm ET
          1. **fun** professional development and networking event
          2. Help needed
          3. Will be broadcast on Twitch, anyone can attend
          4. Tentative schedule for Queertacular:
             a. Roundtable Roundtable
                i. Interactive panel with participating roundtables
             b. GNCRT: dramatic comics reading
             c. Audience chat
             d. FMRT: short film screening & director chat
             e. MAGIRT: Queer Geographies
                i. Tentatively 4:00 - 4:45 EST
                   ii. *Worldle-based trivia game* - gay trivia about US / European cities
                   iii. 15 minute presentation, followed by trivia game
             f. GameRT: Yazeba’s Bed & Breakfast liveplay
f. Online Presence & Publications Committee (OPPC) (Vacant)
g. Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG (Amy) - no report
h. Map Collection Management DG (Vacant)
i. Freedom to Read Foundation (Vacant?)
j. WAML liaison report (Kathy) - attached
k. CC:DA Report (Min)
   i. CC:DA Midwinter virtual meeting dates:
      1. February 2nd (Friday), 1-4 pm CST
      2. February 5th (Monday), 11am-2pm CST

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 28, 3pm Eastern via Zoom

8. Adjournment: 4:22 pm Eastern

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WAML Report to MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting
September 26, 2023

The WAML Executive Board members for 2023-24 are Jessica Benner, president, Meg Miller, vice-president/president elect, Bruce Godfrey, treasurer, Lena Denis, secretary, and past president, Katherine Strickland.

WAML held a hybrid conference Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, through Saturday, August 12, 2023, at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, BC. This is the first time this group had met in person since October, 2019. There were workshops on OpenIndexMaps and on massive map weeding projects. There were also group tours of the UBC Geography Department’s Geographic Information Centre and of UBC Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections’ maps. There were presentations on topics such as how to store wall maps, the case for pictorial maps in research and instruction, how to promote a map collection, accessibility to map collections for people with disabilities, developing reusable GIS workshops with graduate student employees, and tips for authors and reviewers for the Journal of Map & Geography Libraries. There were also talks on topics such as the emergence of the Canadian Geographic Information system, British Columbia’s Dominion land surveys and mapping German Americans and their communities: Heinz Kloss and his 1974 ethnographic atlas. There was also a memorial wake for charter WAML member Stan Stevens and long-time member Phil Hoehn, who had passed away since the last WAML conference.

The 2024 conference will be held in Albuquerque. That will be the first time WAML has ever met in New Mexico.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Rankin, WAML liaison
MAGIRT TREASURER’S REPORT FOR
September 26, 2023

This report is based on the ALA/MAGIRT performance report for Fiscal Year 2023 for the month of July summary ending July 2023.

Overview:

Beginning Net Assets for MAGIRT as of July 2023 $ 60,735.00

TOTAL INCOME $ 4,570.00

TOTAL EXPENSES $ 2,821.00

Current monthly balance (income minus expenses as of July 2023) $ 1,749.00

Total Ending Net Assets for MAGIRT as of July 2023 $ 62,484.00

Comments:

• The revenue listed above is $4,510, and $60.00 as income comes from dues and personal donations.

• Highlighted are a few expense explanations (February-September): Final payment for MAGIRT’s Award Dinner $1,379.58; MAGIRT’s Honors Award Plaque $90.45; MAGIRT’s Honor Award Recipient $350.00; Zoom Subscription renewal $72.00; MAGIRT’s Swag/Stickers $306.50.

(At any point, ALA may reduce these funds)

Respectfully submitted, September 26, 2023

Iris Taylor – Treasurer, MAGIRT (2022-2023)
**Webinars from Geography and Map Division**

Geography and Map Division and Professional Learning Outreach Initiatives held a webinar to an audience of teachers and educators from across the nation on August 8. Entitled *Geography and Map Division Virtual Orientation: Maps in the Classroom*, the webinar featured highlights from G&M’s [online map collections](#) and the [LC Teachers page](#), demonstrated how to search for maps on loc.gov, introduced resources including research guides and Story Maps, and engaged attendees in a primary source analysis of a [panoramic map of Capitol Hill](#). The webinar followed with a Q&A. This [webinar](#) was the latest in G&M’s series of virtual orientations. Previous orientations are available in the [Library’s Webinar Collection](#).

**LibGuide: Accessing Born-Digital Manuscript Material**

A newly published LibGuide, [Accessing Born-Digital Manuscript Material](#) is made available by the Manuscript Division. The guide describes how researchers can place a request for born-digital files and provides instructions for viewing and analyzing files using the software and tools available on the Manuscript Reading Room’s two born-digital access workstations. The new guide join the Library’s other web guides on the main [Index of Library of Congress Research Guides page](#) as well as other Manuscript Division guides on the [Research Guides page](#) on the Manuscript Reading Room’s website.
**MAGIRT NEEDS YOU!**

We need a columnist for *Maps and Cartographic Materials*

*base line* has an opening for you!

If you enjoy finding and exploring new atlases, maps and 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. It also looks great in that tenure or promotion portfolio. Please contact the Editor if you would like more information or are interested in contributing to this column.
HERE'S AN INTERESTING CONFERENCE INVITATION: "UNLEASH YOUR INNER MAP MONSTER FOR GIS WEEK"

A CONFERENCE WITH MAP MONSTERS RUNNING AROUND UNLEASHED SOUNDS DANGEROUS.

HMM ...MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC...

WELCOME to GIS WEEK for MAP MONSTERS

© Jim Coombs 10/23