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base line

a newsletter of the
Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

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http://www.ala.org/rt/magirt

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base line is an official publication of the American Library Association's Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT). The purpose of base line is to provide current information on cartographic materials, other publications of interest to map and geography librarians, meetings, related governmental activities, and map librarianship. It is a medium of communication for members of MAGIRT and information of interest is welcome. The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the American Library Association and MAGIRT. Contributions should be sent to the appropriate editor listed below.

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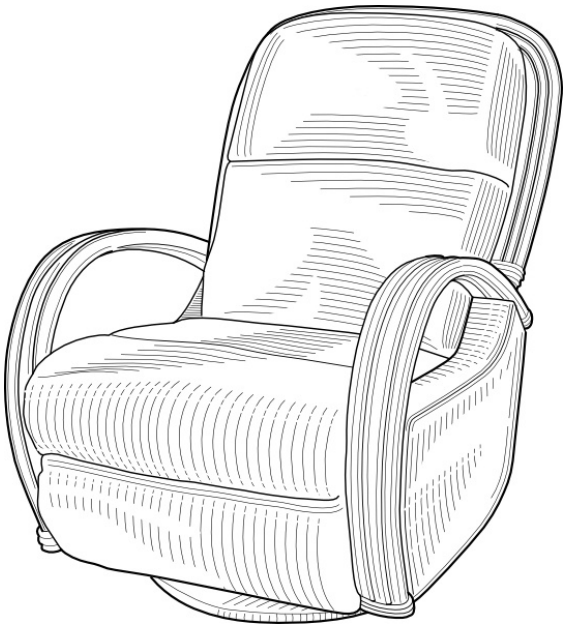
From The Chair

Tim Kiser

Michigan State University



Happy March, happy spring! In my day job as a map cataloger at Michigan State University, I am closing in on the end of a large project to finish cataloging our backlog of maps of Michigan municipalities and townships. The project affords me an engaging tour of my adopted state, and among other things I'm getting an in-depth look at the urban planning practices of the Great Society period, good and bad. I'm almost finished with the P's (e.g., Port Huron), and the multiple drawers of maps of Lansing and East Lansing are behind me. I hope to be finished by the time of my next column.

With this issue, *base line* inaugurates a new quarterly publication schedule, and we welcome our new interim editor, Laura McElfresh. Thank you, Laura, for stepping into the role.

I am delighted with the success of our web conference "Leap into MAGIRT!," which was held via Zoom on February 29. Many thanks to our presenters, attendees, and team of volunteer moderators. With thirteen presentations in four hours, this was an inspiring and educational event covering diverse topics in map collection management and outreach, service models and pedagogy in GIS librarianship, map cataloging, and career guidance. The recording is available on MAGIRT's YouTube channel and can easily be found via a web search for "Leap into MAGIRT." I am hopeful that this can become a recurring event for MAGIRT (not just in leap years), as a new way of supporting our profession, connecting our members, reaching new audiences (especially those unable to attend ALA conferences), and building our base of volunteer leaders through increased visibility.

Registration has opened for ALA Annual in San Diego, and MAGIRT will be there with programming and social events. We hope to see you there! As always, feel free to contact me (or any member of the executive board) with suggestions for the conference, or anything else pertaining to MAGIRT. We rely on your input to help us move forward!

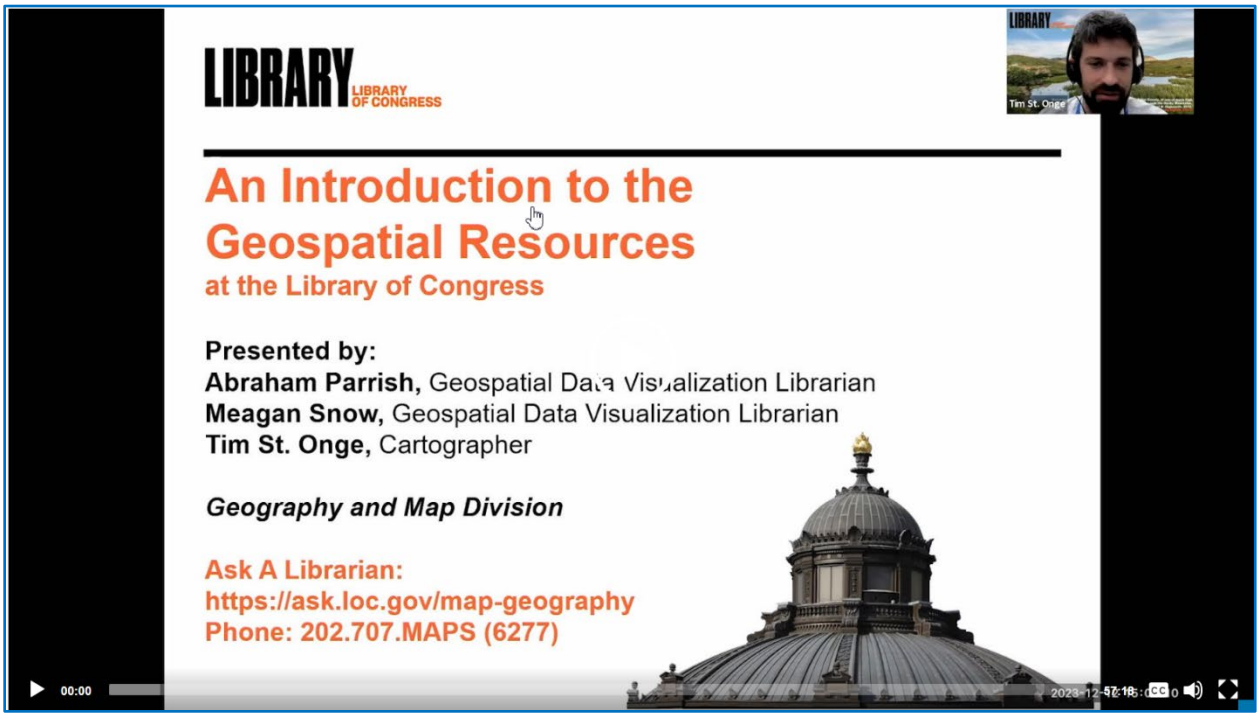
On The Cataloging/Cataloguing Front

Tammy Wong

Library of Congress

Virtual Orientation on Geospatial Resources Held

On December 12, G&M held a virtual orientation, entitled "Geography and Map Division Virtual Orientation: Introduction to Geospatial Resources." The orientation attracted an audience of geographic information system (GIS) enthusiasts from across the nation. The session introduced the concepts of GIS and spatial data formats, highlighting example geospatial datasets and georeferenced maps from G&M's digital collections and its History of Computer Cartography and Geographic Information Sciences Archive. Presenters also demonstrated GIS use in spatial analysis via the division's Geospatial Applications. The recording of the orientation can be found here.



Geography and Map Division Virtual Orientation: Introduction to Geospatial Resources

New Finding Aid for McKinley Map Collection

The Geography & Map Division (G&M) published the finding aid for the William McKinley Map Collection, 1890–1906. The 14-item collection includes a map of the proposed route of the Panama Canal, a map of military-force positions during the Russo-Japanese War, the

locations of missionary outposts in China, and a blueprint of proposed locations of foreign concessions in Tianjin, China, at the end of the 19th century. The public can now find and use these historical materials belonging to a former U.S. president, whose tenure marked the beginning of America's transition into an increasingly global power.

BIBFRAME at ALA LibLearnX

On January 22, the Library of Congress sponsored the BIBFRAME Update Forum during the ALA LibLearnX conference. The virtual session was attended by librarians, primarily from North America and Europe. It featured reports on progress toward BIBFRAME by two institutions: Ex Libris and OCLC.

Topics include how Ex Libris is approaching a hybrid MARC and BIBFRAME world and demonstrated the extra value linked data is bringing to library patrons; and how OCLC is implementing MARC with BIBFRAME for enhanced user experiences. The forum ends with a Q&A portion of the program. The session was recorded and is available from the BIBFRAME website.

Leap Into MAGIRT!
Conference Wrap-Up

On February 29th, MAGIRT held our inaugural "Leap Into MAGIRT!" conference via Zoom. This free one-day miniconference featured a panel discussion, four presentations, and eight lightning talks. Speakers address topics across the range of map and geospatial librarianship, from research consultation to programming; LIS education to project management and student staff management; digitization to discovery; weeding and collection management to cataloging; and literacies including spatial, data, and information.

A recording of the conference is available via MAGIRT's YouTube channel. (We are improving the captioning – it is a work in progress!) We thank our presenters, attendees, and volunteers. We hope to hold another late winter/early springtime conference, and intend it to take place well before the next Leap Day.

Leap Into MAGIRT! 2024 Program Description

The Need to Weed: A Panel On Paper Map De-accessioning
Janet Reyes, University of California, Riverside
Chris Thiry, Colorado School of Mines
Martin Chandler, Cape Breton University
Panel

This panel will offer participants some insights into map weeding from the initial stages to the final outcome. Consideration will be given for where to begin, critical players to talk to, best processes to follow, and how to ensure a mindful weeding takes place so that only the bathwater gets tossed. There will be room for discussion and audience engagement on the practical considerations involved. Reflection of the fundamental tensions in modern map librarianship will be prominent, carefully balanced with a healthy dose of whimsy. The panelists will be Chris Thiry, Map & GIS Librarian at Colorado School of Mines; Martin Chandler, Data and GIS Services Librarian at Cape Breton University; and Janet Reyes, Geospatial Information Librarian at University of California, Riverside.

- *Keywords: map collection, weeding, de-accessioning, downsizing, map collection review, retention policy, collaborators, criteria*

Leaping into the Weeding! Weeding Maps after a Catastrophe
Michelle Colquitt, Clemson University
Lightning Talk

In December 2022, Clemson University's main campus library, the RM Cooper Library, faced a catastrophic flood due to a record-breaking cold snap and subsequent HVAC issues. The aftermath of this flood included the closure of the first floor and the eventual relocation of the entire map, microfilm/fiche, and Government Documents collections. The Clemson University Libraries map collection contains approximately 37,000 maps jam-packed into twenty-eight cases. This lightning talk will detail the collection evaluation, including baselines for what items should be weeded and what items should be permanently retained, hurdles to weeding, and the assessment plans for our weeding efforts.

- *Keywords: Maps, Weeding, Government Documents, Collection Evaluation, Collection Assessment*

Managing a New (to you) Map Collection: Approaches to the First Month
Sierra Laddusaw, University of Michigan, William L. Clements Library
Lightning Talk

Starting a new position comes with excitement and challenges. This lighting talk will provide an overview of one approach to the first month of managing a map collection. Pick up some hard knock learned tips on how to quickly become familiar with the collection, navigate inherited projects, and manage expectations of researchers during your onboarding.

- *Keywords: collection management, map collections*

Survey Validation of Core Competencies for Contemporary Map and Geospatial Librarianship
Wade Bishop, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Kristina Larsen, Stanford University
Presentation

With data more central to every profession, the jobs of geospatial data and cartographic resources librarians changed to match current user expectations at academic institutions. To inform curricula and job descriptions, this study updated a prior survey validation from a decade ago to gather the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform new and traditional tasks for these types of librarians. Job analyses provide educators with a robust means to infuse feedback from current practitioners to increase the relevance of curricula to today's emerging information professions. This presentation describes a survey validation study and findings for librarians working with geospatial data and other cartographic resources. Survey participants identified the importance of core competencies required to obtain, discover, archive, and curate geographic information. The discussion includes the use and benefits of the survey validation method and findings for those working and hiring in this area of librarianship.

- *Keywords: GIS librarianship; map librarianship; job analyses*

Balancing information discovery and user needs in geospatial consultations
Tara Anthony, Penn State University Libraries
Lightning Talk

This lightning talk will highlight features of geospatial interactions for those offering individualized reference and/or consultation services. Examples will be highlighted from different modes of delivery including in-person, video meeting, and email communications from an academic library perspective. Suggestions will be presented for finding a balance of information discovery and user needs based on the mode of consultation. Examples will

be presented based on different types of users. This lightning talk would be relevant to those working with users from different disciplines with a maps and geospatial interest for research and teaching projects.

- *Keywords: GIS, geospatial, consultation, academic library, online learning, reference*

Learning Management Systems and the Flipped Classroom: Tools for the Geospatial Librarian

Samuel Kim, University at Buffalo

Lightning Talk

Problem: Information literacy instruction relies heavily on the one-shot where time with students is extremely limited. This scarcity of time often forces librarians to sacrifice quality over quantity, especially prevalent in subjects that require a rather diverse foundation of knowledge, like that of geographic information sciences (GIS) where they must cover special collections, data literacy, digital literacy, as well as key pieces of software (ArcGIS/QGIS). The purpose of this lightning talk is to highlight established pedagogy, the flipped classroom, and its use in conjunction with a staple in higher education, the learning management system, as a means of facilitating engaging instruction without sacrificing foundational knowledge. The author will discuss how to create a module in a learning management system (D2L/Brightspace) that can be embedded in a course providing foundational knowledge for students to access throughout the semester.

- *Keywords: pedagogy, information literacy, flipped classroom, higher education, geospatial librarianship*

Using ESRI Web Apps for Digital Map Discovery

Julia Guy, University of Calgary
Renna Truong, University of Calgary

Lightning Talk

Staff at Spatial and Numeric Data Services at the University of Calgary have developed web applications using ESRI technology that make it easier for users to explore our map and air photo collections. This presentation will showcase some of the applications and how they provide an alternative access point for discovery of these kinds of materials. This presentation will also touch on how we combine the use of these applications for access with a separate Digital Asset Management System for storing digitized maps and briefly outline the challenges and benefits of this approach.

- *Keywords: Discovery, Digitized Maps, User Experience, Web Interface*

An Agile Approach to Managing a Data & GIS Lab
Amy Work, UC San Diego
Michael Smith, UC San Diego
Lightning Talk

At UC San Diego, our Library's Data & GIS Lab employs between four and six student workers. These students not only serve as the front line to patrons who drop by the lab with geospatial or data analysis questions, they also have them work on Library related projects. We will discuss how we've taken Agile principles and applied them to help us manage our Lab and the projects our students work on. While Agile methodologies and principles emerged as a response to challenges and limitations observed in traditional software development and project management practices, we are applying them as a flexible and adaptive approach to managing projects and delivering value to our end users. We leverage weekly standups, a Trello kanban, and allocate time to reflect and make changes to how we operate and can continue to improve as a Lab. Taking these approaches have helped us better manage our patrons' needs as well as our projects.

- *Keywords: student management, project management, public service*

Piloting a Sanborn Map Georef-a-thon for GIS Day 2023
Joshua Sadvari, The Ohio State University
Michelle Hooper, The Ohio State University
Lightning Talk

Like many other institutions, The Ohio State University hosts an annual GIS Day event to promote awareness of and engagement with geospatial data, methods, and technologies. The University Libraries is heavily involved in the organization of these GIS Day activities, in collaboration with various other campus units. In this lightning talk, we will share information about a new activity that we piloted during GIS Day 2023 – the Columbus Sanborn Georef-a-thon. We will briefly discuss the educational and research support motivations for the program, use of the OldInsuranceMaps.net platform, and the preliminary outcomes of the georef-a-thon sessions. We hope this discussion will encourage map and geospatial library professionals at other institutions to explore the OldInsuranceMaps.net platform and ways that crowdsourced georeferencing activities might align with their education, outreach, research support, or collection development goals.

- *Keywords: Sanborn fire insurance maps, GIS Day, georeferencing, crowdsourcing, spatial literacy, data literacy*

Wall Map Project: Digitization, Cataloging/Metadata, and Digital Access

Sung Kim, Los Angeles Public Library
Peter Hauge, Los Angeles Public Library
Richard Hulser, Independent Consultant
Presentation

The Los Angeles Public Library's Wall Map Project, funded by the Haynes and Haynes Foundation, was overseen by the Digitization & Special Collections Department from early 2020 to the conclusion of 2023, marked by a significant pause during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Comprising 120 large-format rolled maps, the Wall Map Collection boasts a wealth of exceptionally rare and unique pieces dating from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s, offering detailed coverage of the greater Los Angeles area. Many of these cartographic gems have remained inaccessible for decades due to their fragile conditions and the challenges associated with physical presentation to the public. The primary objective of this initiative was to digitally preserve these invaluable maps and grant digital access, accompanied by insightful descriptions, thereby encouraging further research and exploration of Los Angeles's historical landscapes. In this presentation, Richard Hulser, the Contract Archivist, Peter Hauge, the Map Librarian, and Sung Kim, the Digitization Lead and the Project Manager, will delve into the significance of wall maps in Los Angeles history, share insights gained from managing a project amidst unforeseen challenges, and discuss the lessons learned from the research and cataloging of these unique wall maps.

- *Keywords: Wall Maps, Los Angeles History, Map Cataloging, Digitization, Digital Access, Grant Project, Project Management, Roller Maps*

Mapping the Uncharted: Enhancing Accessibility of the Henry J. Bruman Map Collection

Maggie Tarmey (he/they), UCLA
Presentation

I recently started at UCLA as the librarian for geography, maps, and economics. Part of my role involves facilitating the use of the Henry J. Bruman Collection, a collection that lives in three different locations and contains hundreds of thousands of maps. As I began to explore the portion of the collection located at the Charles E. Young Research Library in open stacks, I quickly realized that many of these maps were challenging to use due to inaccurate drawer labeling, minimal cataloging, and poor signage. With the help of two undergraduate geography students, we have been conducting a massive inventory of this portion of the collection. Our main goals are to develop a better understanding of what the collection looks like, finding the silences in the collection, and to make it easier for researchers of all levels to find what they need. In this presentation, I will discuss what our process looks like

and various challenges we have encountered. The goal is that this can serve as a resource and guide for others who are looking to inventory their map collections.

- *Keywords: mapping, maps, accessibility, users, inventory*

Scaling Up : Calculating Scale for Cartographic Resources
Susan Moore, University of Northern Iowa
Presentation

Recording the scale of cartographic materials is an important part of cataloging these materials when the scale is present. It is sometimes necessary to calculate the scale. This presentation will go over how to calculate scale from a verbal statement of scale and from a bar graph.

- *Keywords: Scale, Cataloging, Cartographic Materials*

Minnesota's Missing Parks
Zachary Fannin, University of Minnesota
Lightning Talk

I look at a set of Minnesota state park maps and the gaps in LCSH/LCC cataloging them revealed (e.g., Beaver Creek Valley State Park has a classification number but no subject heading).

- *Keywords: Minnesota state parks; state parks; Minnesota; subject headings; classification; cataloging*

Come talk to MAGIRT at ALA Annual!

Call for Presenters

Last-minute presentation opportunity at ALA Annual: If you are (or will soon be) a MAGIRT member, and would like to present at ALA Annual, we have openings. Ideas for in-person presentations, lightning talks, and panels are welcome, on topics of interest to MAGIRT members. Please contact Tim Kiser at tkiser@msu.edu with a brief proposal or questions. Our session will be held early Saturday afternoon.

MAGIRT TREASURER'S REPORT FOR

February 27, 2024

This report is based on the ALA/MAGIRT performance report for Fiscal Year 2023 for the month of November ending **November 2023.**
American Library Association (ALA) Performance Reports are distributed: **August, November, February, and May (February will be out shortly)**

Overview:

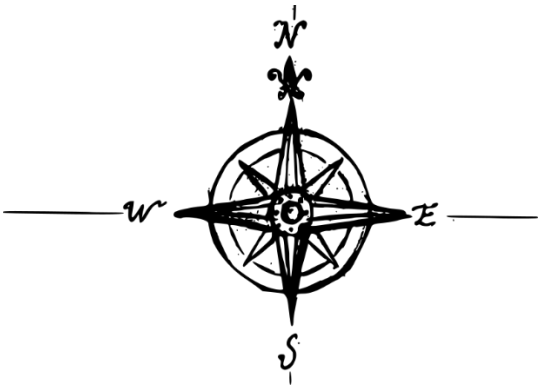
Beginning **net Assets** for MAGIRT as of November 2023	**$ 58,178.00**
TOTAL INCOME	**$ 1285.00**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 168.00**
Current monthly balance (income minus expenses as of Nov. 2023)	**$ 1,117.00**
Total Ending Net Assets for MAGIRT as of November 2023	**$ 58,533.00**

Comments:

- The revenue listed above is $1,265.00 and $20.00 as income comes from dues and personal donations.

(At any point, ALA may reduce these funds)

Respectfully submitted, February 27, 2024, by Iris Taylor
Treasurer, MAGIRT (2022-2024)



MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Time: Feb. 27th, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via Zoom
Present: Kevin Dyke, Tim Kiser, Laura McElfresh, Iris Taylor, Min Zhang
Regrets: Erin Cheever, Amy Swanson

1. **Call to order - 3:04 pm Eastern**
2. **Call for changes to Agenda - none**
3. **Secretary--**Minutes from Nov. 28 meeting are in Dec. 2023 issue of *base line*
4. **Officer Reports**
    a. **Chair** - Tim
        i. Leap into MAGIRT this Thursday! We'll have 13 presentations. Thanks to all who have helped us get this far. (99 registrants as of 2024-02-27!)
    b. **Vice Chair** - Erin
        i. (will submit report separately. Has been planning our tour & social events for ALA Annual)
    c. **Secretary** - Laura
        i. First issue as *base line* editor is coming up in March
    d. **Webmaster** - Kevin
        i. slow progress on website, but progress nonetheless - difficulty setting up navigation pods (button things) because of permission levels, but a workaround is in play
    e. **Treasurer** - Iris
        i. ALA MAGIRT Fiscal Report ending Nov 2023 (Laura will paste in report from Iris)
            1. Received November report today; Danielle says February report will be out soon. (Have to request from Danielle.) When they get the February report, Iris will train Pete as Treasurer.
            2. We have over $58K, down from $60K at time of previous report; Iris is looking closer at where the money went. (Tim has submitted requests for space at ALA Annual — those bills might already have come in. Tim assumes it went from ALA to ALA in some way)
        ii. Bills for *base line* ads? Laura has not seen any — no ad requests have come in
    f. **Past Chair** - Kevin
        i. Finishing up Bylaws review (will not be called "Bylaws". We already have a Manual, so need something else to call it. Kevin will be gathering input.)
        ii. Dues Standardization Task Force is at work, updating in trickles
5. **Old Business**
    a. Iris & Laura will work out the ad billing process whenever an ad request comes in.
    b. Thank you to Susan Moore for agreeing to run for VC/CE! It is hard everywhere to find officers and volunteers. People everywhere are spread thin.

6. **New Business**
    a. ALA preparation
        i. Tim: I've submitted our meeting requests to ALA and will report our schedule once I have it. For regular meetings, my requests align with past practice.
        ii. Tim: Chair's Program at ALA Annual: We have an hour to fill for a "MAGIRT showcase" on Sat 6/29, 1pm.
            1. Tim is leaning towards a back-to-basics meeting: ask folks to prepare a ~5 minute lightning talk introducing themselves, their libraries & the geospatial services offered, talking about trends in the profession, anything they like. Also ask Committee & IG Chairs to give a quick talk about their groups; kind of an orientation to MAGIRT.
            2. Lightning talks & informal networking, followed by discussion about the future of MAGIRT.
            3. Tim will reach out to GODORT & see what they're doing; anything we can coordinate with? (Federal Depository system has been revamped)
    b. CC:DA liaison
        i. Thank you Min for agreeing to serve another term
        ii. Board approval needed - unanimously granted!
        iii. Tim will write to the Chair of CC:DA to make it official
    c. Leap Into MAGIRT prep/check-in — please stick around after the rest of the meeting
7. **Committee/DG/IG Reports**
    a. **Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee**
    b. **Cataloging & Classification Committee**
        i. Meeting at ALA Annual will be separate from Cataloging IG
    c. **Education Committee**
    d. **Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG**
    e. **Membership & Marketing Committee**
    f. **Online Presence & Publications Committee (OPPC)**
    g. **Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG**
        i. Meeting at ALA Annual requested for Sunday, June 30th, 8:30-10:00 am
    h. **Map Collection Management DG**
    i. **Freedom to Read Foundation**
    j. **WAML liaison report**
    k. **CC:DA Report**
        i. Midwinter meeting was in January; people delivered their reports; concerned about replacement for Voyager. LC will implement FOLIO and Ebsco discovery layer. On track to implement Acquisitions in 2024; remaining functionality will be implemented in phases over 2025. Lots of training in LC staff's future.

        ii. In FOLIO a lot of functions are handled via apps (as opposed to being built in, as with Voyager). Expect a significant learning curve. (Tim will share his FOLIO implementation experience with Min. They went live with Cataloging

in summer 2022. Kevin also says that Oklahoma State moved to Folio in December 2023, as well as the Ebsco discovery layer. It is a consortial arrangement, with OSU as the lead and a total of ~12 institutions.)

iii. G&M is the leanest they've ever been — have lost 2 ppl, currently have only 5 full time catalogers (at one point they had 23). Desperately need language expertise.

8. **Next meeting:** Currently scheduled for March 26th, 3pm Eastern
9. **Adjournment: 3:43 pm**

From The Editor

Laura McElfresh

University of Minnesota

Hello, MAGIRT members! I am pleased to greet you not only as MAGIRT Secretary, but also in a new capacity as (interim) *base line* editor. As John noted in his "From the Editor's Keyboard" note in the December 2023 issue, he has stepped down after ten years of service as Editor in Chief of *base line*. John, thank you very much for your time and work in running our newsletter, and thank you for your generous assistance in getting me started as your successor.

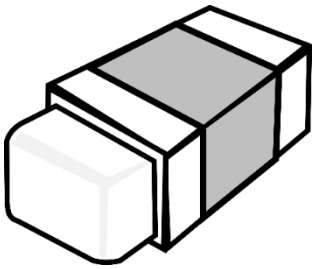


Image by Clker-Free-Vector-Images from Pixabay

While not much else is changing right now, I do need to announce a change in our publication schedule (being a cataloger, and having friends who are serials catalogers, I understand the importance of stating publication changes outright!) Starting with Volume 45 (2024), *base line* will be issued quarterly bimonthly. The newsletter will remain open-access and available on the MAGIRT website, but will now be coming out in March, June, September, and December.

One more thing: MAGIRT and *base line* are still in need of contributors; we are considering directions for the "Digital Mapping" and "New Maps and Cartographic Materials" columns. If you would like to take over either of these features, or if you have an idea for a new column or a special one-time feature, please contact me! I am looking forward to helping build the future of our group's journal.

GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs
SO, DO YOU KNOW WHY ROAD MAPS NEVER WIN AT POKER? BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS FOLD!
AND DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MAP THAT WAS MUGGED? YEAH, IT WAS ROLLED BY A MAP LIBRARIAN!
DO YOU KNOW WHY THE INNOCENT MAP WENT TO JAIL? IT WAS FRAMED BY THE NEATLINE!
AFTER THEIR 1ST U.S. TOUR, A REPORTER ASKED THE BEATLES "HOW DID YOU FIND AMERICA?"... "WE TURNED LEFT AT GREENLAND!"
Da Bum Shsss!
WHOO BOY! THESE JOKES ARE SO LAME!
OH, RELAX. YOU'RE JUST ROLLED TOO TIGHT!
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