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base line

a newsletter of the

Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

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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

Erin Cheever, MAGIRT Chair

Like many people, I made a pilgrimage to see family over the Thanksgiving holiday. For me, that meant journeying back to the Washington, DC suburbs where my parents were raised and where I spent a formative decade of young adulthood. Over the long weekend, I took a break from my boisterous yet lovable family and mountains of heavy food to see a dear friend, former MAGIRT chair Kathy Hart.

DC is where I first studied GIS librarianship under Jim Gillispie at The Catholic University of America. In DC, I attended some of my first professional conferences (ESRI Federal, and the SLA and ALA annual meetings). During those years in library school at CUA, I was fortunate to meet Kathy at a MAGIRT session at ALA Midwinter in 2019. Kathy started a conversation with me, and we discovered we lived in the same DC suburb. We stayed in touch during the pandemic and made the best of socially distanced hangouts, like viewing the fireworks in Old Town Alexandria and kayaking on Little Hunting Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River.

As we head into the winter season, with more holidays and time for contemplation, I am considering building connections within MAGIRT and bringing more people to the table at ALA Annual. MAGIRT has a fantastic established membership with deep map and GIS library knowledge and experience. MAGIRT is a resource that all members can draw on, including by asking questions on ALA Connect, attending a board meeting, or scheduling a meetup or library tour with a MAGIRT member while we travel, whether we're already acquainted with them or because of our mutual membership in the MAGIRT club.

In the midst of our country's affordability and cost-of-living crisis, I'm also interested in thinking about ways we can re-allocate some portion of our funding to attracting those members we haven't heard from lately to attend and present at ALA Annual, and supporting their map and GIS librarianship careers. I plan to bring a proposal to the next Executive Board meeting, so please attend the meeting if you'd like to learn more or debate the idea.

Looking towards the ALA Annual Conference in June, I am excited to begin planning MAGIRT's program and social events along with our chair-elect, Susan Moore. This year's



conference will be held in Philadelphia, my home turf. We will be sure to prepare a memorable conference experience for everyone who is able to travel, with learning and social events grounded in the history and culture of one of America's most historic cities. I hope you will be able to join us there!

WAML Liaison Report to MAGIRT Executive Board

November 19, 2024

WAML held its conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on the University of New Mexico campus from Wednesday, September 25th to Saturday, September 28th, 2024. This was the first time WAML had met in New Mexico. There was also a virtual symposium on October 10th, which included a summary of this conference and additional presentations. The preconference consisted of the executive board meeting, two workshops: "From There to Here: Bringing Data Physicalization to Library Instruction", and "From Teaching to Research: Finding and Making Maps for the Southwest". There were also tours of the Center for Southwest Research & Special Collections and the Map and Geographic Information Center.

Some of the topics of the programs presented were "Resurrection of the WAML Map Repatriation Project"; "Rediscovering Our 'Captured' Collections: Cultivating Student, Staff, and Faculty Engagement Through WWII-era Military and Intelligence Maps"; "Taming the Chaos, or, Practical Map Collection Inventory Practices for Large collections"; "USGS Library: Recent Activity and Map Projects"; "The Complicated Story of Sanborn Map Copyrights"; Makerspace Mash-up: 3D Topo Models; Mapping Chicagoland; and 3000 Easy Steps: Large-Scale Date Integration and Stewardship. There were also presentations by the scholarship winners, a banquet, and a walking tour of Santa Fe.

The WAML listserv is being transferred to Google Groups. The listserv messages are archived at Stanford. Sarah Zhang is the new Information Bulletin (IB) editor. The membership year is now the calendar year instead of ending in July. The archivist is now Zoe Dilles. Sam Hidde Tripp is the social media manager. The physical address for WAML is Stanford. There is discussion about adding the Yukon Territory to the principal WAML area so we could have conferences there without voting on it. The president, Meg Miller, is working on how to connect with each other more. The next conference will be held at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Rankin, WAML liaison

On The Cataloging/Cataloguing Front

Tammy Wong, Library of Congress

Library of Congress Geospatial Applications Hub Site Launched

The Library of Congress has launched the [Geospatial Applications Hub](#) site, a new platform to share our online StoryMaps, interactive web map applications, and more. The goal is to enhance location-based discovery of these LC geospatial products and other spatial services across the library. Check out the [Worlds Revealed blog post](#) that describes the Hub in more detail.

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Library of Congress Geospatial Applications

Search geospatial applications...

Explore the incredible stories of Library of Congress collections through immersive narratives, multimedia, and interactive maps.

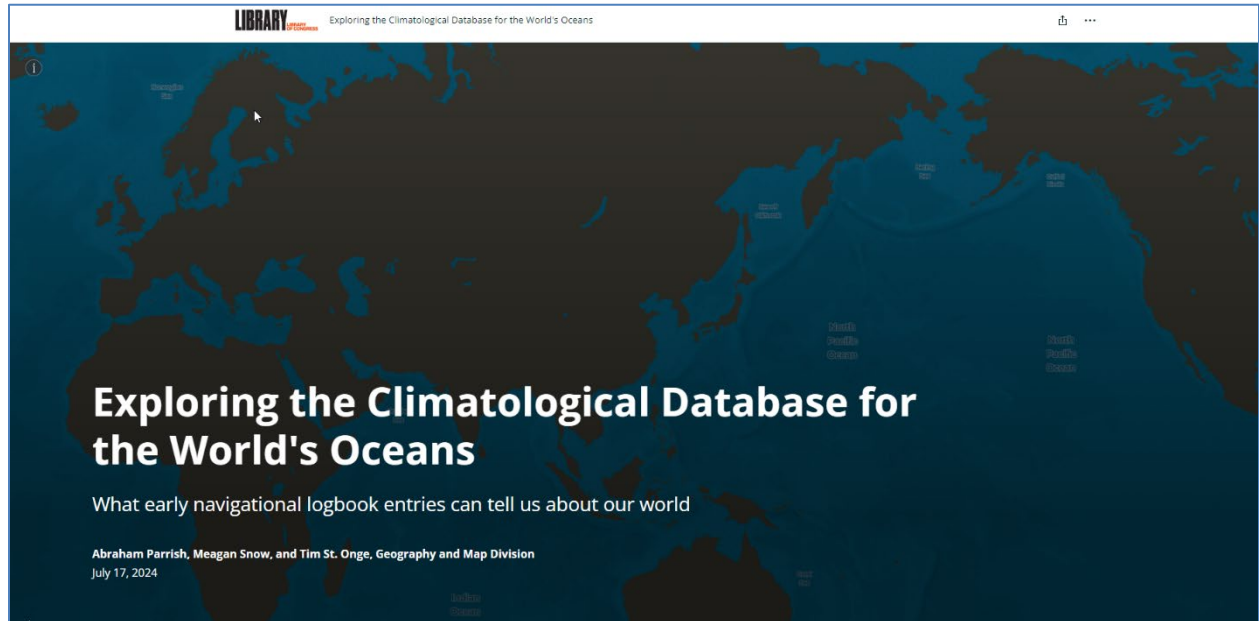
Most Popular Apps

[See all apps](#)

- [The History of Pride](#)
- [Living Nations, Living Words](#)
- [The Great Game and Afghanistan](#)
- [Behind Barbed Wire](#)

CLIWOC StoryMap Published

Our division published the latest StoryMap: [Exploring the Climatological Database for the World's Oceans](#).



The StoryMap showcases the [Climatological Database for the World's Oceans, 1750-1850 \(CLIWOC\)](#) (LCCN: [2020449236](#)), a database of digitized European ship logbook entries acquired by the Library. The application explores various subjects of European maritime travel, including major routes of colonization, trade patterns as influenced by climate and weather, indigenous experiences of colonization, and scientific expeditions with a specific focus on James Cook's 1772 voyage.

PoCo Annual Meeting

On November 7-8, the [Program for Cooperative Cataloging](#) (PCC) Policy Committee (PoCo) held its annual meeting to discuss the achievements of last year and the plans for next year. The topics included BIBFRAME and Linked Data, Official RDA implementation, standing committee reports, PCC member relations, and the expansion of PCC roles, programs, and relationships. Kevin Ford and Jodi Williamschen from the Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO) provided a BIBFRAME update to the group. Paul Frank from the Policy Training, and Cooperative Programs (PTCP) Division led the discussion on punctuation, [International Standard Bibliographic Description](#) (ISBD), and access points for the Official [Resource Description and Access](#) (RDA). PTCP staff members who serve as the [PCC Secretariat](#) were also on hand to provide support and answer questions pertaining to the PCC programs that they coordinate. The event's [agenda \(with slides\)](#) is available online.

RSC Annual Meeting

On November 12-15, the [RDA Steering Committee \(RSC\)](#) held its annual in-person meeting at the Library. During the week, RSC held two hybrid public events: approximately 30 Library staff and local professionals observed the [RSC public session](#) on November 12, and roughly 50 participants attended [RSC Outreach Day](#) on November 13. Nearly 80 colleagues from around the globe, covering the northern and southern hemispheres, registered and joined the online events. PTCP division staff worked on the meeting logistics and helped with the technology setup for the events. The RSC Outreach Day recording is available at [RSC Outreach Event Presentations Online Now](#). The Library plans to implement Official RDA in 2026. RDA is the descriptive cataloging standard *Resource Description and Access*, which has been adopted by many libraries (including the Library of Congress). The Library is currently using Original RDA.

MAGIRT Executive Board Meetings

Currently the MAGIRT Executive Board meets bimonthly on the third Tuesday of the month. Due to cancellation of the meeting scheduled for November XX, there are no Executive Board meeting minutes in this issue of *base line*; minutes from the September 17 meeting appear in the September 2024 issue. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21 at 3pm Eastern/2pm Central via Zoom.

Please [contact Laura](#) if you have any questions, agenda items, etc.

- June 30 (ALA Annual) – Minutes in *base line* 45:3 ([September 2024](#))
- July 16: no additional meeting (met at ALA Annual)
- September 17 – Minutes in *base line* 45:3 ([September 2024](#))
- November 19 – no meeting (cancelled)
- January 21, 2025 – 3pm Eastern/2pm Central via [Zoom](#)
- March 18 – 3pm Eastern/2pm Central via [Zoom](#)
- May 20 – 3pm Eastern/2pm Central via [Zoom](#)
- ALA Annual 2025 – TBD

MAGIRT Honors Awards: Nominations Open

Tim Kiser, MAGIRT Past Chair

Nominations are now open for the 2025 MAGIRT Honors Awards!

This award recognizes or is given to honor an individual AND/OR organization who stands out due to 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 will be accepted through **Friday, January 10, 2025**.

The announcement of the honored award recipient will occur during the Awards Reception at the 2025 American Library Association Annual Conference. The recipient need not be present to receive this honor, though it is always great for us to have the opportunity to hear from our honoree. The recipient 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). Notifications of the award are sent to the director of each recipient's institution as appropriate. Please submit your nominations to tkiser@msu.edu with the following information:

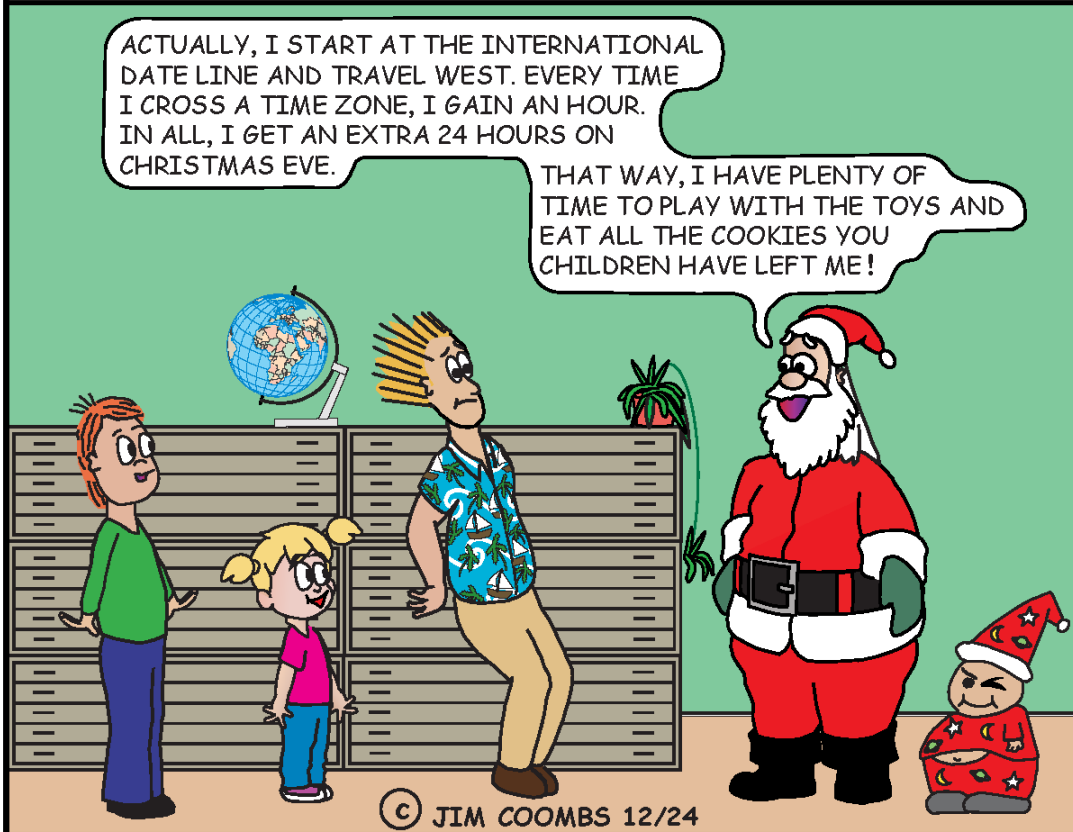
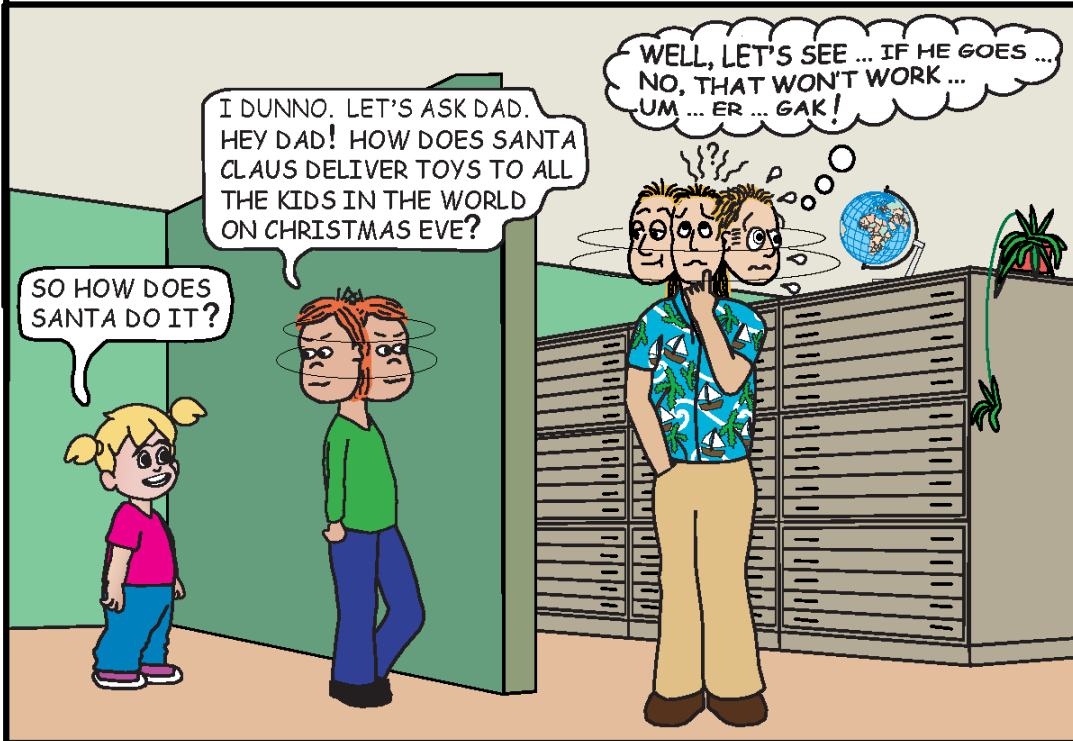
- Name of Nominee or Organization (plus mailing address, phone number, and email address).
- Position Title (or Former Position Title), if an individual
- A brief statement (one page or less) that explains why this individual or organization should receive the MAGIRT Honors Award, based on the criteria noted above. Please be clear, concise and provide details in support of your nomination.

The MAGIRT Nominations and Awards Committee (which is composed of the MAGIRT Immediate Past Chair, Chair, and Vice Chair) will select the winner. The [list of previous awardees](#) is available on the MAGIRT website.

Many thanks—

Tim Kiser, MAGIRT past chair

GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs



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