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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

Erin Cheever

It's hard to believe we are only three months away from this year's ALA Annual Conference! We are planning a tour of the map collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The tour is slated to include imaginary maps, maps of the historic Delaware River waterfront, and a demo and discussion of the library's map overlay tool. We hope you can join us!

An ongoing project this year has been handling the liquidation of MAGIRT's legacy print publications. Mike Smith and Sierra Laddusaw have been working on a process to give away excess print copies of the book. Sierra is also exploring the possibility of digitizing some of these volumes, where copyright conditions are favorable. Further details on the available books are inside this edition of *base line* (see p.10).



In my day job, I have been immersed in the world of research into wildland-urban interface (WUI) fires, as recently epitomized by January's devastating fires in California. WUI fire is a research topic that is not only relevant to our times, but also heavily dependent on maps and GIS. I wanted to share a few of the (mostly free) resources I rely on with *base line* readers in case you get pulled into any WUI projects:

- [National Wildfire Activity dashboards \(U.S. Fire Administration & Federal Emergency Management Agency\)](#)
- [NASA Products for Southern California Wildfires \(National Aeronautics and Space Administration\)](#)
- [AirNow Fire and Smoke Map \(Environmental Protection Agency\)](#)
- [Smoke Outlook \(Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program\)](#)
- [National Fire News \(National Interagency Fire Center\)](#)
- [Fire Weather Outlooks \(National Interagency Coordination Center\)](#)
- [Open Source Datasets for LA Wildfires Assessment \(Volunteer Effort\)](#)

Of course, wildfires are nothing new in the United States. Here are a couple of freely available histories of U.S. wildfire research, featuring some nice primary sources and maps.

- [Net Change in Forest Density, 1873-2001: Using Historical Maps to Monitor Long-term Forest Trends \(U.S. Forest Service\)](#)
- [A Century of Wildland Fire Research: Contributions to Long-term Approaches for Wildland Fire Management: Proceedings of a Workshop \(National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine\)](#)

As we look forward to the ALA Annual Conference and continue our work on various projects, let's stay connected and share our experiences. Your participation and insights are what make our community vibrant and impactful!

## MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

January 21, 2025

### MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

January 21, 2025

Time: January 21, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via [Zoom](#)

Present: Erin Cheever, Tim Kiser, Laura McElfresh, Susan Moore, Min Zhang

Regrets:

1. Call to order - 3:04 pm Eastern
2. Call for changes to Agenda - none
3. Secretary — Minutes from past meeting
  - a. No November meeting
  - b. [September 2024 minutes](#) were sent out via email & published in December *base line*.
4. Officer Reports
  - a. Chair - Erin
    - i. MAGIRT chair's program - scheduled for same time as last year (1pm Saturday)
      1. MAGIRT Open House format for ALA members  
- OR -
      2. Lecture/workshop format
    - ii. Upcoming ALA Conference Deadlines
      1. **Meetings and other events:**  
Due: Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
Erin will put out a call on Connect for groups to schedule; or can just schedule everything for the same times as last year. (General

approval for same times as last year.)

2. **Offsite events:**

Due: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

(We don't have anything that needs to get listed in the public program unless we decide to open the tour up to the public.)

b. **Vice Chair** - Susan

- i. Attended the Round Table Coordinating Assembly meeting Jan. 16th. The chief concerns raised at the meeting were the reduction of members that some round tables have experienced with the changes in the student dues structure brought about by the changes to round table bylaws and the round table funds that got swept up by ALA. (Danielle says that all this should be in the Treasurer's Reports.) Susan will share any minutes that come out from this meeting.
- ii. Erin has been in touch with Free Library of Philadelphia to put together a tour; Susan is working on a registration form. They seem to be very organized — wanted to know what our goal is in having a tour!

c. **Secretary/Interim *base line* editor** - Laura

- i. Core IG Coordination Committee inquiry re: Core/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging IG Chair (see Susan's Vice Chair report from September minutes) — Laura got in touch with Amy Swanson. Amy is still willing to chair the group and put together discussion topics and handle other business but is unable to travel to ALA; would need someone to fill in for her there as discussion facilitator. Between Tim, Susan, and Laura, we figure we can definitely cover that (others are welcome too!) Laura notified Core that Amy is still Chair and received a response saying Core would update their spreadsheet.

d. **Webmaster** - Kevin — no update

e. **Treasurer** - Pete — no update

f. **Past Chair** - Tim

- i. Received nominations for Honors Award; will move forward with that in consultation with Erin and Susan
- ii. Seeking candidates for chair-elect, assistant treasurer; thanks to Laura for volunteering to run for Secretary

5. **Old Business**

a. MAGIRT Publications - digitizing & liquidating back stock (Sierra is working with Mike Smith on this)

- i. Do we want to put an advertisement/announcement in *base line*?
- ii. See Mike's email from Sep. 17
- iii. Erin will meet with Sierra and Danielle to sort out copyright issues that may get in the way of digitization. Inventory sheet of physical materials is ready to go — Sierra is in charge of the inventory; may publicize it on ALA Connect, *base line*, MAPS-L

b. Revenue models for Round Tables vote - Erin

- i. Vote happened; chose the option Erin had recommended, that was based on surplus.

- c. Status of [Guide to US Map Collections](#)? — recent article about it; Erin was wondering who's maintaining it & how to add some libraries that aren't currently in there.
- d. "Leap Into MAGIRT" virtual conference for this year? (March Fo[u]rth With MAGIRT"?) — putting it on hold for this year, but could have one next year

## 6. New Business

- a. Conversation with Danielle
  - i. Scholarship?
  - ii. Funding sweep — we'd had ~\$60,000 reserve. Every year we take in about \$5000 and are supposed to operate within that budget (cutting into the reserve is meant to be for big one-time things; ALA considers the reserve to be "their" money)
- b. Roundtable Roundtable (October) — International Media theme. There were about 20 ppl who watched the panel, 15 who watched the MAGIRT portion (Sierra gave our presentation). It wasn't publicized very much this year; many of us missed it.

## 7. Committee/DG/IG Reports

- a. **Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee** — Tim covered this in his Past Chair's report
- b. **Cataloging & Classification Committee** - none
- c. **Education Committee** - none
- d. **Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG** - none
- e. **Membership & Marketing Committee** - none
- f. **Online Presence & Publications Committee (OPPC)** - none
- g. **Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG** - none
- h. **Map Collection Management DG** - none
- i. **Freedom to Read Foundation** - none
- j. **WAML liaison report** - November report is in December issue of *base line*
- k. **CC:DA Report** - none

8. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 3pm Eastern via Zoom

9. **Adjournment:** 3:30 pm EST

# On The Cataloging/Cataloguing Front

Tammy Wong

Library of Congress

## [An Introduction to the Geospatial Resources at the Library of Congress](#)

Join G&M for a virtual orientation that aims to provide an overview of the geospatial resources of the Geography & Map Division, including an introduction to geographic information systems (GIS), spatial data formats, and the geospatial activities of the Division. This session is followed by a Q&A session with GIS specialists. The recording is available [here](#).  
*Introduction to Geospatial Resources*

**LIBRARY**  
LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS

## An Introduction to the Geospatial Resources at the Library of Congress

- I. The Geography and Map Division and GIS
- II. What is GIS and Spatial Data?
- III. Geospatial Data Collections
- IV. History of Computer Cartography
- V. GIS Software and What You Can Do with GIS
- VI. How we use GIS at the Library of Congress
- VII. Question & Answer

Please put your questions or feedback in the Q&A feature

*Bigger questions? Contact us at <https://ask.loc.gov/map-geography>*

St Onge, Timothy

00:00


02:40

## *AMED Launches Digitized Rare Arabic Language Manuscripts*

The African and Middle Eastern Division is pleased to announce the launch of the [Arabic Language Rare Materials Collection](#). The project was developed and managed by the Arab World Specialist with the invaluable assistance of the Digital Collections Management & Services Division, the Asian and Middle Eastern Cataloging Division and Conservation Division, in addition to the Collections Digitization Division. While the site currently contains close to 1,000 manuscripts, this is an ongoing project to which many more items are being

added.

Featured Content



Suwar al-Kawākib / Şūfī, 'Abd al-Rahmān ibn 'Umar, 903-986

Kitāb Dalā'il al-khayrāt

Kitāb al-Munqidh min al-halakah fi da' maḍarr al-sumūm ...

Kitāb sharh Fusūl Ibuqrāt (commentary on the Aphorisms by ...

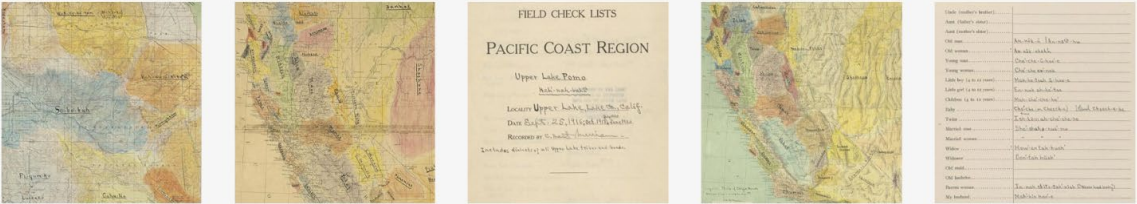
al-Kawākib al-duriyah fi madh Khayr al-Bariyah

Images of featured content from the [Arabic Language Rare Materials Collection](#).

### Manuscript Division Digitizes New Portions of C. Hart Merriam Papers

During Native American Heritage Month, the Manuscript Division collaborated with the Digital Collections Management & Services Division, the Collections Digitization Division, and OCIO to digitize and release online a major portion (244 folders; ca. 1,500 items; 21,297 images) of the [papers of naturalist, mammalogist, ornithologist, and ethnographer C. Hart Merriam](#) (1855-1942) relating almost entirely to his efforts to collect from Indigenous knowledge bearers between circa 1902 and 1936 the vocabularies of California Indians and other Native American language families. The content consists principally of alphabetically arranged bilingual fieldwork forms documenting responses from Indigenous language speakers to English-language questionnaires along with related maps indicating linguistic zones or geographic presence of Indigenous language families or groups in different regions of northern, central, and southern California, ca. 1902-1936.

Featured Content



C. Hart Merriam, linguistic map of southern California, San ...

C. Hart Merriam, map of Indian linguistic families of ...

C. Hart Merriam, [Vocabulary] Field Check List, Upper Lake ...

C. Hart Merriam, map of linguistic stocks in California and ...

C. Hart Merriam, vocabulary list of terms for persons, mostly ...

Images of featured content from the [C. Hart Merriam Papers](#).



# MAGIRT TREASURER'S REPORT

March 5, 2025

All values are based on the ALA/MAGIRT FY2025 Performance Report ending November 2024.

## **Overview for 1 September 2024 through 30 November 2024:**

Direct Expenses:	\$17.00
Expenses Overhead/Taxes:	\$83.00
Total Expenses:	\$100.00

Contribution Margin (Dues): \$817.00

Ending Net Asset Balance for November 2024 = \$ 61,086.00

## **Upcoming Direct Expenses for FY2025:**

A one-time \$500 budget has been approved by Danielle Ponton to accommodate the redistribution of hardcopy inventory currently held by the retiring Michael Smith at UCSD. All materials will be shipped Media Mail to the institutions that express interest. Sierra Laddusaw is working with Michael to coordinate the effort.

## **Personal Note:**

Congratulations to Michael Smith on his upcoming retirement. Please know that Michael Smith served as MAGIRT Treasurer for FY2008 (which also happened to be my tenure as MAGIRT Chair). Michael provided me with the budget information that led to a much-needed fiscal solution. (Those were the days...)

Pete Reehling - MAGIRT Treasurer  
Map & Geospatial Librarian  
East View Geospatial

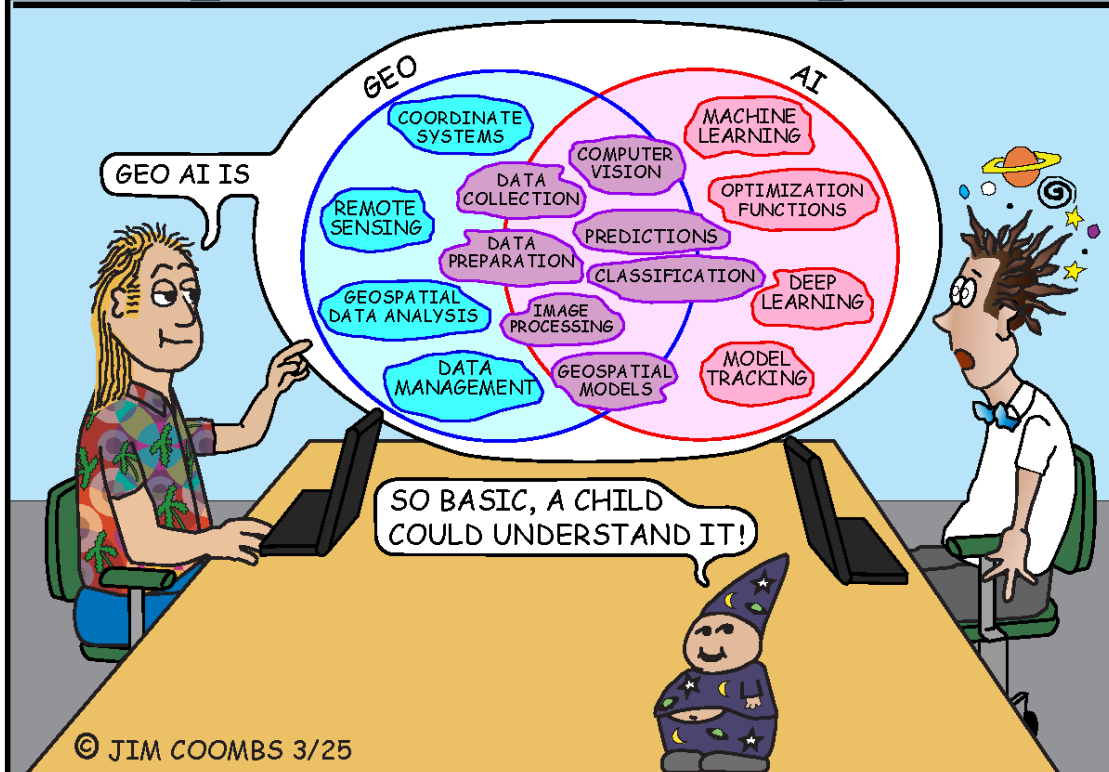
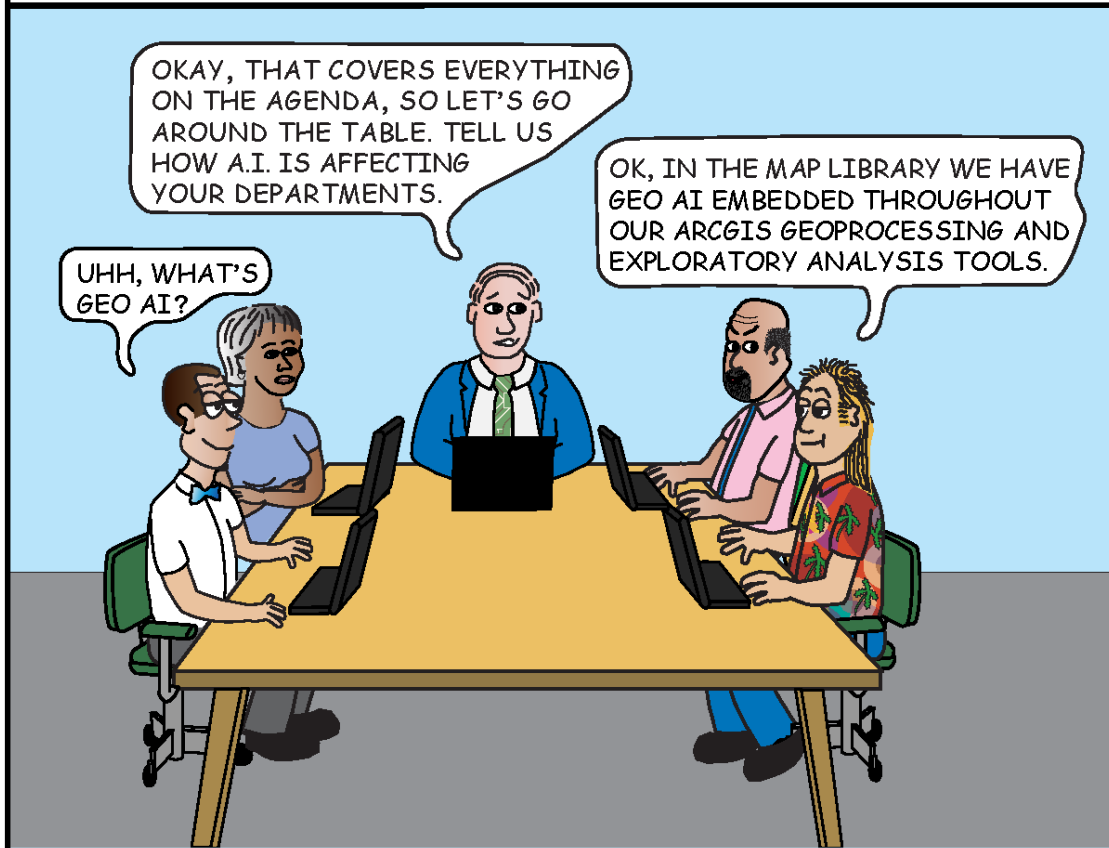
## MAGIRT Publications Clearance

MAGIRT has physical copies of books published by the organization available for free giveaway, with postage paid. Below you will find a list of the titles available. These will be given out on a first come, first served basis. To request a copy of one or more of these titles, email Michael Smith at [mls003@ucsd.edu](mailto:mls003@ucsd.edu) All requests for copies of these titles need to be received **by June 1, 2025**.

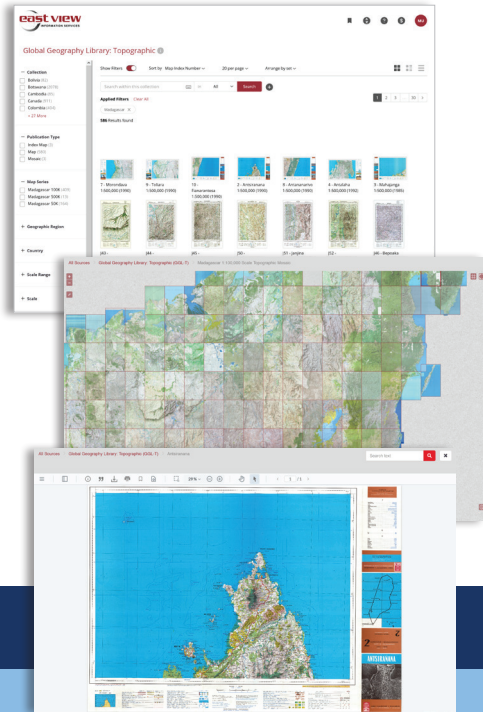
Please contact Sierra Laddusaw ([laddusaw@umich.edu](mailto:laddusaw@umich.edu)) or Mike Smith ([mls003@ucsd.edu](mailto:mls003@ucsd.edu)) with questions.

Title	Year	Author	Publisher
Great Moments in Map Librarianship: cartoons from the first 30 years of <i>base line</i>	2010	Jim Coombs	Map and Geography Round Table MAGERT American Library Association
Cartographic Citations— A Style Guide (First edition)	1992	Suzanne M. Clark; Mary Lynette Larsgaard; Cynthia M. Teague	Map and Geography Round Table, American Library Association
Index to the Library of Congress "G" Schedule: a map and atlas classification aid	1996	Alberta Auringer Wood; James A. Coombs	Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association
The below four titles are part of the Occasional Paper Series:			
Exploration and Mapping of the American West: selected essays	1986	Donna P. Koeppe	Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association; Speculum Orbis Press
A Guide to Historical Map Resources for Greater New York	1988	Jeffrey A. Kroessler; Social Science Research Council (U.S.). Committee on New York City	Speculum Orbis Press
Mapping the Transmississippi West: an index to the cartobibliography	1992	Charles Alden Seavey	Speculum Orbis Press
Exploration and Mapping of the National Parks	1993	Jenny Marie Johnson	Speculum Orbis Press

GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs



**Now available From East View with  
new collections added quarterly!**



**Global Geography Library (GGL)** is a digital platform designed to address the challenges of storing and accessing large format materials such as atlases and charts, or large physical collections like national mapping series. With GGL, users can access a diverse collection of maps, charts, explanatory notes, and related materials – both in copyright and non-copyright – covering various geographical regions, time periods, and categories.

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- GIS integration via WMTS
- Detailed item-level metadata
- Permanent URLs
- Citation generator
- Usage statistics
- MARC records available



## Global Geography Library Families

- Aeronautical
- Atlases
- Earth Sciences
- Maritime
- Terrain Analysis
- Thematic, Reference, Commercial, Educational
- Topographic