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base line

a newsletter of the

Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 From the Chair**
- 4 On the Cataloging/Cataloguing Front**
- 7 MAGIRT Board Meeting Minutes - January 20, 2026**
- 9 Call for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Candidate(s)**
- 10 Great Moments in Map Librarianship**

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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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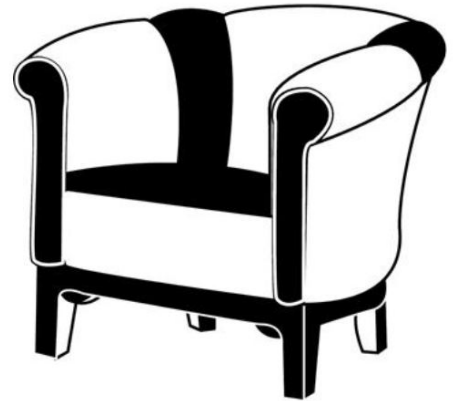


From the Chair

Susan Moore

University of Northern Iowa

I write to you once again from snow-covered Iowa (though not as covered as our colleagues on the East Coast). Plans have been submitted for ALA Annual in Chicago. The chair's program will be a basic introduction to map cataloging, focusing on scale, projection, and coordinates. This may be a refresher for some and an introduction for others. The Core Metadata/MAGIRT cataloging interest group will be meeting and we'll have a general membership meeting followed by an Executive Board meeting. Planning continues for the tour and dinner(s). Conference registration is now open so come if you can.



Remember, even if you don't attend the annual conference, there are ways to get involved with MAGIRT. Committees are meeting virtually so even in these budget-tightening times you can participate in MAGIRT. If you have an idea for a webinar or an activity that a MAGIRT committee should be involved in, let me or other members of the Executive Board know. Together, we can make a strong round table!

On the Cataloging/Cataloguing Front

Tammy Wong
Library of Congress

MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) Update

The MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) met via Zoom on February 18-19. MAC Liaison Susan Moore submitted the following report:

Discussion of Fast-Track Proposals approved since MAC's June 2025 meeting

Four fast track proposals were approved. One of them was the proposal that adds code "r" for remote sensing image to the 008/25 and 006/08 (Maps, Type of cartographic material) to the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format.

[Proposal No. 2026-01](#): Addition of Codes "q" (Serial podcast), "a" (Activity report), and "i" (Serial zine) to Field 008/21 in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

This will provide additional granularity. Some of the definitions were tweaked to conform to other definitions. The proposal passed as amended.

[Proposal No. 2026-02](#): Additions and Revisions to Accessibility Fields 341 and 532 in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

There was a lot of discussion about this one. While there was general agreement that recording this information is useful, there was some concern of using a field that was originally meant to be human readable now appending information meant to be machine actionable in the same field, thus making what was a free text field to a more structured one. Given that there are a limited number of note fields still available, putting this information in the current fields conserves the other note fields. The proposal was split and field 341 (Accessibility Content) was approved with amendments with indicators blank, 1, 2, and 4 (which will be relabeled 3). There will be a discussion paper coming back for field 532 (Accessibility Note) which will probably include the option of adding a different 5XX field.

[Proposal No. 2026-03](#): Adding Indicators for Preferred Variant Headings in 4XX Fields in the MARC 21 Authority Format

There was general support for this proposal. Some comments asked why the proposal didn't include 4xx fields for other authority records such as subject authorities. The proposal passed for the fields that were covered in the proposal, with the potential for proposals for other types to be brought in the future.

[Proposal No. 2026-04](#): Modernization of Field 041 and Field 008/35-37 in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

The proposal was approved with a couple of minor edits.

[Discussion Paper No. 2026-DP04](#): Recording Notated Movement Characteristics in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

There was general agreement on having a separate field instead of adding fields to field 348 (Notated Music Characteristics). This will be brought back as a proposal.

[Discussion Paper No. 2026-DP01](#): Renaming of Subfield \$a in Field 041 in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

There was general support for this discussion paper, given that few knew that the term "Separate title" in the current definition meant. This was approved to be fast tracked.

[Discussion Paper No. 2026-DP02](#): Sign Language and English Alphabetical Order Instructions in Fields 008/35-37 and 041 in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

General support for the sign language part of the discussion paper. Less support for not having the instruction for English language order. The sign language portion was approved for fast tracking. The part about English language instruction will probably not come back as a discussion paper or a proposal.

[Discussion Paper No. 2026-DP03](#): Recording Container Designation in the 87X Fields of the MARC 21 Holdings Format

This would allow the recording of a barcode for a container in the holdings format. This could be helpful for those atlases that are issued as individual sheets that get interfiled in a box or binder. This will be brought back as a discussion paper that will include the possibility of adding something to the bibliographic format as well.

Business meeting/Library of Congress report/Other

Given the change of dates for this meeting, the Steering Group meeting moved the summer meeting to July 22 and 23.

ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, Bibliographic Standards Committee (ACRL-RBMS BSC) Update

NOTE: In February 2022, the RBMS RDA Editorial Group published *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (RDA Edition)* (DCRMR) as a free online hyperlinked text, covering cataloging of rare books only. Currently, they are working to integrate format-specific material from the rest of the previous DCRM manuals (cartographic, graphics, manuscripts, music, and serials) into DCRMR, starting with Graphics (DCRM(G)). Following completion of work on DCRM(G), the Editorial Group has identified Cartographic (DCRM(C)) as a logical next target for integration. Therefore, the MAGIRT Executive Board thought it sensible to ensure we have a BSC liaison in place, and Laura McElfresh volunteered.

The ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, Bibliographic Standards Committee (ACRL-RBMS BSC) held their Midwinter meeting online on January 21st. Minutes will be made available after approval at the next meeting, to be held online on March 25. Laura attended and delivered a brief report. The Editorial Group confirmed that they do still currently intend to address DCRM(C) next. However, they are seeking input on their future plans via [Google Form](#) and will lead a discussion on future plans at the next BSC meeting.

MAGIRT Liaison Report to RBMS-BSC (2026-01-09)

“In November [2025], Melanie Wacker from the Bibframe Interoperability Group (BIG) contacted the MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC), requesting input on cartographic needs for Bibframe. CCC members Tim Kiser (Chair) and Susan Moore (former CCC Chair, current MAGIRT Chair) directed Melanie to the Cartographic Cataloging Best Practices document on our website, *Guidelines for Cataloging Cartographic Resources Using RDA (2020)*. Melanie and Susan have planned to meet in mid/late January for further discussion.”

Minutes of the January 20, 2026 MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

Laura McElfresh, MAGIRT Secretary
University of Minnesota

Time: January 20, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via [Zoom](#)

Present: Susan Moore, Laura McElfresh, Sam Kim, Iris Taylor, Kristina Larsen, Tammy Wong

Regrets: Min Zhang

1. **Call to order - 3:01 pm Eastern**
2. **Call for changes to Agenda — none**
3. **Secretary — Minutes from previous meeting**
 - a. [November notes](#) went out via email & then were published in the December [base line](#) issue.
4. **Officer Reports**
 - a. **Chair** — Susan
 - i. Need to finalize what meetings we'll have at the ALA annual meeting.
 1. Chair's Program: session on cataloging maps
 2. CCC will meet online for Annual.
 3. Last time we discussed having a single meeting for all committees & IGs (except Cataloging) to discuss what groups we actually need and how to get people involved. Should this be separate from Exec Board?
 - a. Since Exec Board/Membership meetings are held together, Laura suggested holding the open Membership portion first to get input from the whole community. Then we transition into the Board meeting and discuss what to do with what we've learned.
 - b. Idea sounds good! We can allot 45 minutes each for the Membership portion and then Board. (We can be flexible with time too; if discussion goes long & we don't finish Board business, we can have an online meeting for that.)
 - c. This will also allow us to address questions from Membership quickly at Exec.
 4. Do we want to have Carto Cataloging IG at usual time? — sure! It's a Core/MAGIRT joint group so we probably should go ahead.
 5. Time slots
 - a. Membership/Exec falls in a no-conflict time for the ALA Sesquicentennial, so we won't get our customary Sunday 4pm for that one. Will have to shuffle times.
 - b. Chair's Program is scheduled by ALA, we get what we get. Will try to have it on Saturday. Then Carto Cat IG & Membership/Board will be sometime Sunday.
 - b. **Vice Chair** — Iris

- i. Have we missed the ALA deadline for elections? — Susan is not sure; the message was automatically sent to the Past Chair (as elections chair), who did not have capacity to deal with it. Then there was missed/broken communication around setting up a meeting between officers & Danielle.
 - 1. Sam has met once with Danielle but there wasn't much going on with financial reports then; so he has a second meeting set up.
 - 2. We've sent out messages on Connect (also OLAC and AUTOCAT) but haven't had responses.
 - ii. Iris created a survey to find out whether people will be traveling to ALA & will be interested in Awards Dinner — has had feedback from Susan & would like to distribute it soon. Will re-send so other folks have an opportunity (and reminder) to give feedback.
 - 1. Two weeks should be enough time to leave the survey open. We'll distribute on ALA Connect and also maybe MAPS-L.
 - 2. Will also include a call for nominations (VC/CE only)
 - a. Assistant Treasurer is elected in a solo Treasurer year
 - iii. Iris needs to start working with Danielle to get plans in place for our tour and Awards Dinner (if we are having one). Will await survey responses.
 - 1. Suggestions needed for dinner and tour locations!
 - a. Tour: Obama Presidential Library is outside the conference footprint. Newberry Library is downtown.
 - b. Dinner: We've done Maggiano's a few times. Iris would like suggestions!
 - c. **Secretary/*base line* editor (Interim)** — Laura
 - i. (Nothing Secretary or *base line* related; see New Business)
 - d. **Webmaster** — not here
 - e. **Treasurer**
 - i. Not much to report; fiscal reports for the new year are still being generated. We should be in good shape if our biggest expense is the dinner. Sam has another meeting set up with Danielle to learn how to log expenses, etc.
 - f. **Past Chair** — not here
5. **Old Business**
- i. (ALA scheduling — see Chair's Report)
6. **New Business**
- i. Introducing Kristina Larsen, who is interested in working with the Education Committee! Kristina is at the Rumsey Center at Stanford. In her Master's program, she did research on the MAGIRT Core Competencies (worked w/ Wade Bishop) and would like to pitch in here. She would love to be able to help with professional development opportunities.
 - 1. We've been trying to keep up with holding a webinar series; these have a low barrier to participation and can be a good opportunity for professional development. (There may or may not have been a degree of coordination with WAML in the past.)
 - 2. Between now & next meeting, Kristina can do some brainstorming: look into what's currently offered, what gaps we could address.
7. **Committee/DG/IG Reports**

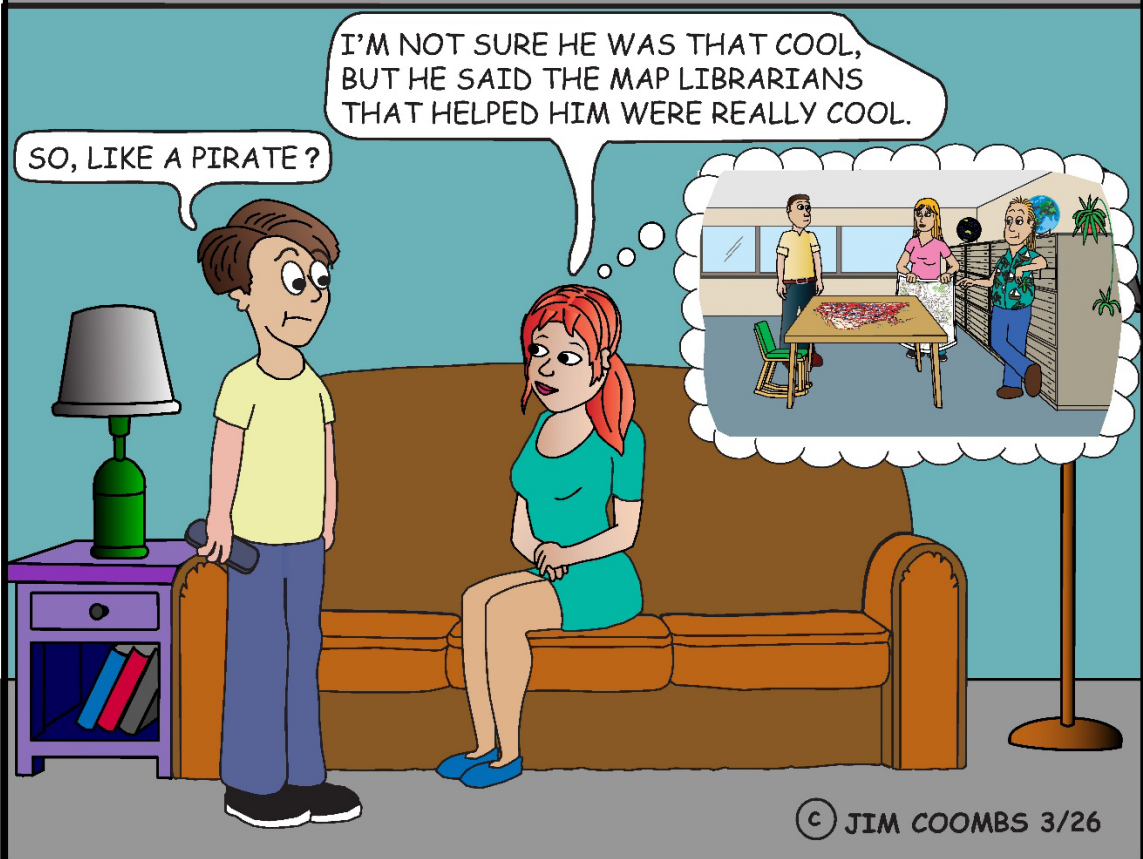
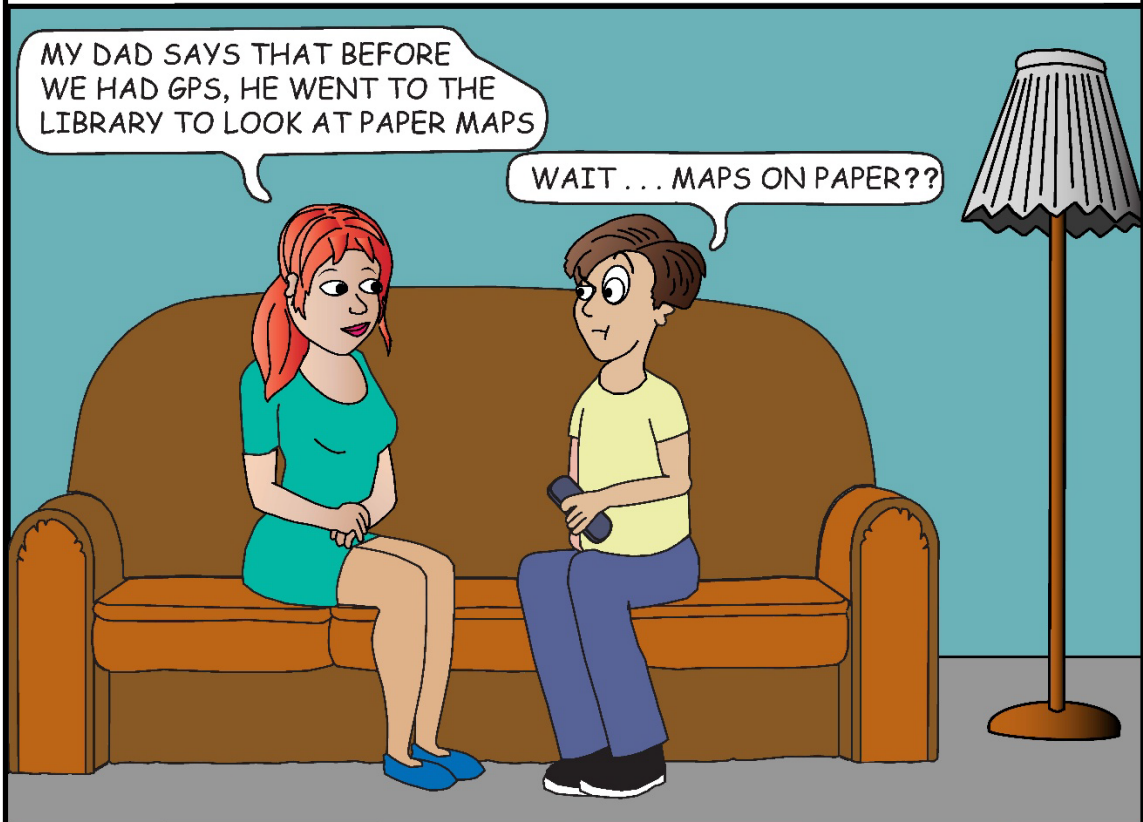
- a. **Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee** — not here
 - b. **Cataloging & Classification Committee**
 - i. MAC (MARC Advisory Committee) meetings were pushed back to February due to the previous US government shutdown. Susan will pass along any papers of MAGIRT interest so that we can give input.
 - ii. ACRL RBMS BSC (Bib. Standards Committee) meeting is tomorrow, Jan. 21, at 2pm Eastern. Laura will deliver the MAGIRT CCC liaison report and will report back on anything of interest that happens there.
 - c. **Education Committee** — not here
 - d. **Geographic Technologies Committee (GeoTech)/GIS DG** — VACANT
 - e. **Membership & Marketing Committee** — VACANT
 - f. **Online Presence & Publications Committee (OPPC)** — VACANT
 - g. **Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG**
 - i. We'll do as we've done before — Amy will coordinate (send out the announcement; gather up discussion topics) and then probably Susan &/or Laura will run the meeting.
 - h. **Map Collection Management DG** — VACANT
 - i. **Freedom to Read Foundation** — not here
 - j. **WAML liaison report** — VACANT
 - k. **CC:DA Report**
 - i. Min is out & couldn't make this meeting but she will report next time
8. **Next meeting:** March 17th, 3pm Eastern via Zoom
9. **Adjournment:** 3:42 pm Eastern

MAGIRT needs YOU!
...to run for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

MAGIRT is in need of one or more candidates for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect! The MAGIRT Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will serve a three-year term, officially taking office at the conclusion of the 2026 ALA Annual Conference. The first year, as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, they are responsible for planning MAGIRT's traditional map library tour and social event(s) at ALA Annual 2027. The second year, as Chair, they will lead MAGIRT activities throughout the year, including program content and scheduling for ALA Annual 2028. The third year, as Past Chair, they chair the Nominations and Awards Committee and the Bylaws and Governing Documents Committee.

The ALA Elections ballot is already open, but you can still run as a write-in candidate. Please [contact MAGIRT Chair Susan Moore](#) or any other MAGIRT officer and we will get the word out.

Great Moments In Map Librarianship by Jim Coombs





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