

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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Members of MAGIRT can access **base line** as a benefit of their membership.

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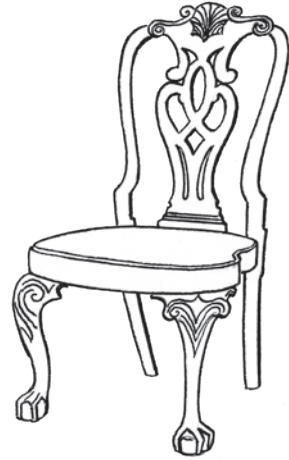


FROM THE CHAIR

SIERRA LADDUSAW

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

As I sat down to write my first “From the Chair” entry I spent too much time picking the *perfect* image of a chair to accompany the column, reread previous Chair’s writings, and drafted several versions of what I wanted to say in the first 350ish words or so I would write in the publication - all from my dining room table that currently serves as my office during the global pandemic. Writing this has summed up how the past few months have passed. I’ve spent more time than I ever have before looking at pictures online, reading, and questioning the work I’ve produced while also witnessing everyday the importance of maps and spatial information.



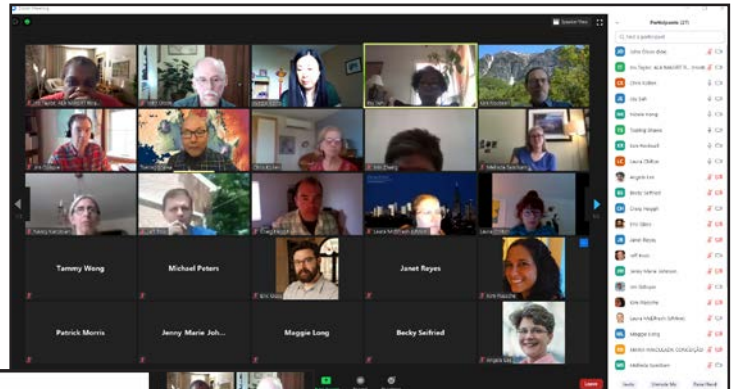
Maps have always been in everyone’s lives, even if they didn’t acknowledge it. During this current health crisis, we have seen maps and spatial data become an active part of the daily routine. We wake up, check the news, and see a map. Countless individuals have bookmarked the John Hopkins Coronavirus Dashboard and CNN called it the “most visited” pandemic website. Contact tracing and virus spread heat maps trend on social media, quickly followed by discussions on the democratization of mapping and the spread of (mis)information via spatial visualizations. The growth in conversation through and about maps has been exponential, as geospatial information professionals we have the unique skills to provide access to these resources and expert guidance on reading, understanding, and critiquing them.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate everyone on a successful virtual annual meeting. As a group, we were able to organize and produce an informative and forward-looking conference under a tight deadline. Thank you to each of the committee chairs and the executive board for quickly arranging and hosting two half-day sessions. It was wonderful zooming with MAGIRT members and guests who attend the conference. One of my favorite parts of our annual gathering is awarding the MAGIRT Honor’s Award. This year’s recipient is Tsering Wangyal Shawa, who was recognized for his years of service to our organization and librarianship as a whole.

As we continue our work as an organization during uncertain times, due to both the global pandemic and reorganization recommendations within ALA, I hope that our membership stays safe, supports each other, and keeps a positive outlook.

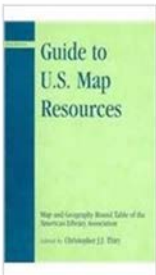


Snapshots of the ALA-MAGIRT Annual Conference 2020 Held virtually ... Everywhere!



Background

- In October 2014, the MAGIRT Publications Committee formed taskforce to investigate an online edition,
- Expectations for the online version:
 - Crowd-sourced directory that provides up-to-date information
 - Searchable map/database
- GeoTech Committee participated the task force to provide technology support.



Guide to U.S. Map Resources, Third Edition.
Christopher J.J. Thury, ed. Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association. Lanham, Maryland, Toronto, Oxford: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2006.



Mosaic Topographic Map Without Map Collars



MAGIRT Honors Award for 2020

Presented to

Tsering Wangyal Shawa

The MAGIRT Nominations and Awards Committee selected Mr. Tsering Wangyal Shawa, Geographic Information Systems, Map Librarian, and Head of Map and Geospatial Information Center at Princeton University, as the recipient of the 2020 MAGIRT Honors Award. This award is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the Round Table. The presentation was made on Saturday, June 27 at the MAGIRT Virtual Honors Award Celebration during the ALA Virtual Conference. The award was presented by Chair Iris Taylor. Portions of that presentation follow.

The nomination statements submitted to the Committee noted Wangyal's long-standing membership in MAGIRT and admirable service to the cartographic community for a number of years. Wangyal has tremendous experience in managing analog and digital maps and geospatial data of the Map and Geospatial Information Center at Princeton University. He has taught geography and cartography in high schools in India, Nepal, and Kenya and to undergraduate students at the University of Juba, South Sudan. At present, he teaches a GIS course titled, "GIS for Public Policy" at the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University. Nominators noted the incredible generosity Wangyal has shown in sharing his expertise. His contributions to geospatial librarianship are particularly outstanding. He has written numerous articles, and given local and international presentations pertaining to geospatial librarianship. He has contributed in exceptional ways through instruction, publications, friendship, mentorship and leadership.

Officerships and Leadership Positions

- **Chair, Vice-Chair, of MAGIRT from 2004-2006**
- **Chair, Education Committee, 1999-2000.**
- **Chair, Geographic Technologies (GeoTech) Committee, 2000-2007, 2019-**
- **Base line Electronic Mapping editor, 2003-2009**
- **MAGERT representative to CUAC (Cartographic Users Advisory Council), 2003-2005**
- **Program Planning for 2002 ALA Conference titled "What Should a GIS Librarian do: Matching Services with Needs & Resources."**
- **Program Planning for 2003 ALA Conference titled "Providing Access to Geospatial Data."**

Other Notable Activities

- **Advisor of Geospatial Data Preservation Clearinghouse Project, 2010-2012**
- **Published map titled "*Tibet Township Map and Place Name Index.*" The publication was supported by the Princeton University of Department of Art and Archaeology.**

- **Advisory Board of the Commons of Geographic Data.**
- **Consultant to the Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library on developing a *Gazetteer of Tibet and Himalayan Areas*.**

The nomination statements continue, “Wangyal is a pioneer in the use of GIS technology for map libraries. Wangyal started to explore the creation of an online library for map and geospatial data in 2005, when the online GIS concept and GIS librarian position were at beginning stages. GIS web technology and architecture have evolved a great deal in the past fifteen years. His dedication to the field are continuous. Wangyal’s ability to keep up with every new development in this fast changing field is amazing. He never hesitates to share his knowledge with colleagues, as well as new visions and lessons learned. His contribution to the group not only help others to gain insights, but also help to create a positive team environment and set an example for others to follow. His tireless and enthusiastic support of the ALA MAGIRT programs in addition to his active research activities in academic librarianship should be recognized and applauded.”



EAST VIEW GLOBAL CENSUS DATA ARCHIVE™

A global aggregation initiative to collect the world's census data

In the first offering of its kind, East View presents the **GLOBAL CENSUS ARCHIVE™** (GCA), an innovative program to collect officially published census-related materials from around the world.

Since launching the inaugural Latin America Census Collection in 2018, East View has been working to collect hundreds of censuses and thousands of related volumes and materials from around the world.

This global collection contains GIS census data as well as all available published volumes, supporting questionnaires and other census ephemera. Each census comes with an East View-produced census bibliography, which serves as a finding aid and provides historical context.

GCA is a robust resource for scholars and analysts to find current and historic census data, including all available GIS data and published content that accompanies the release of a census

CENSUS PUBLICATIONS

Every census has official authoritative elements that East View aggregates, processes and makes discoverable on an intuitive and easy-to-use eResources platform. While the availability and type of materials will vary by country, examples of typical materials include:

- **Census bibliography produced by East View**
- **Official Results (Analytical and Tabular)**
- **Maps / Atlases**
- **Methodology / Planning / Training**
- **Public Awareness**
- **Questionnaires / Survey Forms**
- **Census Bibliography**
- **Newspaper Articles**
- **Journal Articles**
- **Conference Materials**
- **Academic Books**
- **Video / Audio**
- **Legislative / Executive / Budgetary**

GIS & TABULAR DATA

East View's GIS census products offer the following:

- **Geodatabase**
 - Intuitive organization of census data
 - Administrative boundary vector data
- **Shapefiles**
 - All vector and census data in ESRI Shapefile format
- **Census Guide**
 - Detailed instructions on how to query and visualize data
 - Detailed descriptions of census variables
- **Original Census Documentation**
 - Delivered in native format
- **Metadata**
 - Full attribute level metadata in FGDC ISO format

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.eastview.com/gca for more details on available census products. Or contact us at info@eastview.com.



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ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC)

Monday, June 29, 2020 1:30-2:30 pm Central Time

Virtual Meeting

Tim Kiser, Chair of the CCC, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. He welcomed all the attendees to the CCC meeting. Members present: Paige Andrew, Catherine Hodge, Tim Kiser, Maggie Long, Susan Moore, Iris Taylor, Laura Ramsey, Ken Rockwell, Tammy Wong, and Min Zhang.

1. Call to order (Tim Kiser)

2. Welcome and introductions

CCC members and guests introduced themselves.

3. Baseline cataloging editor report (Tammy Wong)

The minutes from CCC meeting held at ALA Midwinter, in January 2020, were approved as published on page 5 of the February 2020 *base line*. See: <http://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org/rt/files/content/publicationsab/baseline/BL-41-1.pdf>

4. ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group report (Maggie Long)

Number of Attendees who signed in: 36

Agenda & meeting notes:

- The use of the [340 MARC field, Physical Medium](#) provides an opportunity for more *granular descriptive information of an item's material properties*.

Question: Is this field used at all in cartographic descriptions and would it be useful? Are there institutions regularly providing data for this MARC field? If not institutional, are there catalogers in the community who regularly add this information into records?

Discussion: No one at the meeting expressed having any experience utilizing the 340 field, but there has been some discussion in the special collections cataloging community on the use of the 340 field, subfield b, to parse out additional detailed information not usually included in bibliographic records. Example given: map printed on marbled paper. It may be useful for LinkedData, Bibframe. Suggestion to look at it as standardized text or coding.

Links to RDA Registry submitted during meeting:

<http://www.rdaregistry.info/termList/RDAMaterial/>

<http://www.rdaregistry.info/termList/layout/>

- Examples of cartographic resources in RDA

Question: A request for examples of items such as geological profiles and columnar sections, both as standalone resources and as part of the same resource as a map.

Example provided and discussed: OCLC 320449237

- Atlases: catalog as books or maps?

Question: What is the best approach to catalog an atlas to increase its discoverable in the online catalog when searching for maps. It has been the practice to catalog atlases as books/monographs but with the possibility of performing a more faceted search in the online catalog, these may be filtered out and not appear in the patron's search for maps.

Discussion:

- Use a rule of thumb to determine in how to catalog the item is to look and determine if the item includes 50% or more of maps, if so, catalog as map. Being a bit flexible with applying the 50% rule was suggested.
- Make use of the 655 field and add genre terms found in the RBMS controlled vocabularies, Art & Architecture Thesaurus, etc.
- Coding the LDR [006 field](#), Additional material characteristics. The [007 field values](#).

5. CC:DA report (Min Zhang)

ALA CC:DA Report for ALA MAGIRT 20200629

Committee on Cataloging: Description & Access

2020 Summer Virtual Meeting will be held on

July 9, 3:00-5:00 Eastern

July 13th: 2:00-4:00 Eastern

July 15th: 1:00-3:00 Eastern

1. CCDA Task Force to review the Proposal on Changing Procedural Guidelines for Proposed New or Revised Romanization Tables
2. Revision of the Beta Toolkit Menu Tab for Resources: proposes a further re-organization of the Resource menu of the beta RDA Toolkit, as part of the SES (String Encoding Scheme) Project. The final layout of guidance and instructions within this menu is dependent on discussions about the wider issues of incorporating and managing 'community' tools in the Toolkit.
3. RDA Entity Boundaries: proposes a development of the guidance and instructions for determining if an RDA metadata description set is referring to an entity being described or to a different entity. The criteria for making a distinction between two entities are essential for the creation of RDA metadata that are well-formed and meet the requirements of local applications.

6. Library of Congress report (Min Zhang)

Library of Congress Work Continues

Since the Library adopted maximum telework on March 16, LC has continued to accomplish important work remotely. These enormous numbers represent the focus and dedication that this skilled staff bring to the challenges of performing acquisitions and cataloging remotely, always looking forward to the day when we can once again directly serve our end users, from Congress and other American libraries to the general public.

As of June 19, 2020:

- The ABA Directorate purchased 82,022 items for the Library's collections.
- Through eDeposit, the mandatory copyright deposit program for digital content, the ABA Directorate has added 15,434 e-serials and e-newspaper issues to the digital collections.
- The ABA Directorate and the cataloging units in the Special Collections and General and International Collections directorates have completely cataloged 42,919 titles.
- They have completed nearly 16,000 Cataloging in Publication records, maintaining CIP production at their average pre-pandemic levels. These catalog records for books most likely to be widely acquired by other libraries in the U.S. will be available for other libraries to use as soon as they acquire the books.
- We have cataloged nearly 27,000 published books in English and other languages, slightly more than half their typical pre-pandemic production. For both CIP and published books, the finished records appear immediately in the Library of Congress Online Catalog and are distributed by the Library's MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging) Distribution Service for other libraries to use in organizing their own collections.

BIBFRAME Developments

LC Announcement on May 1, 2020

The Library of Congress announces the availability of new BIBFRAME 2.0 components for converting BIBFRAME data to MARC. This is the result of work conducted as part of the Library's BIBFRAME 2.0 cataloging pilot.

Catalogers in the pilot currently input bibliographic metadata twice – once in BIBFRAME and once in MARC. To reduce this dual entry processing, the Library has been working on a converter that could adequately convert BIBFRAME descriptions to MARC records that could be loaded into the Library's Integrated Library System (ILS).

This converter is now ready to share with the community to help others carry out development and investigations of the linked data environment using the BIBFRAME 2.0 vocabulary.

Library of Congress Subject Headings: Online Training – two new modules added
<https://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/lcsh/>

This online training on Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) is being developed primarily to meet internal training needs of the Library of Congress, but it is being made freely available online as a service to the library community. The target

audience is anyone who wish to learn more about or refresh their skills in subject analysis and LCSH.

The instructors are Janis L. Young, MA, MSLS, a senior cataloging policy specialist in the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division of the Library of Congress, and Daniel N. Joudrey, MLIS, Ph. D., an associate professor at the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts.

Although it is recommended to work through this training to complete all the modules, librarians with previous experience may pick and choose among modules in order to refresh their skills.

In order to complete the training modules, one need to access to LCSH. There are several methods for doing that. The preferred method is Classification Web, which is a subscription-based service for the vocabularies. There are also free methods of access. They are the LC's Authority website (<http://authorities.loc.gov>), the LC's Linked Data Service (<http://id.loc.gov>), and also the free PDFs of LCSH (<http://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCSH/freelcsh.html>), which are available on the LC's website.

One also need to access the SHM. The preferred method of access is through Cataloger's Desktop, which is a fee-based subscription service for documentation. One may also access the SHM through PDFs (<http://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeSHM/freeshm.html>), which are available for free on the LC's website.

Description of the Geographic Headings Online Training (Module 4.9-4.12), can be found in base line vol. 39 no. 1 issue (<http://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org/rt/files/content/publicationsab/baseline/BL39-1.pdf#page=5>).

7. OCLC report (Laura Ramsey)

MAGIRT Cataloging & Classification Committee OCLC Cataloging and Metadata Quality Update June 2020

Metadata Quality News:

- Member Merge: OCLC now has 45 member libraries merging duplicate bibliographic records as part of this program. Some of the librarians trained are now training other libraries. The only prerequisite is that your library be a PCC member. If interested in participating, let askqc@oclc.org know. We expect to begin training a 5th cohort of libraries starting in September/October 2020.
- We presented 6 Virtual AskQC office hours January-June 2020, offering each monthly session twice. We plan to take July off and resume sessions in August. See oclc.org/askqc for topics, registration, and recordings of past office hours.
- All numeric encoding levels are available for use in cataloging bibliographic records online in WorldCat. This became available in April 2020. It is part of OCLC's effort to bring OCLC-MARC into line with MARC 21.

OCLC WorldCat Quality Statistics

- Bibliographic records replaced by OCLC staff July 2019-May 2020: 67,260,678
- Bibliographic records replaced by member libraries July 2019-May 2020: 2,109,890
- Change requests received by OCLC July 2019-May 2020: 64,222

- Bibliographic records merged into other records by OCLC staff July 2019-May 2020: 105,435
- Bibliographic records merged into other records by member libraries July 2019-May 2020: 29,949
- Bibliographic records merged into other records by DDR July 2019-May 2020: 5,739,409

Total number of records in WorldCat as of May 31, 2020: 480,735,621 – 6% growth in the past year.

WorldCat Matching and WorldCat Validation Updates

OCLC has recently made WorldCat Matching release notes (https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/WorldShare_Record_Manager/WorldCat_Matching_release_notes_and_known_issues) available for the first time. These are mainly relatively small improvements to Duplicate Detection and Resolution (DDR) and/or Data Sync matching. WorldCat Validation release notes (https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/WorldShare_Record_Manager/WorldCat_Validation_release_notes_and_known_issues) have been made available on a regular basis since September 2018. In February 2020, the MARC Bibliographic and Holdings Update Number 29 validation changes were implemented (https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/WorldShare_Record_Manager/WorldCat_Validation_release_notes_and_known_issues/2020_Release_notes/100WorldCat_Validation_release_notes_February_2020), including all new MARC Codes announced between November 2019 and January 2020. The long-anticipated updates to the validation rules for MARC Authorities began to be rolled out in March 2020 (https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/WorldShare_Record_Manager/WorldCat_Validation_release_notes_and_known_issues/2020_Release_notes/095WorldCat_Validation_release_notes_March_2020). This is in coordination with the Library of Congress (LC) and all of the Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) nodes and when completed will cover most MARC Authority updates going back to 2014. As the first step in bringing OCLC-MARC Bibliographic Encoding Levels (Leader/17) into closer alignment with those defined in MARC 21, you now have wider latitude in Encoding Level choice when creating new records or editing existing records. There are additional details in the WorldCat Validation Release Notes, April 2020 (https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/WorldShare_Record_Manager/WorldCat_Validation_release_notes_and_known_issues/2020_Release_notes/090WorldCat_Validation_release_notes_April_2020).

Mellon Grant/Linked Data:

OCLC has a new linked data webpage available at oclc.org/linkeddata, where information is available on the Mellon Grant shared entity management infrastructure project, OCLC's CONTENTdm linked data pilot program and more. Linked from that page, at oclc.org/sharedentitymgmt, you'll find specifics on progress on the 2 year grant, as well as a list of all the libraries involved in the advisory group, including the National Library Board of Singapore (from this committee's geographic area of interest).

Dewey (DDC) News:

- In February 2020 the Dewey editors published a discussion paper that suggests revisions to the schedules for South Africa, which currently only reflect the white minority government during the apartheid period. The discussion paper presents

three potential options for additional access for the leadership of the ANC during the period of apartheid. Find the paper, titled “EPC 142A-S96.1 ANC presidents discussion paper,” at <https://oclc.org/deweyexhibits>. The Dewey editors would appreciate any feedback on these options (or other alternatives); we anticipate a proposal will be submitted to the Dewey Editorial Policy Committee in early 2021.

- The editorial team encourages anyone interested to propose revisions to the classification. Please contact dewey@oclc.org if interested.

Prepared by Laura Ramsey

June 2020

8. MARC Advisory Committee report (Susan Moore)

The MARC Advisory Committee met virtually June 30, July 1 and July 2. Here are the results that may be of interest to the cartographic cataloging community.

Proposal 2020-03: Modernization of Field 856 proposes making \$b Access number, \$h processor of request, \$i instruction, \$j bits per second, \$k password, \$l logon, \$n name of location or host, \$r settings, and \$t terminal emulation obsolete passed. The portion concerning the revision and clarification of the second indicator values and the potential redefinition of some subfields did not.

Proposal 2020-04 adding a new subfield \$p for illustrative content to field 340 (Physical medium) passed. Since this is an indication of content and the current title of the field is Physical Medium with a definition of “Physical description information for an item that requires technical equipment for its use, and/or more granular description information of an item’s material properties to facilitate access and discovery or to support collection management”, there will be a proposal to change the title and definition at the Midwinter meeting.

Proposal 2020-06 defining a new field (881) for manifestation statements as added to the RDA element set passed.

Proposal 2020-07 defining a new field (335) to record the extension plan of a work being described passed with the addition of subfield 3. This field will provide greater detail on the publication plans for a work.

Discussion Paper 2020-DP09 explores options for recording chronology-only data in certain Holdings fields. This will be brought back as a proposal at Midwinter.

Discussion Paper 2020-DP13 investigates adding new subfields in field 046 for expression dates and related elements. This will be brought back as a proposal at Midwinter.

Discussion Paper 2020-DP16 explored adding field 334 to record the mode of issuance for the material being cataloged (mostly either single unit or multiple unit). There was general support for adding the field and this will come back as a proposal at Midwinter.

There were other discussion papers on the agenda as well. The full list can be found at https://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/an2020_age.html and the recordings of the meetings are at <https://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/recordings.html>

9. RBMS/DCRMC report (Maggie Long)

Excerpts from Bibliographic Standards Committee report, ALA Annual 2020

A. Bibliographic Standards Committee (BSC) collaboration with OCLC

From BSC report: "One topic in our meeting concerned a BSC collaboration with OCLC. BSC is working with our colleagues at OCLC to provide online guidance (for catalogers) on how to evaluate records for possible merging in OCLC's WorldCat database. Regular users of WorldCat may be aware that the database includes the occasional inadvertent duplicate record. The goal of our current project is to make the WorldCat database a bit tidier, ideally with one record for each edition or issue. To date, BSC and OCLC have completed draft guidance on the merging of records for rare books and rare serials formats. Our small working group is now turning its attention to similar guidance for rare cartographic material, graphic material, and rare music in OCLC. We feel confident that this work will be completed within the next year."

This may be of interest to MAGIRT members.

At the MAGIRT membership, committee meeting on June 26, 2020, the idea of creating a similar project and offer it to MAGIRT members as a benefit was discussed briefly.

B. Project: "Experts Directory" (final choice of name pending)

From BSC report: "The goal of this project is to provide an online venue where individuals and institutions can find the names of colleagues willing to share their expertise and guidance on issues related to the cataloging, access, and care of rare materials."

10. Old business

3R TASK FORCE STATUS REPORT FOR 2020 MAGIRT CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE MAGIRT VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Background:

This report covers the period since the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting held in January 2020 in Philadelphia. During the Midwinter Meeting two new volunteers stepped up and were added to the task force, Angeline Beljour and Artis Wright, both of the New York Public Library. Therefore, current task force membership includes:

Tim Kiser, ex officio

Tammy Wong

Susan Moore

Angeline Beljour

Artis Q. Wright

Paige Andrew, chair

At the end of the report given at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, stated goals for this task force for the year 2020 are: to completely update the *Guidelines for Cataloging Cartographic Resources Using RDA* document by the 2020 Annual Conference and

then during the second half of the year if the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) has put a change proposal mechanism in place we can then begin the work of changing instructions and/or policies within RDA based on our own best practices. Therefore, the focus of the group since the Midwinter Meeting has been going through the *Guidelines* line by line to make changes for clarity, corrections where needed, and additions.

Recent Meetings:

The task force held three working meetings where we focused on changes to the *Guidelines*. Through this process we completed going through the entire document and are currently at a point of putting in place final changes. At our next meeting, tentatively scheduled for the mid-July, we will complete this work and then share the new draft with members of the Cataloging and Classification Committee for comment.

Other Work:

On June 3rd Todd Fell, from Yale University, sent a message to myself and Nancy Kandoian letting us know that the special collections community is very interested in the use of the MARC 340 field for “Physical Medium” details and asked if members of the cartographic community were doing the same. Both of us replied that in our experience we had not used this field and did not know of anyone who did. In addition, we noted that the component parts of the 300 field work well for describing the “physicalness” of cartographic resources and thus did not see a need for using another field for added or more specific details. At the same time I offered to forward Todd’s email on to Tim Kiser for possible action among CCC members, which I did. At this point members of the CCC have not discussed the 340 field but I am aware that potentially results from such a discussion might lead to a new addition to the *Guidelines*.

Paige Andrew

Chair, CCC R3 Task Force (2017-)

Report on the MAGIRT/WAML Joint Task Group on Core Elements for Description of Geospatial Datasets

by
Louise Ratliff, Chair

June 29, 2020

Background

Datasets of geospatial data (also called spatial data) are collected by many academic and special libraries for use by researchers with GIS platforms such as ArcGIS or other kinds of spatial data infrastructure. There are a number of services designed to store and provide discovery and access to this type of data.

The challenge for discovery and access of these datasets is that the metadata

describing them is not standardized across discovery systems; in some it may be incomplete, inaccurate or misleading. People who supply, edit, and display the metadata

may not be aware of how people search for datasets, or what information is necessary to confirm the usefulness of the data to the researcher.

It is the goal of this task group to compile a list of essential metadata elements to support effective discovery and access offered by the various systems. While there are numerous metadata schemas in which elements are given different names, each element describes a discrete characteristic of a dataset. This task group will identify the most significant dataset characteristics that must be revealed to users by the use of metadata elements.

Charge/Workplan

Reporting to the MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee, the MAGIRT/WAML Joint Task Group on Core Elements for Description of Geospatial Datasets is charged to:

1. Formulate a basic definition of “geospatial dataset” as used in a library or cultural institution environment.
2. Identify the most prevalent metadata schemas used in libraries and similar institutions for describing geospatial datasets. (MARC, geoBlacklight, Dublin Core, etc.)
3. Identify the minimum or “core” subset of metadata elements necessary for effective description and access to geospatial datasets.
4. If appropriate, identify a limited number of optional metadata elements that are preferred but not required as “core,” and/or required only for specified user groups.
5. Define and describe the selected metadata elements.
6. Provide illustrative examples or use cases of these elements in several common metadata schemas, such as MARC, GeoBlacklight, Dublin Core, GeoRSS, etc.

Membership

- Louise Ratliff, *chair*
- Tom Brittnacher, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Kim Durante, Stanford University
- Liz Maraglia, University of California, San Diego
- David Ruiz, Pacific Aerial Surveys
- Tammy Wong, Library of Congress
- Tim Kiser, *ex officio*, MAGIRT CCC chair

Report on activity as of June 29, 2020

The Task Group first met via Zoom on April 1, 2020. We identified several tasks which were assigned to the members. So far we are completing tasks 1 and 2 above and have begun creating these lists:

- Commonly used metadata schemas.
- Definitions of a “geospatial dataset.”
- Lists of metadata elements for GIS data (so far)
 - ArcCatalog
 - FGDC

During the next few months we plan to compile a list of “core” metadata elements, and hope to have a recommended list plus definitions by January, 2021.

I extend my thanks to the members of the task group for their contributions!

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Wong



From the Editor's Keyboard



Digital Mapping editor needed

Do you enjoy finding and looking at new GIS programs, geospatial data, and websites? Do you enjoy writing? Then why not combine the two together and be our new Digital Mapping columnist. Tell us about the new geospatial sites that are available.

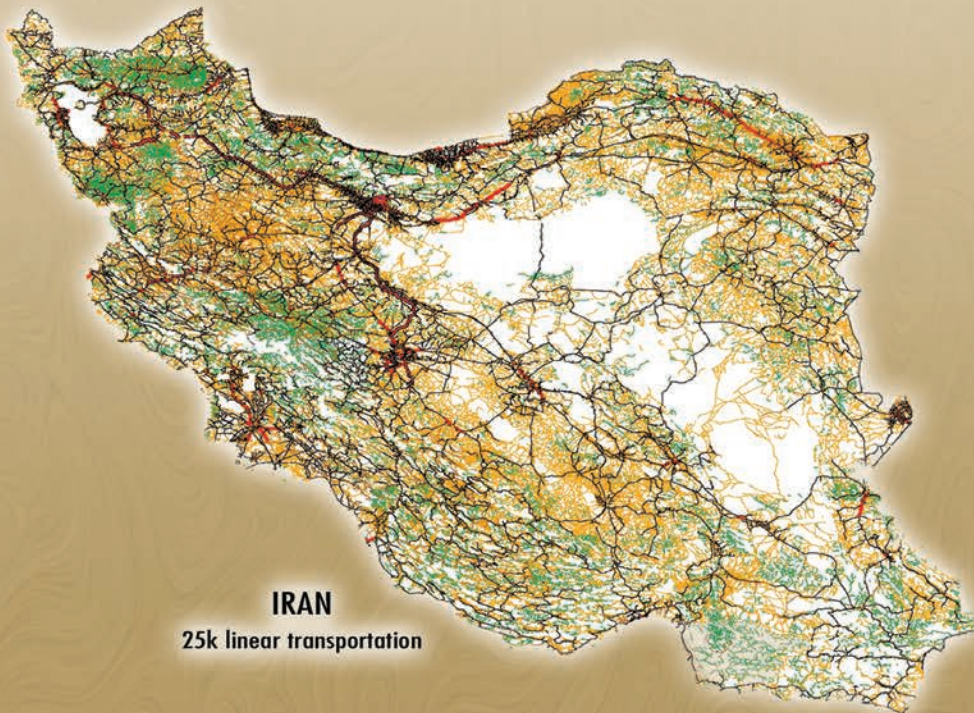
I would like to encourage any MAGIRT member to volunteer. Let me know if you have an interest in contributing to this important part of *base line*.

Contact the editor for more details. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone to make a concrete and impactful contribution to our part of the library profession.

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MAGIRT Membership/Executive Board Meeting

(Minutes of sessions I & II)

Held at the 2020 MAGIRT Virtual Annual Conference

Date: June 29, 2020

Time: 3:00-4:30 PM (CT)

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

1. Call to order

Iris called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Eastern time, 3 p.m Central time.

2. Call for changes to Agenda (Iris)

Iris asked for any changes, none were offered. The agenda stood as posted.

3. Secretary—Minutes from Tuesday, May 20, 2020 (Paige)

Paige noted that the minutes to the last two Executive Board meetings, for April 9th and May 30th, were shared with all MAGIRT members via the MAGIRT email list and also published in the June 2020 issue of *base line*. He called for any changes, none were offered.

ALA Connect Demo/Q&A: Patrick Harrington & David Sheffieck (30 min.)

ALA Staff members Patrick Harrington and David Sheffieck presented a 35-minute demonstration of the new ALA Connect online platform, taking questions along the way. Patrick shared his screen and walked through many details about the website, with David providing additional information and examples. Everyone agreed that now is the time for MAGIRT members to get on board MAGIRT's ALA Connect area and begin putting this platform to good use.

4. Officer's Reports

a. Chair (Iris)

i. Updated notes and information on the Future of Midwinter-Virtual Midwinter Meetings

Iris shared that a survey from the Chair Trio is forthcoming asking MAGIRT members for their preferences in terms of conducting future ALA Midwinter meetings. She asked that all MAGIRT members take the time to help inform decisions about what direction MAGIRT should move in regarding participation in the Midwinter meeting.

ii. Update for 2020 MAGIRT's ALA Annual Virtual Program

Iris invited anyone who attended one or more sessions at ALA's recent Virtual Annual Conference, "ALA Virtual: Community Through Connection" to share thoughts about any technical issues they encountered, quality or lack thereof of specific programs, or anything else they wished to share. At least four members

shared their experiences. Iris reminded everyone that depending on how members feel about the virtual MAGIRT meeting we are concluding an option going forward might be to continue in this manner as an option to attending ALA Midwinter meetings, noting how far GODORT has come in delivering their own meetings virtually.

b. Vice Chair (Sierra)

i. Report on Honor's Award Celebration

The Honor's Award ceremony was conducted late afternoon on Saturday, June 27th. This year's recipient of the award is Tsering Wangyal Shawa. Wangyal's record of service to map librarianship and the round table over many years is outstanding and we enjoyed his acceptance speech and celebrating with him virtually.

ii. MAGIRT/GODORT Merger Webinar

After the recent Merger Webinar, Sierra received a good amount of feedback on a number of topics or concerns from MAGIRT members. Then Sierra and Iris met with Danielle Ponton to get some answers for questions/concerns raised and for reassurance that we have time to "go slow" and make sure that when ready for membership to decide everyone is well informed. Sierra noted that the "3-year clock" timeframe in the SCOE recommendation for a round table to have a minimum of 1% personal members of ALA's total membership has not even started. It will not start until ALA has voted on SCOE's recommendations, which means that it is possible the 1% membership rule might even be changed or voted down. For now in reality we have more than three years to work through the possibility of merging with GODORT but MAGIRT's leaders are committed to being thorough in sharing all related information received from ALA and communicating openly and regularly.

c. Secretary (Paige)

Paige asked that any reports from officers or other leaders be shared with him promptly so the meeting minutes can be completed on time for the upcoming base line deadline. John Olson noted that that deadline will likely be the first week of August.

d. Webmaster (Colleen; Assistant webmaster Craig)

Craig reported that he has been working with Colleen on the MAGIRT website for about two months now and is getting comfortable with procedures for making changes. He is also willing to assist anyone who needs information changed or added to the website, feel free to reach out to him. Craig asked how the website fits in with our ALA Connect platform and there was some discussion around that question.

e. Treasurer (Marguerite/Pete) – Finance Report

Pete shared details of the report. See the report as Appendix A below.

f. Past Chair (Tammy) – Honors Award

An announcement about the 2020 MAGIRT Honors Award recipient has been posted to Facebook and Twitter. A formal announcement will be in the next issue of *base line* and posted to our ALA Connect site.

5. New Business (Discussion)

Request from the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections Working Group: Need for an ArcGIS account for MAGIRT to support *Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections'* project needs. Esri is willing to donate an initial account for one year as a project proof-of-concept. The ongoing cost to continue a subscription to the ArcGIS Online platform would be no more than \$100 annually.

Iris asked Angela Lee, a member of the working group, to introduce the request, which she did on behalf of the group. Carol McAuliffe, chair of the working group, also provided some background information about platform issues.

The initial request, as posed above, was to purchase a subscription to ArcGIS Online, the platform the group has successfully been using via Purdue University's instance of ArcGIS. They have built both the interactive online map that shows the locations of map collections and information about each and is the home of the Survey123 survey tool used to gather and store data about each map collection. However, Angie introduced an alternative to the initial request. Esri provides a "development platform" for non-profit organizations to use for researching, creating, and running GIS-based initiatives for free. A key rule for subscribing to this development area is that the organization must not be doing work that generates income.

Thus, two options were shared with the MAGIRT Executive Board for consideration; the original proposal with a minimal subscription cost of \$100 per year in which Angie is willing to cover the first year's fee, and a new proposal for a free subscription to a development platform. Questions were asked about whether the "free" part of the subscription might change in the future, whether some additional tools that come with the fee-based option would be meaningful/useful to the Online Guide team, etc. The free development platform will remain free as a means for Esri to continue to partner in a positive, research-based manner with geospatial institutions of all kinds. The tools that come with the fee-based subscription but not the free development platform are ones not needed for members of the working group in building out the Online Guide and maintaining it, all necessary software is present in the free development platform.

With no further questions, Iris asked for a motion from voting Executive Board members.

Sierra moved that we accept Angela Lee's offer of providing MAGIRT access to the free development platform. Pete Reehling seconded the motion. Iris asked for any further discussion. Sierra and others commented on and commended Angie's work on behalf of both the Online Guide initiative and MAGIRT. Hearing no other comments Iris called for a vote. The motion carried with a unanimous "yes" for acceptance. The Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections Working Group will move forward with implementation.

6. Committee/Discussion Group/Interest Group Reports and Liaison Reports

a. Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee (Tammy)

Tammy did not have any news or updates related to the Bylaws or other MAGIRT governing documents other than to thank Sierra for providing information coming from ALA's Bylaws Committee. Nominations and Awards information had already been shared.

b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (Tim)

The MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC) met via Zoom on June 29th, with 26 in attendance. Updates from CCC liaisons are being collected by Tammy Wong and will be published in the August *base line*. Some of our usual reports are yet to be compiled because of delayed meetings of some ALA committees. We have work underway in two task groups: the 3R Task Group, chaired by Paige Andrew, which is currently updating and expanding MAGIRT's best practices document for cataloging cartographic resources in RDA, and the MAGIRT/WAML Joint Task Group on Core Elements for Description of Geospatial Datasets, chaired by Louise Ratliff, which is taking a schema-agnostic approach to identifying the minimum metadata elements needed to adequately describe geospatial datasets.

c. Education Committee Discussion Group (Kevin)

Kevin gave an overview of the Education Committee meeting held Monday morning. We discussed the ongoing MAGIRT/WAML webinar series, the most recent was "Illinois Census 2020: Map The Count!" with speakers Moira Zellner and Dean Massey, Urban Data Visualization Lab (UDVL), University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC), and then opened the floor to suggestions for topics and/or speakers. A list of the suggestions:

- California's potential use of librarians as contact tracers for COVID-19 and how GIS has been used to track the spread of the virus
- Michael Blanding, author of the Map Thief
- The Mapping Prejudice project
- A brief tutorial on story mapping
- The Texas Freedom Colonies project
- Online Directory of U.S. Map Collections

We moved on to a broader discussion of ideas for the future direction of the Education Committee.

- There was general agreement that a Map Librarianship 101 video series would be a worthwhile project for the committee. Such a series would be valuable for librarians new to maps, GIS people new to librarianship, and new graduates testing the waters of different sorts of librarianship.

A small adhoc group formed to initialize the planning for such a project. The group includes:

- Kevin Dyke
- Iris Taylor
- Michael Leach
- Angie Lee

Anyone interested in helping out with any of these ventures should consider joining the Education Committee. To do so, email Kevin (kdyke@okstate.edu)

d. GeoTech Committee Discussion Group (Wangyal)

Wangyal reported that the GeoTech and GIS committees held a joint meeting on Saturday, June 27th with 27 attendees. Please see the full report in the Appendices below.

e. Membership and Marketing Committee (Maggie)

See full report in the Appendix below.

f. Online Presence & Oversight Committee (Megan): No report.

g. Publications Committee (Abbey): No report.

h. Cataloging of Cartographic Resources Interest Group (Maggie)

See full report in the Appendix below.

i. Map Collection Management Discussion Group (Craig)

Craig reported that 30 individuals attended the Discussion Group meeting on Saturday, June 27th and that it was great to include members of WAML and beyond as part of the attendee pool.

A majority of the meeting was taken by a highly informative PowerPoint presentation by members of the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections working group. The presentation included background information and a timeline of the project from start to present, a look at the new survey tool for gathering data for individual map collection entries, an overview of the online interactive map interface with demo of how to search for individual collections, a request for volunteers to serve as “regional coordinators” going forward to work with obtaining new map collection entries and reaching out to collections that were part of the 2006 Guide to get them to participate again, and information on future directions for the project. A Q&A period followed. [Note: to date we have garnered four volunteers but need many more. If interested contact us at magirtonlineguide@gmail.com.]

Craig posed a question to the group regarding how individual map collections plan on opening during this COVID-19 period and several individuals shared their specific plans.

Finally, Nancy Kandoian from the New York Public Library shared news that they recently discovered a possibly unique Civil War map. The map in question is this [Map of the battlefield of Antietam](#) (catalog record [here](#)). Since it’s a printed map, presumably it’s not unique, but it would be interesting to know if there are other surviving copies, and if so, where they are. Here is the [Washington Post article](#) about it, and something from the [website of the American Battlefield Trust](#), and the [website of the Adams County Historical Society](#).

j. MAGIRT/GODORT (GIS) Discussion Group (Joy, Wangyal)

Joy reported that Angie Lee provided a “What’s new at Esri” report. For other details see the joint Geotech/GIS DG report in the Appendices below.

k. WAML Liaison Report (Kathryn Rankin)

WAML held an election recently. Evan Thornberry was elected WAML vice president/president elect, and Louise Ratliff was elected secretary. Matthew Toro is

the incoming president. Bruce Godfrey continues as treasurer and Susan Powell is now past president. The new officers take office on July 1st.

WAML members approved a new vision statement: Advancing geospatial excellence in libraries of western North America and beyond.

Members also approved a new mission statement: WAML is a community for promoting excellence in the map and geospatial library profession by:

- Providing a welcoming and inclusive space where professionals and enthusiasts alike can learn, share, thrive, and build expertise;
- Advocating for access to and preservation of geospatial data and collections;
- Energizing our members through networking, mentoring, collaboration, and continuing education.
- Developing and disseminating professional standards and best practices that advance our field.

WAML's Executive Board conducted a survey of the WAML membership to gauge preferences about the 2020 annual meeting in light of COVID-19, which resulted in the decision to hold the meeting virtually. The dates of the virtual 2020 WAML conference will be October 14-16, 2020. Full conference details will be announced over the coming weeks on the WAML website. We tentatively plan to hold the 2021 meeting at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the 2022 meeting will tentatively be held in Hawaii.

7. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Passing of the Gavel to the new Chair

Iris shared heart-felt comments about her year serving as Chair of MAGIRT and how helpful many individuals were to her along the way. She noted that the strength of MAGIRT is its involved members and she knows going forward that this will remain. And we will continue to build on the success of this virtual conference as well as in other areas. She then welcomed Sierra Laddusaw as the new Chair of MAGIRT as of July 1, 2020.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m. eastern time.

APPENDICES FOR REPORTS

MAGIRT TREASURER'S REPORT for June 2020

This report is based the ALA/MAGIRT performance report for the 5 months January 2020.

Overview: Beginning Net Assets for MAGIRT as of August 30, 2019	\$57,281.00
TOTAL INCOME [Sept. 1, 2019-January 31, 2020]	\$ 2,489.00
TOTAL EXPENSES [Sept. 1, 2019-January 31, 2020]	\$7,203.00
Current balance (income minus expenses as of August 30, 2019)	(\$4,715.00)
Total Ending Net Assets for MAGIRT as of January 31, 2020	<u>\$51,566.00</u>

Comments: All but \$20 of the income listed above comes from dues. We are down in dues collection only 9% over budget for this period. The \$20 of income comes from sales.

Expenses have once again exceeded revenue. The bulk of the expenses were posted in January: \$5,334.00 for A/V rental/labor and \$1,488 for conference equipment rental [for the 2020 ALA Midwinter meeting]. If we move to a virtual mid-winter, we will no doubt see a considerable reduction in these costs.

No direct comparison with the previous year is possible as we do not have data for January or February 2019. However, for the 7 months ending March 2019, total YTD income was \$3,582, of which \$3,464 was dues. Ending balance on March 31, 2019 was \$60,388.

Recommendations: Given the very large assets we have been carrying forward for the past several years and the need to increase our membership, I recommend that we establish a scholarship/fellowship for MAGIRT members as part of any membership building campaign we undertake. At any point ALA may decide to scoop a portion of these funds.

Marguerite Ragnow Treasurer, MAGIRT (2019-2020)

MAGIRT Membership Committee meeting notes, June 27th, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom: 11:30am - 12:30 pm (CT)

Attendance: 11

Maggie Long (Wesleyan University), Iris Taylor (Library of Congress), Tammy Wong (Library of Congress), Sierra Laddusaw (Texas A&M University), Louise Ratliff (UCLA, retired), Melinda Sandkam (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Paige Andrew (Penn State University), Craig Haggit (Denver Public Library), Marguerite Ragnow (University of Minnesota), Laura McElfresh (University of Minnesota), Pete Reeling (Univ. of South Florida)

Membership report: 267 MAGIRT members, up from 261 this time one year ago. The membership numbers are from the February 2020 monthly stats report (provided in March 2020). This is the latest report received from ALA office:

Personal 240, Organizational 25, Corporate 2 = Total of 267

(Please note: membership reports are contingent on the financials and unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and moving of the ALA office, the financials are still being reconciled. When it becomes available, an updated report will be provided).

Discussion topics

- Promotional materials

MAGIRT is in need of new promotional materials. All current promotional materials are out of date (brochures) or in very low supply such as notepads, pens. Maggie Long started today's conversation with a follow up from the discussion she and Iris Taylor had at ALA Midwinter conference with the ALA office marketing representative on next steps for MAGIRT to update its promotional materials. We decided as a first step from that conversation, to transit from the use of a tri-fold brochure to a simpler, single leaf, two-sided printed brochure (rack size).

Follow through did not take place until now due to the pandemic situation. The ALA membership office has recently provided MAGIRT with a template (template based on the brochure for NMRT). ALA has also provided MAGIRT a graphic designer to work with the group in designing the new promotional materials.

Design ideas for the brochure generated from the membership committee meeting:

1. It is important to have the brochure viewable on various platforms and not just available as a physical brochure
2. Introduction copy to give a quick description of MAGIRT
3. Use symbols to illustrate the varied disciplines (map librarian, map cataloging, GIS, etc.)-quick snapshot of the field
4. Highlight educational opportunities and quality programming
5. USE Bullet points to highlight what benefits MAGIRT offers. What are benefits it offers exclusively to MAGIRT members?
6. NO QR codes -- preference is to use bitl.ly

Action item: Maggie will set up a meeting with the ALA office to begin the process of creating this item.

Membership benefits (additional benefits to offer our members)

1. Ask an expert. This is an idea to coordinate a list of people (MAGIRT members) who will offer their expert advice to those who need guidance on cataloging, map collection, GIS, etc. This will be a dedicated list beyond asking questions on the listserv. The person will commit to a certain length of time (1 year?) to make themselves available for questions from our MAGIRT members. It would be advisable to have more than one person per subject specialist so to not overwhelm.
2. Educational programs. As most have experienced during the pandemic stay/work at home situation, there have been offerings of talks, presentations, etc. via on-line webinars. This is a cost-effective means of offering educational benefits to our members or guests (perhaps fee-based). Some at the meeting thought favorably to either have these made available for our members, as scheduled online meetings, or

have it available on demand. Educational meetings (mini-conferences) to focus in on learning and professional development, is another idea as well.

Discussion on Membership fees

We followed up on conversations held during the ALA Midwinter conference regarding our current MAGIRT membership fee of \$20.00 for personal memberships and the varied fees other round tables charge. This prompted the idea to consider changing our fee structure to charge less for personal memberships and for student memberships (perhaps \$0.00 for students). However, during Mid-Winter the idea of looking into this further came to a halt when learned from ALA of a plan for all round tables to charge the same personal membership fee of \$20.00. Also proposed is a requirement of each RT to have a certain amount of members that is equal or above 1% of the total ALA membership. The change would not be immediate with a 3-year grace period for RTs to increase their numbers (remember ALA only counts personal memberships) to comply with the 1% requirement.

There has been much discussion about a possible MAGIRT and GODORT merger and we talked about it during this membership committee meeting. It was the consensus of the attendees to move forward for now with the idea of keeping MAGIRT a standalone roundtable and not merge with GODORT. One reason given is the preference to keep MAGIRT as a smaller and more focused group. This discussion was tabled to next meeting.

(For more details, please refer to MAGIRT EB minutes, May 2020 meeting)

Outreach

Library schools, special collections staff and others who do not hold a formal position of a map cataloger, etc., but do catalog maps or have other related job duties.

ALA Connect

MAGIRT members are encouraged by ALA to make better use of ALA Connect. At the upcoming Executive Board meeting, David Sheffieck, from the ALA office will be giving a demonstration of ALA Connect.

ALCTS-CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group

MAGIRT Virtual Annual Meeting 2020, held online via Zoom, Monday, June 29, 2020, 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Number of Attendees: 36

Agenda & abbreviated meeting notes:

- The use of the [MARC 340 field, Physical Medium](#) provides an opportunity for more *granular descriptive information of an item's material/physical properties*.

Question: Is this field used at all in cartographic descriptions and would it be useful? Are there institutions regularly providing data for this MARC field? If not institutional, are there catalogers in the community who regularly add this information into records?

Discussion: No one at the meeting expressed having experience utilizing the 340 field, but there has recently been some discussion in the special collections cataloging community on the use of the 340\$b, to parse out additional detailed information not

usually included in bibliographic records. Example given: map printed on marbled paper. Suggestions: It may be useful for Linked Data, BIBFRAME. Look at it as standardized text or coding for machine manipulation.

Links to RDA Registry submitted during meeting:

<http://www.rdaregistry.info/termList/RDAMaterial/>

<http://www.rdaregistry.info/termList/layout/>

- Examples of cartographic resources in RDA

Question: A request for examples of items that are geological profiles and columnar sections, both as standalone resources and as part of the same resource with a map.

Example provided and discussed: OCLC 320449237

- Atlases: catalog as books or maps?

Question: What is the best approach to catalog an atlas to increase its discoverability in an online catalog when searching for maps. The concern is that some atlases have been cataloged as books/monographs and with the option to perform a more faceted search in the online catalog, these atlases may be filtered out and not appear in the researcher's search for maps. Consensus, based on a Library of Congress decision/policy made in the late 1990s, is that geographic atlases are cartographic resources and should be cataloged as such. It was strongly recommended that map catalogers follow this policy.

Discussion:

- Cataloging tip: Use a rule of thumb to determine how to catalog the item. Does the item include 50% or more of maps (suggested to be a bit flexible with the 50% rule), if so, catalog as a map, if not, a monograph if the maps appear to be more like illustrations in support of the text.
- Make use of the 655 field and add genre terms found in LCGFT, the RBMS controlled vocabularies, Art & Architecture Thesaurus, etc.
- Code the 007 field. Can code the LDR 006 field (optional), additional material characteristics.

GeoTech Committee and GIS Discussion Group meeting report

June 27 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm CST

Lightning talks:

1. Joy Suh from George Mason University informed us that their library has developed an open geoportal (OGP) called Geodata@Mason which is now accessible to the public. Prior to GeoData@Mason (gmutantt.gmu.edu/opengeoportal), the university had a data repository with a file-based web interface to discover and access collected geospatial data. With this new geoportal, users not only can search for data by keyword, topic, data type, and repository but also can access other data curated by repositories participating in the OGP project. There has been a big hurdle related to maintaining staffing levels with programming language skills. Once the George Mason Libraries hired a digital development staff member in the summer of 2019,

the implementation process went smoothly. Currently, 20% of the repository data are loaded. There is still more work to do with updating metadata and uploading the data that are stored in the repository.

2. Nicole Kong from Purdue University informed us about MAGIRT's Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections project. The new *Online Guide* will include a searchable map interface so that collections can be easily identified and located geographically. GeoTech committee members participated with the task force to provide technology support. The current survey is available through Survey123, and the online map is available on ArcGIS Online. Any GeoTech committee member is welcome to participate in the task force, either as regional coordinators or to provide technology support.
3. Tsering Wangyal Shawa from Princeton University talked about two projects he is working on right now. One is a project to scan and georeference 250,000 scale topographic maps of the Indian subcontinent. Once the project is done, he will publish the mosaic map in their Digital Maps and Geospatial Data Portal (<https://maps.princeton.edu/>). The other project is to create orthomosaics of historical aerial photographs of Northern Namibia taken in 1943 and 1970.

Possible Project:

We discussed the possibility of creating an open source geocoding database by downloading all the U.S. states' road networks with address range databases. We will explore whether it is possible or not.

Future MAGIRT Webinar topics on GIS:

Joy asked for topics from the audience that are suitable for future MAGIRT webinars in the coming year. Offering webinar series by each discussion group or committee of MAGIRT is one of the acting items decided on by the MAGIRT board members.

Product updates:

Angela Lee updated us on Esri's new products related to GIS, focusing on cloud-based GIS packages. "ArcGIS Notebook", a GPU based big data analysis and visualization software package for data research scientists, will be released next week. The "Social Equity and Health" map has been added to Esri Maps for Public Policy via livingatlas.arcgis.com. Esri also provides a resource page on "Returning to Campus Safely" that includes location tracking best practice solutions.

Mike Peters from East View informed us that East View has recently acquired 100k vector data over Cuba as well as census rounds from Cuba from 2002 and 2012. That census data will be part of the growing Global Census Aggregation Initiative that includes a formal proposal to the Council on Research Libraries (CRL) to digitize and deliver not just more-current GIS data, but also historical published census volumes and associated ephemera from Latin American countries covering approximately the year 1900-forward.

At the end, Tsering Wangyal Shawa, GeoTech chair, thanked the people who attended the virtual meeting on the weekend and encouraged those non-MAGIRT members who were at the meeting to join the organization, if possible. Membership in MAGIRT will give them opportunities to become leaders in our organization and give them the chance to contribute to our profession.



WAML/MAGIRT Webinar on JHU COVID-19 Dashboard

Lessons Learned from the JHU Global COVID-19 Map Best Practices for Public GIS Projects

Please join us for the next free webinar co-hosted by MAGIRT and WAML on **Friday, 14 August, at 2pm EDT / 11am PDT**. It will be a great talk, so mark your calendars and spread the word! Information is below, including the Zoom link.

Our speakers will be Mara Blake and Reina Murray from Johns Hopkins University Library. Mara Blake leads the data services team in the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University (JHU), which provides services that help students, faculty, and researchers find, use, visualize, manage, and share data. Reina Murray is the geospatial data curator and applications administrator in the Sheridan Libraries of JHU. She curates geospatial data and supports research and instruction using geospatial technologies.

The JHU Global COVID-19 dashboard started in January 2020 as a small project with a graduate student and faculty member from the Center for System Science and Engineering and grew to serve as a global resource during the pandemic. The JHU Sheridan Libraries joined the team early on and balanced supporting the project with managing the ESRI educational site license and supporting the use of GIS for students, faculty, and staff. Based on experiences with the JHU Global COVID-19 Dashboard, the talk will present recommendations for those administering an ESRI Education Site License and supporting users of GIS to successfully develop and maintain public-facing GIS projects.

Date/Time **Friday, August 14th, 2PM EDT**

Zoom link <https://ala-events.zoom.us/j/97746373628>

Kevin Dyke



MAGIRT Connect page. For all the resources you need to know about what is happening inside MAGIRT.

<https://connect.ala.org/magirt/home>

NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

"Conscience is a man's compass, and though the needle sometimes deviates, though one often perceives irregularities when directing one's course by it, one must still try to follow its direction."

- Vincent van Gogh (1882)

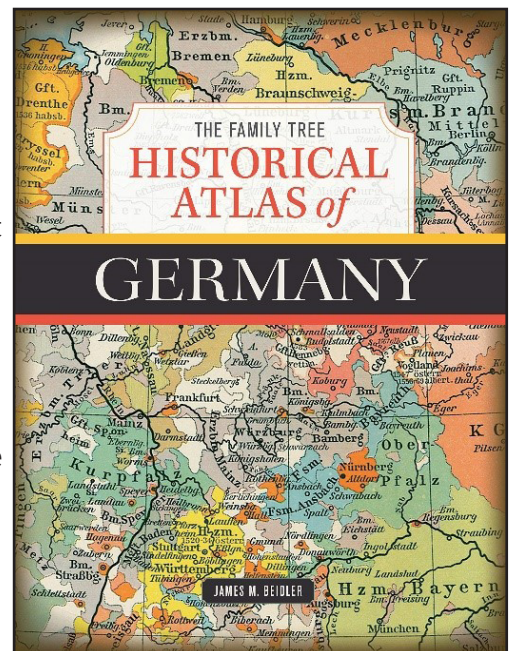
Introduction

Where did the summer go? David Bertuca posed this exact question in his August *New Maps* columns in 2013 (base line 34(4): 29) and 2014 (base line 35(4): 15). Here in Buffalo, New York it seems we get such a short time to enjoy sunshine and warmth before the snow piles back up. For those of us in academic libraries, we struggle with the illusion of free time at work with fewer students around (but somehow, we always find a way to be busy). Summertime during a pandemic is different. Flocking to festivals and parties is no longer an option, so I have a chance to slow down and enjoy solo time appreciating nature's beauty in my state parks and very own backyard. I've also enjoyed reading more books than during a normal busy summer, and am excited to share these selections.

Books

Beidler, James M. *The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany*. Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books, 2019. (ISBN: 9781440354649). 239 p.: color maps. Hardcover list price: \$34.99.

I lurk on the listserv for a genealogy group hosted by a library colleague. Recent conversations focused on the difficulty of finding the origin of German ancestors. The author of *The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany* sums up the dilemma of Germany's "non-linear" political history: "you can't draw a straight line from ancient, medieval, or even early-modern Germany to today's Bundesrepublik Deutschland" (p. 8). Family researchers without a basic understanding of the changing borders and names of German villages are unable to track down their ancestors' hometowns and vital records. I broke my silence on the listserv and recommended *The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany* to the distraught genealogist. James M. Beidler is known for two previously published titles on the theme,



The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Germanic Ancestry in Europe (2014) and *Trace Your German Roots Online* (2016). The newest addition arranges historical and contemporary maps into distinct chapters centered on significant events in German history, making it easier for readers to understand vast changes to Germany's geography since the rise of the Holy Roman Empire.

The "German History Highlights" preceding Part One provides a "crash course lesson in the history of German-speaking lands" (p. 8). This summary of Germany's "messy history" is intended to help genealogists track changes in administrative boundaries and state religions to help readers searching for civil and religious records. This eight-page crash course is a great review resource for students of European history.

The remainder of the book is divided into eight chapters: The Era of Germanic Tribes -- The Middles Ages -- From the Thirty Years War to Napoleon -- Nineteenth-Century Germany -- Regional and State Maps -- Twentieth-Century Germany -- Modern-Day Religions and Demographic Maps -- Other German-Speaking Lands. These chapters contain less text and focus primarily on maps. Each chapter begins with one page detailing significant historical events influencing the maps provided for the era. Timelines are also given in the introduction to each part. Five to 30 maps for each time period are included. A date and note highlighting historical context are labeled on each one to two-page map.

The maps in Parts One through Three show vast areas of Europe, whereas remaining chapters focus on Germany in particular. The author explains this is intentional. The goal is to represent areas referred to as "ethnically German", and the difference between speaking a Germanic dialect (*Germanische*) and the German language (*Deutsche*) is pointed out (p. 16). The oldest maps in the book show Germanic tribes circa 264BC-128AD. The author notes some may question why these maps are included as they represent mere guesses as to where Germanic tribes traveled and settled. The significance of the Germanic tribes' "meandering" nature on DNA testing today is explained. Many DNA test takers receive vague results regarding their German ancestry, but some see the German genetic breakdown pinpointed to other countries such as Britain or Scandinavia. Knowledge of how Germanic tribes migrated can help DNA test takers understand their results.

Part Five includes 30 maps showing specific states and regions for "every area of Germany today" (p. 86). The author refers to this chapter as the "meat" of the book, and I don't disagree. These maps are most valuable to ancestry researchers as they are incredibly detailed. For each region, the reader is shown two maps - one from the late eighteenth century and one from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. These are shown chronologically allowing readers to compare the name and boundary changes.

Parts Six through Nine bring readers into the twentieth century and focus on boundary changes following the world wars. Thematic religious and linguistic maps round out the book's content.

As mentioned, one issue genealogists face is the complexity of tracking German versus German-speaking ancestors. This is visited in the final chapter, which includes maps of Switzerland, Austria and other countries with a high density of German speakers.

This book provides a thorough overview of the boundary, naming, religious and linguistic changes to Germany and surrounding Europe with a variety of maps. However, there are some formatting and style issues that affect the readability of this atlas. The minimal text accompanying the individual maps may help draw attention to the maps' content, but the maps are lacking accompanying citation information. Map sources are provided in the back matter of the book. Although they are listed in order of appearance, they do not include the page number each map is found on. As this atlas contains historical and contemporary maps, it is preferable for citations to be given on the same page to help readers easily identify if they are seeing an original map and to provide further context. Years of situations and author notes regarding historical context or geographical changes are identified on the map page, yet readers may be frustrated flipping to the back pages to find detailed source information.

In addition to citation confusion, small portions of maps are shown. According to the preface, this is due to the format of the book. The author suggests using a magnifying glass while viewing the maps. While geographical notes do help, including a larger map with an inset of the focus area would help readers identify where the map fits in the broader geographical area of Germany and Europe.

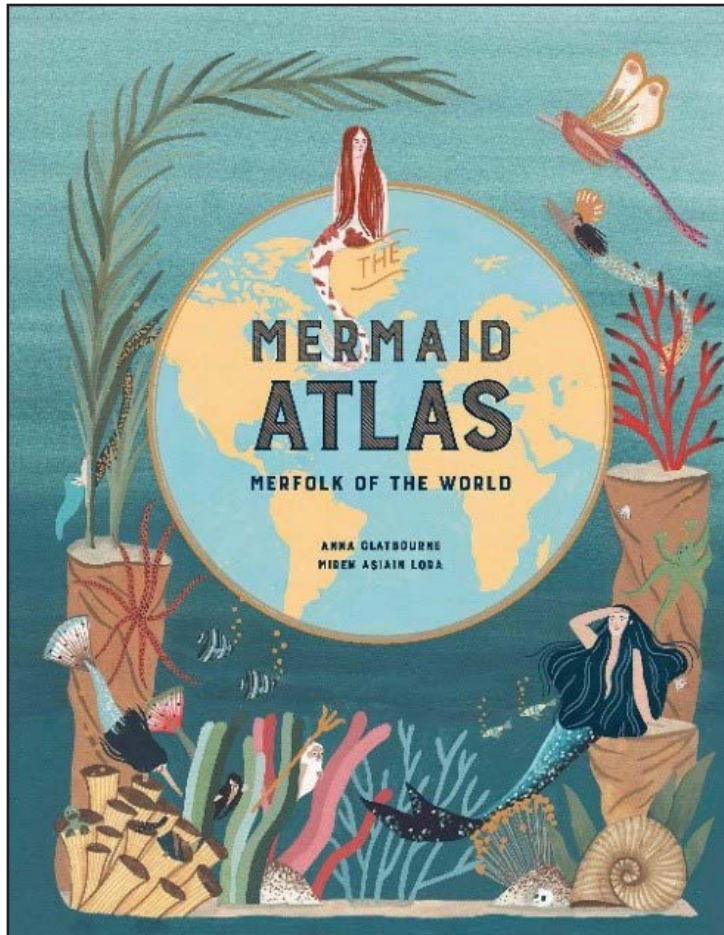
The author gives readers a three-page German Glossary, which lists English equivalents of German names for geographic terms (such as Bavaria for Bayern and Lower Saxony for Niedersachsen), as well as a list of German jurisdiction and nobility terms.

The Map Sources pages at the end of the book direct readers to where to find the original maps. Many entries from the David Rumsey Map Collection, Library of Congress, Wikimedia Commons and German websites appear, making the likelihood of finding those maps high. However, most citations for the oldest maps refer to private collections. Readers may be at the mercy of viewing just what the atlas' shows without the ability to track the complete maps down in an accessible collection.

Overall, this book is quite valuable for attempting to comprehend the geography of Germany. The glossary itself is an excellent quick reference tool for libraries with German map collections. This atlas is a good addition to collections serving genealogists or populations with a large German ancestry, and collections with a focus on German history or maps.

Claybourne, Anna and Miren Asiain Lora. ***The Mermaid Atlas: Merfolk of the World***. London, UK: Laurence King Publishing Ltd, 2020. (ISBN: 9781786275844). 44 p.: color illustrations. Hardcover list price: \$19.99.

Children and adults fascinated with the familiar image of a beautiful female mermaid popularized by *The Little Mermaid* and Barbie dolls may be surprised to learn about the variety of human-fish creatures found in legends across the globe. ***The Mermaid Atlas: Merfolk of the World*** describes unique merfolk including mermen, seal-women (Selkies), the "human fish" Ningyo, tentacled Siyokoy and the shark-human god Dakuwaqa. Ariel fans won't be disappointed - "the world-famous Little Mermaid" makes an appearance in this atlas in the Europe chapter (p.12).



The Contents page of this atlas features a world map illustrated with animals such as a kangaroo in Australia, a camel in North Africa and a bald eagle in the United States. The chapters alternate between covering a continent and a specific topic related to mermaids: The World of Mermaids -- Europe -- Mermaid Homes -- Africa -- Ancient Mermaids -- Asia -- Mermaid Magic -- Oceania -- Mistaken for Mermaids -- North America -- Mermaid Sightings -- South America. Each region chapter begins with a map of a continent illustrated with pictures of fauna, flora, architecture and ships. Different kinds of “mermaids” are shown in the region where stories of their existence originate. The name of the mercreature is accompanied by a short one-sentence description and a label for the country it comes from.

Descriptions of each region introducing the chapter may lead readers to further exploration on a topic. For example, fjords and lochs are mentioned in the Europe introduction, but no definition is given (p. 8). The pages following the continent map provide longer descriptions and detailed illustrations of the mercreatures.

I read the eBook version of this book using Adobe Digital Editions. I haven't had the easiest time adjusting to virtual collection development, as maps originally published in a physical book may be cut off on screen. I did not have any issues viewing the maps or illustrations in this particular atlas with the “Fit Width” setting selected.

I don't have a specific interest in mermaid lore, but I found this book thoroughly enjoyable. The typography and illustrations are gorgeous (dare I say: magical). The topical chapters alternating with the regional content focus on a theme related to mermaids (for example, mermaid sightings). These chapters, designed to look like old newspaper clippings, provide a nice break from reading encyclopedia-type entries about the mercreatures.

This book would be a great addition to a school or public library, and is a must for mermaid collectors. This mermaid atlas compliments the *Myth Atlas* (de Moraes, 2019) featured in January 2020's base line.

Foer, Joshua, Dylan Thuras, and Ella Morton. *Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders*. Second edition. New York: Workman Publishing, 2019. (ISBN: 9780761169086). 472 pages, color illustrations, color maps. Hardcover list price: \$37.50.

I am a longtime fan of the Atlas Obscura website (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/>), an online travel guide highlighting mysterious locations in the world. *base line* readers are familiar with Atlas Obscura from David's review of the first edition of *Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders* (*base line* 37 (6): 15) and Jo's recap of his review (*base line* 40 (2): 27). A second edition of the atlas was published late last year. With travel still largely impossible this summer, it seems to be the right time to visit strange locales and peek at oddities in the pages of this newest release.

The cover of this updated edition boasts "100 New, Far-Flung Destinations and Images". The atlas also includes 12 brand new city guides and a foldout world map. Reading this edition nearly four years following the 2016 publication, I had hoped for a list of the 100 new destinations so to avoid realizing midway I was rereading an entry. While there is no handy guide to the 100 new entries, there is a website post listing 39 of those new destinations. According to the article *39 New Places in the Second-Edition Atlas Obscura Book* (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/lists/new-places-atlas-obscura-2nd-edition>), a few of the new locations are:

EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Japan, North Korea, and South Korea, see page 151

CHINA

BEIJING

Dragon Escalator

Hangjia Temple

Guofang Tunnel

Mount Hua

Bozhou Herb Market

Shanghai Marriage Market

Tongzi Dan

Tuned Mass Damper

Zhushan Tunnel

HONG KONG

Central-Mid Levels Escalators

TAIWAN

East China Sea

PHILIPPINE SEA

PHILIPPINES

LUZON

North Cemetery

Manila

CHOCOLATE HILLS

MINDANAO

VIETNAM

HANGING COFFINS

LAOS

Plain of Jars

Buddha Park

THE LAKE

CAMBODIA

PHNOM PENH

CO-CHI TUNNELS

THAILAND

BANGKOK

Disposal of To Prachin

BAMBOO TUNNEL

MYANMAR

YANGON

Kyaukse Pagoda

King Medical Museum

Mane of Chaurahat Street

HILL GARDEN

GULF OF THAILAND

INDIAN OCEAN

INDONESIA

Sumatra

JAKARTA

Gereja Ayam

JAVA

BORNEO

Funeral Rite of Tasa Teras

SALABONG

BANDA SEA

INDONESIA

Timor

Ascending the Longjing Gorge in serpentine style.

East Asia

CHINA

DRAGON ESCALATOR

BEIJING

Located roughly 53 miles (85.3 km) north of Beijing, Longjing Gorge is a pleasant change of pace from the crowded streets of China's capital. Home to the country's largest dam, the otherwise tranquil surroundings are shaded by a gigantic dragon escalator.

The bright yellow behemoth, which takes riders to the top of the dam, rises 846 feet (257.9 m). At the top you can have even more adventures, including a ride in a cable car or a boat trip on the artificial lake. If a boat ride sounds too slow for you, you can always bungee jump into the gorge.

You can ride the giant escalator as much as you want, but unfortunately, it only goes up. To come down, you can either take the stairs or pay a little extra to ride the toboggan.

Buses run from the Deshengmen bus terminal in Beijing to Gusheng, a short walk from the gorge. The journey takes around an hour. © 40.455704

115.974999

- World’s Largest Beaver Dam in Canada, which is half-mile long and appears on satellite images (p. 265)
- Lahore Fort Elephant Path in Pakistan, including massive stairs large enough to allow mounted elephants to pass (p. 136)
- The Milky Seas in Somalia, the largest bioluminescent area only recently discovered (p. 218)
- Razzouk Ink in Israel, where the Razzouk family has been responsible for tattooing pilgrims since 1300 (p. 116)
- Spacecraft Cemetery in New Zealand, where unmanned satellites, astronaut poop and a space station have been scuttled on the ocean floor (p. 251)

Atlas Obscura lists destinations by country under a general continent or region chapter. If you have a trip planned, this will help you find curiosities to visit on your way. Each country section begins with a half or full-page map of the region showing the highlighted locations. There are only two other maps in this atlas. One is a two-page thematic map showing the locations of lake monsters in the United States (Lake Monsters of the USA, p. 376-377). Each spot is marked by the outline of the type of creature rumored to live there, for example, a Nessie, Giant Turtle, Webbed Hominid or Giant Eel Pig. The pullout map advertised on the cover spans approximately 3 pages. It charts a route through 80 of the entries, starting with the Antarctic Sculpture Garden, working back to the Southern Pole of Inaccessibility. This unique map is a Buckminster Fuller Dymaxion map that “becomes a round Earth with one continuous landmass” when folded - which I didn’t do since I borrowed this copy from my library. A longer entry detailing the history of the Dymaxion map is given (p. 436).

Some may wonder if it is necessary to purchase this edition if they already own the first. The pullout map is a fun addition, and it is hard to ignore 100 new destinations to explore. If that isn’t enough justification, map librarians have another reason to check out this atlas. The Mapparium in the Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston is new to this edition (p. 378). Visitors to the Mapparium can stand on the glass walkway in this three-story tall stained glass inside-out globe and view the earth without distortion.

Conclusion

I’ve grown tired of staring at screens for Zoom meetings and daily tasks, so please forgive me for not including any web resources this month. I have a few fun items lined up to review for October. Stay safe, and see you then!



Passing of the Gavel

With a bit of magic, the annual MAGIRT tradition of “Passing of the Gavel” continues.

Please welcome Sierra Laddusaw as the new Chair of MAGIRT for 2020-21. Her duties as Chair started at the conclusion of the ALA MAGIRT Annual conference this past June. I’m sure we all look forward to making MAGIRT a great round table under her leadership. We also want to give a BIG Thank You!! to Iris Taylor for serving as Chair during 2019-20. She will now fill the role of Past-Chair. A hearty congratulations to both.



Great Moments In Map Librarianship by Jim Coombs

THIS IS WIERD! WE'RE AT HOME ATTENDING A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING, BUT OUR COMPUTER SCREENS SHOW US SITTING AT THE CONFERENCE HOTEL BAR WITH MAPS FOR BODIES!



DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT IT JUST GOT WIERDER! THE GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR IS TRYING TO CHECK US OUT!

