

base line

a newsletter of the

Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

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

**Volume 42, Number 3
June 2021**



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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Advertising Rates: For one issue: full page \$100; half page \$50; quarter page \$25. Opposite "Great Moments in Map Librarianship": full page \$150; half page \$80; quarter page \$40.

Send graphics as an: .AI, .PDF, .JPG, or .GIF file and 300 dpi or better. Send text documents in: Cambria 12 point. Send files as an email attachment to the editor. Submissions may be edited and re-formatted to the extent necessary to fit the size and space allotted for each issue. Final full-page size is 8 x 10 inches. Advertisers will be invoiced. Please make payments to the MAGIRT Treasurer, payable in U.S. dollars to ALA-MAGIRT.

base line is published electronically six times a year: in February, April, June, August, October, and December. All older issues of base line are now freely available on the MAGIRT website.

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

American Library Association personal and institutional members may choose MAGIRT membership for \$20.00 (personal) or \$60.00 (institutional) by so advising the American Library Association, 50 W. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

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Published by the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table



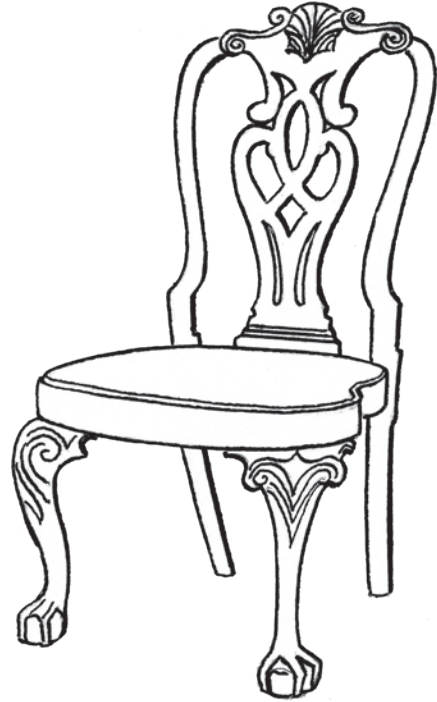
FROM THE CHAIR

SIERRA LADDUSAW

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

What a year, plus, we've had. I want to thank everyone for their continued commitment to our organization and applaud the innovative ways we have adapted during the covid pandemic to continue our mission. I have several people and groups I want to express my appreciation to:

- Iris Taylor has been invaluable, always there to answer questions. She has also decided to continue on the leadership board as Treasure-Elect!
- Min Zhang has brought enthusiasm as Chair-Elect, planning our online social gatherings and helping us continue to feel connected while apart.
- The leadership team for the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections have done an outstanding job in developing the project, bringing together Regional Coordinators, and advertising the project. The map continues to grow!
- Our Education Committee, chaired by Kevin Dyke, and Membership/Marketing Committee, chaired by Maggie Long, provided us with educational webinars during the past year and new marketing materials!



I would also like to congratulate our newly elected board members: Kevin Dyke (chair-elect), Iris Taylor (treasurer-elect), and Laura Kane McElfresh (secretary). I look forward to continuing to work with each of you and am grateful that you've chosen to take on these leadership responsibilities!

MAGIRT's ALA Annual conference is being held virtually again on June 26th and 28th. The schedule is available on the MAGIRT website's conference page. One of my favorite events each year is our Honors Award Ceremony, which is scheduled for June 26th. I hope you can join us in the celebration!

It has been an honor to serve as MAGIRT's Chair this past year and I look forward to my time as Past Chair. As the pandemic is, hopefully, winding down I will shift from reminding you to wash your hands and wear a mask (those these are still great things!) to encouraging you to get vaccinated, if you haven't already and are able to. I hope to see you in person in San Antonio in January 2022 for LibLearnX or Washington, DC in June 2022 for ALA Annual!



MAGIRT FREE VIRTUAL ANNUAL 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

June 23-29, 2021

HOW TO ATTEND

All MAGIRT Virtual Annual 2021 meetings will be conducted via Zoom.
 Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://ala-events.zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0qdumqrzksHNOFZEBtUr3lXr5Z4Fvgt1Fc>
 After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting agendas will be available by early June 2021.

DATE Saturday 6/26/2021

ALL TIMES LISTED ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

Time	Meeting	Contact
11:30AM-12:30PM	Membership and Marketing Committee	Maggie M. Long E-mail: mlong01@wesleyan.edu
1:00PM-2:00PM	Education Committee	Kevin Dyke Email: kdyke@okstate.edu
2:30PM-3:30PM	Map Collection Management Discussion Group	Craig Haggit Email: khaggit@denverlibrary.org
4:00PM-5:00PM	Honors Award Ceremony/Virtual HH	Min Zhang Email: mizh@loc.gov

DATE Monday 6/28/2021

ALL TIMES LISTED ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

Time	Meeting	Contact
10:30AM-11:30am	Geographic Technologies (GeoTech) Committee & Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Discussion Group	Wangyal Shawa E-mail: shawatw@Princeton.edu Joy Suh Email: hsuh1@gmu.edu
1:30PM-2:30PM	Cataloging of Cartographic Resources Interest Group	Maggie Long Email: mlong01@wesleyan.edu
12:00PM-1:00PM	Cataloging and Classification Committee	Tim Kiser E-mail: tkiser@msu.edu
3:00PM-4:30PM	Membership/Exec I & II	Sierra Laddusaw Email: sladdusaw@library.tamu.edu

[For further information about the MAGIRT Virtual Annual 2021 meeting schedule, please contact MAGIRT Chair](#)

[Sierra Laddusaw \(sladdusaw@library.tamu.edu\)](mailto:sladdusaw@library.tamu.edu)

[For further information about MAGIRT, visit our website:](#)

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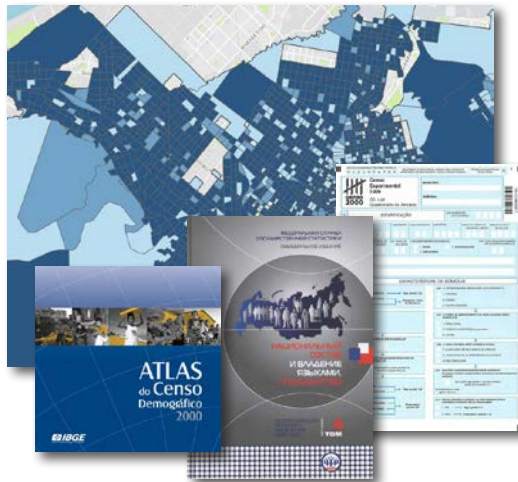
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ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Library of Congress Cataloging Updates

GENERAL CATALOGING

Cataloger's Desktop. The Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs (LS/ABA/PTCP) and Business Enterprises (OCOO/LE/BE) divisions successfully procured contract support from Accenture Federal Services to maintain and develop Cataloger's Desktop, a cornerstone system of the Library's metadata policy publication program used by the Library of Congress and more than 750 institutions around the world. PTCP will work with Accenture to continue to provide cataloging and metadata practitioners with full-text, searchable access to existing resources such as metadata policy manuals and cataloging community listservs while developing access to new resources such as the upcoming RDA Toolkit revision and the Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements for RDA. Cataloger's Desktop includes cataloging standards created by the Library (such as Library of Congress Subject Headings and LC Classification) as well as resources created by other organizations and libraries.

Program for Cooperative Cataloging. The Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP) provided the secretariat for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), an international consortium of more than 700 institutions that catalog to mutually agreed standards in order to share their metadata, provide training, and conduct research and standards development. The four PCC component programs are NACO, the Name Authority Cooperative; SACO, the Subject/Classification Authority Cooperative; BIBCO, the Bibliographic Record Cooperative for monographs; and CONSER, Cooperative Online Serials. The PCC announced a freeze on new memberships throughout fiscal 2020 in order to focus on preparing for the RDA Beta implementation.

Production of standardized catalog records was a primary activity for the PCC, although pandemic conditions affected production this year. Compared to the previous year, CONSER's fiscal 2020 production of 15,394 newly authenticated bibliographic records was an increase of 1.4%, but new monograph records in BIBCO decreased by 28 percent, to 48,758. Creation of new NACO authority records decreased 23 percent, to 169,442. SACO proposals for 439 new Library of Congress Classification numbers represented an increase of 55.1%. SACO proposals for new Library of Congress Subject Headings increased 22 percent, to 1,428. New LC Classification proposals decreased by 2%, to 319 new numbers.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING

Documentation. The Descriptive Cataloging Manual and LC Guidelines received a high number of updates in the August 2020 and October 2020 updates. A majority of these updates were to change the name of PSD to PTCP and similar minor formatting changes. The more significant updates were for:

- DCM B5 App. 5
- DCM Z1
- Added 388 field page
- Changed note in 337 page
- Updated 678 page

RDA LC-PCC Policy Statements. The beta RDA Toolkit is now the official version, as of December 15, 2020. As part of the preparation by the Library of Congress and Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) for this transition, the LC-PCC RDA Policy Statement project team has completed writing more than 7,500 LC-PCC Policy Statements. While these draft policy statements will be included in the new official RDA Toolkit, they are not final versions. Every one of the policy statements must be reviewed, revised (if needed), and tested before being accepted as the final version. The LC-PCC RDA Policy Statement project team is based in the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP), overseen by PTCP Chief Judith Cannan. For some background information on the LC-PCC PS project please consult the document LC-PCC Policy Statements in the beta RDA Toolkit available at <https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/documents/PoCo-2019/BetaRDA-PoCo-Decisions.pdf>

SUBJECT CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION

Cataloging Source. Beginning in February 2021, all authority records distributed for LC subject headings, genre/form terms, medium of performance terms, and demographic group terms will have the fill character (|) in the cataloging source byte of the fixed field (008/39). Previously, the coding was either [blank] (national cataloging agency) or c (cooperative cataloging program). In 2020, PTCP became aware of inconsistencies in the coding that led to validation errors and had the potential to cause some systems to reject the records. The change in coding affects new records and records that are revised for another reason. There are no plans to update the coding on all of the existing records. The change in coding practice does not affect name authority records.

Bibliographic record control numbers in authority records. The citation for the work being cataloged is the first MARC 670 field provided in proposals for subject headings, genre/form terms, medium of performance terms, and demographic group terms. According to longstanding policy, field 670 subfield \$a contained the LC bibliographic record control number (i.e., the LCCN) if applicable, the main entry, the title, and the publication date of the work.

Beginning in July 2020, the bibliographic record control number is contained in subfield \$w, which appears as the last element in the field. The control number itself is preceded by the MARC code for the agency to which the control number applies, enclosed in parentheses. For example:

Citation formatted according to former policy:

670 ## \$a Work cat: 2015300502: Finding Julia, 2014: \$b p. 13 (Bollinger family) p. 11 (Bollinger County, Missouri was named after George Frederick Bollinger, b. 1770. His German ancestors migrated from Zurich, Switzerland to Philadelphia in 1738)

Citation formatted according to current policy:

670 ## \$a Work cat: Finding Julia, 2014: \$b p. 13 (Bollinger family) p. 11 (Bollinger County, Missouri was named after George Frederick Bollinger, b. 1770. His German ancestors migrated from Zurich, Switzerland to Philadelphia in 1738) \$w (DLC)2015300502

The LCCN is provided in LCSH proposals made by LC catalogers. The LCCN should also be provided in SACO proposals made for CIPs that are cataloged in the CIP Partnership Program. "Work cat" citations in other SACO proposals may contain a single subfield \$w that reflects either the local control number of the SACO institution or a bibliographic utility control number (e.g., the OCLC number). Subfield \$w is not required for SACO proposals, other than for those made to support CIP cataloging.

Citations in existing authority records will not be revised to move to subfield \$w an LCCN that appears in subfield \$a, nor to add a control number to a citation that does not currently include a control number. When proposals are made to revise existing records, the citation for the work prompting the proposal should be formatted according to the new policy.



Congratulations to our newly elected MAGIRT board members:

Kevin Dyke, Chair-Elect
Iris Taylor, Assistant Treasurer/Treasurer-Elect
Laura Kane McElfresh, Secretary

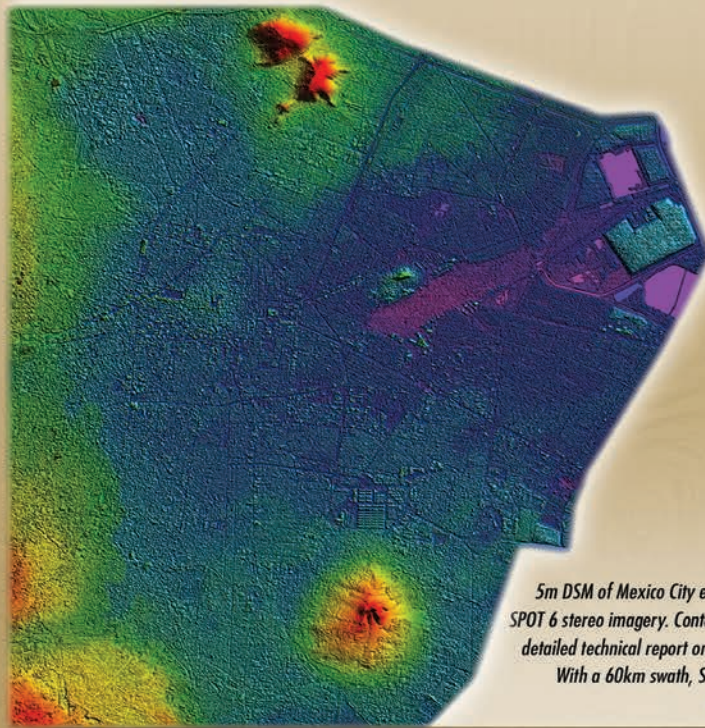
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5m DSM of Mexico City extracted from 1.5m SPOT 6 stereo imagery. Contact LAND INFO for a detailed technical report on processing/results. With a 60km swath, SPOT 6/7 is ideal for large-area projects.

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NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

"I never liked maps. Folded up, they were the size of diner napkins, but unfolded, a map had the surface area of a dining room table. In the car, often your choice was either stop and open it or keep it folded and look through the windshield; you couldn't do both at the same time. Maps were infernal, unholy things but not just because they were unwieldy. What I hated was that they decreased the possibility of a wrong turn. Maps reduced chance. They put you in control, and that felt dangerous."

- Augusten Burroughs, *Toil & Trouble: A Memoir* (2019)

Introduction

Summer is upon us. Here in Western New York, we are mentally and physically preparing for a return to campus. I have a growing pile of wonderful 2021 publications, but unfortunately the deadline for this issue of *base line* snuck up on me! Please accept these reviews and a promise for more in the future as an apology for a short column this month.

Books

Albanese, Lara and Tommaso Vidus Rosin. *Space Maps*. Greenbelt, Maryland: What on Earth Books, 2020 (ISBN: 9781912920563). 87 pages: color illustrations, color maps; 38 cm. Hardcover list price: \$30.00.

I've reviewed three space atlases in recent months (*base line* 41 (6): 11-12, *base line* 41 (5): 17-18), but none of them delighted me as much as the aptly named *Space Maps*. When my loan from the local public library expired, I immediately purchased a copy for my family's growing collection of atlases. The illustrations are colorful and fun. My toddler loves looking at the planets (which she calls "balls"), and the 11-year old also finds the book useful. As we were watching an old episode of the 1990s television show *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, we wondered at the ability of the characters to ski on Mars. We used this atlas to investigate whether there really are snow and volcanoes on the planet. Spoiler alert: There are indeed volcanoes on Mars, but at an average temperature of -81 degrees Fahrenheit, it may be a bit too cold for a ski trip (p. 42-43).



At the outset of the book, readers are advised to “look out for the galactic guide”, an illustrated three-eyed creature that “knows where to find all the best sights in the galaxy” (p. 4). This is similar to the two adventurers appearing in the pages of *Atlas of Adventures* (base line 41 (6): 13). Giving young readers characters to follow throughout the pages is a playful way to encourage exploring the maps.

Speaking of maps... the illustrations in this atlas are simpler versions of many of the maps appearing in Smithsonian's *Space Atlas* (base line 41 (5): 17-18). The authors begin by mapping what readers are likely to see from their vantage point in “The Scientific Map of the Sky” chapter's star chart (p. 6-7). Basic concepts to know when reading sky maps are explained in these first pages, such as why there are two charts for each map and how to identify constellations. The following maps in this section inspire readers to consider alternate views of the sky in an equatorial map of the sky, as well as images of the same constellations as named by Ancient Greeks, Chinese and South African astronomers (p. 8-15).

The second section of the book, titled “Where Are We?”, aims to place Earth's location within the Milky Way and ultimately the universe. Basic maps of our own solar system (p. 24-25), Earth (p. 28-29), light pollution (p. 30-31) and our Moon (p. 32-33) are included here. The third section reaches out to other planets, some of their moons and asteroids. The third section maps “what is beyond our solar system”, including the skies behind Ursa Major (p. 60-61) and Orion (p. 62-63); “The Large Magellanic Cloud” (LMC), a satellite galaxy of Milky Way (p. 64-65); the remnants of a supernova in “The Crab Nebula” (p. 66-67); and detected exoplanets (p. 68-69).

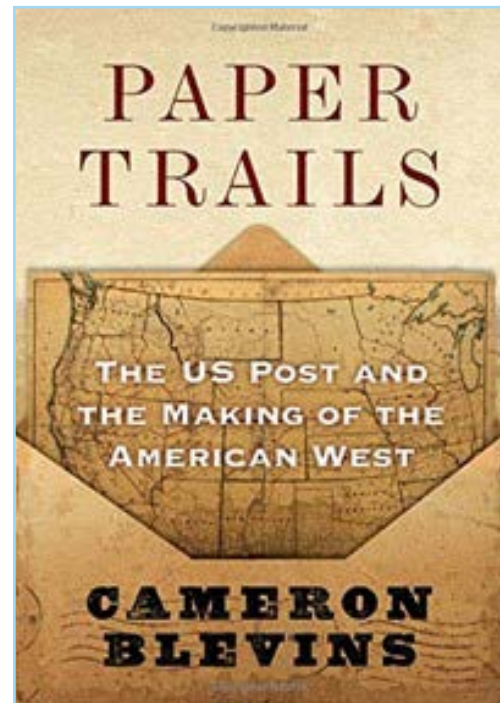
Space exploration is accounted for throughout each section in the maps showing journeys of probes around the solar system (p. 26-27), locations of lunar mission landings (p. 34-35), and an illustration of some of the orbiters, landers and rovers that have been sent to Mars (p. 44-45). The topic of human exploration of space is covered in the book's final pages, as well, with maps of Earth's atmosphere (p. 72-73), astronomical observatories located across the globe (p. 74-75), an astronaut's space suit (p. 78-79), the Soyuz spacecraft (p. 80-81) and the International Space Station (p. 82-83). The maps in this book vary in detail, but the “Map of Earth's Artificial Satellites” is especially ambitious (p. 76-77). Although each satellite isn't identified, the cartographer uses hundreds of dots to represent both the working satellites and non-working satellites that still orbit the earth (defined as “space junk”). Larger illustrations of satellites are accompanied by descriptions of their functions.

Like many children's atlases, some of the illustrations are oversized. The maps are not drawn to scale and the location of some objects are approximate, but overall this is a good introduction to the topics of space exploration and celestial cartography. Each chapter includes definitions and facts related to the main content, and each illustration of a planet, the Sun and some moons is accompanied by an “Identity Card” giving basic information when appropriate, including the body's mass, diameter, temperature, time of revolution, time of rotation and composition. The authors are transparent when information isn't included on a map. For example, the absence of moons, other large objects, and “several

dwarf planets, many moons, asteroids, and comets, and an awful lot of dust” is noted (p. 24). In addition, the text accompanying the map of Jupiter explains only one side of the planet is shown because the planet is gaseous and “always moving” (p. 46-47). The pages of this book are overflowing with data and factoids, and the explanations for absent information are appreciated.

Blevins, Cameron. *Paper Trails: The US Post and the Making of the American West*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021 (ISBN: 9780190053673). 248 pages: black and white illustrations and maps, 27 cm. Hardcover list price: \$34.95.

I believe I have taken the United States Postal Service for granted. I complained when greeting cards from Grandma arrived shredded, lamented the closing of a distribution center in my hometown and bought stamps in bulk in 2020 when it seemed the agency needed our support the most. However, I never marveled at the vast scale of operations of the US Postal Service. Nowadays we receive packages from overseas mere days after ordering items online, and don't think twice about it. Back in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, as the United States was fighting its Civil War while expanding its borders ever westward, the US Postal Service had a surprisingly similar turnaround time for the delivery of letters across the country. *Paper Trails* seeks to answer the simplest question: how was this possible?



Author Cameron Blevins describes the history of the US Postal Service from the mid-nineteenth century to today, coining the phrase “gossamer network” to depict the rapidly changing threads of the “gauzy web” of the institution and its routes (p. 9). He suggests the agency was able to move mail efficiently due to the placement of post offices in existing businesses, where the offices could be opened and closed quickly in response to local demand. Regarding the latter point, his own maps show the growing and declining numbers of post offices over short periods of time. In an effort to highlight the importance of the people participating in this gossamer network, Blevins shares stories of siblings moving west, cartographers grappling with mapping the dynamic post routes and the postmasters running services from their shops and saloons. The effects of money orders and Rural Free Delivery on the expansion of the Postal Service and the people using its services are also explained.

The author relied on his own knowledge of historic maps, R language, geocoding and geographic information systems to create the maps in this book. Map and GIS librarians will appreciate his detailed methodology. The most important resource used in his research is a dataset compiled by the late postal historian Richard Helbock. Helbock's dataset, working off of the “Records of Appointment of Postmasters” housed at the National Archives, lists

every United States post office's name, geographic location and operation dates. The resulting list of 166,000 post offices were geocoded and mapped by Blevins. The author explains how he grappled with issues with the data and resulting maps. For example, many of the post offices were missing geographical coordinates. Noting that thousands of post offices missing from his maps simply because their exact location was unknown would be misleading, he gave these offices "semi-random" coordinates, and limited their appearance to only national and regional American West maps. He also used a lighter shade of grey in an effort to call attention to "their uncertain status". Other datasets the author used include Claudio Saunt's data for changing Native land and government reservation boundaries and shapefiles from the National Historic Geographical Information Systems. In addition to the original maps created during his research, Blevins includes historical maps to drive his points home. He shows his appreciation for the work map librarians do in his Acknowledgments. He points out that "historians like to fetishize physical archives over digital ones, but I spent just as much time researching this book in the virtual space", and continues to call out some of our favorite digital collections including the David Rumsey Historical map Collection, Library of Congress' Chronicling America and HathiTrust (p. viii).

Paper Trails detailed storytelling allows readers to view this important period in American history alongside the progression of the US Postal Service. The story of how the US Post kept four siblings connected across the country for decades conveys the growth of the agency in a more emotional light than simply listing statistics related to the number of post offices or pieces of mail sent. It shares a wonderfully intricate portrait of one brother in particular, Benjamin, as he moved out west and held several positions working for the US Post himself. I am curious how the author came across the siblings' letters as they are a true gift to their descendants. Another narrative gem is the fascinating description of Walter Nicholson's efforts to create postal maps for every state and territory in his work in the Topographer's Office.

I read this book using my library's access on Proquest Ebook Central. The ability to zoom in on maps, especially the historical post maps, was appreciated. I look forward to comparing this experience to viewing a hardcopy in the future. ***Paper Trails*** was a fairly quick read and is entertaining enough to make it one of the only non-fiction books I would call a "beach read"! It includes many wonderful maps and stories. If that isn't enough to satisfy one's curiosity about the expansion of the postal service in the 1800s, the author created a companion website, Gossamer Network (<https://gossamernetwork.com/>), allowing readers to delve deeper into the visuals with an interactive timeline and map.

Web Resources

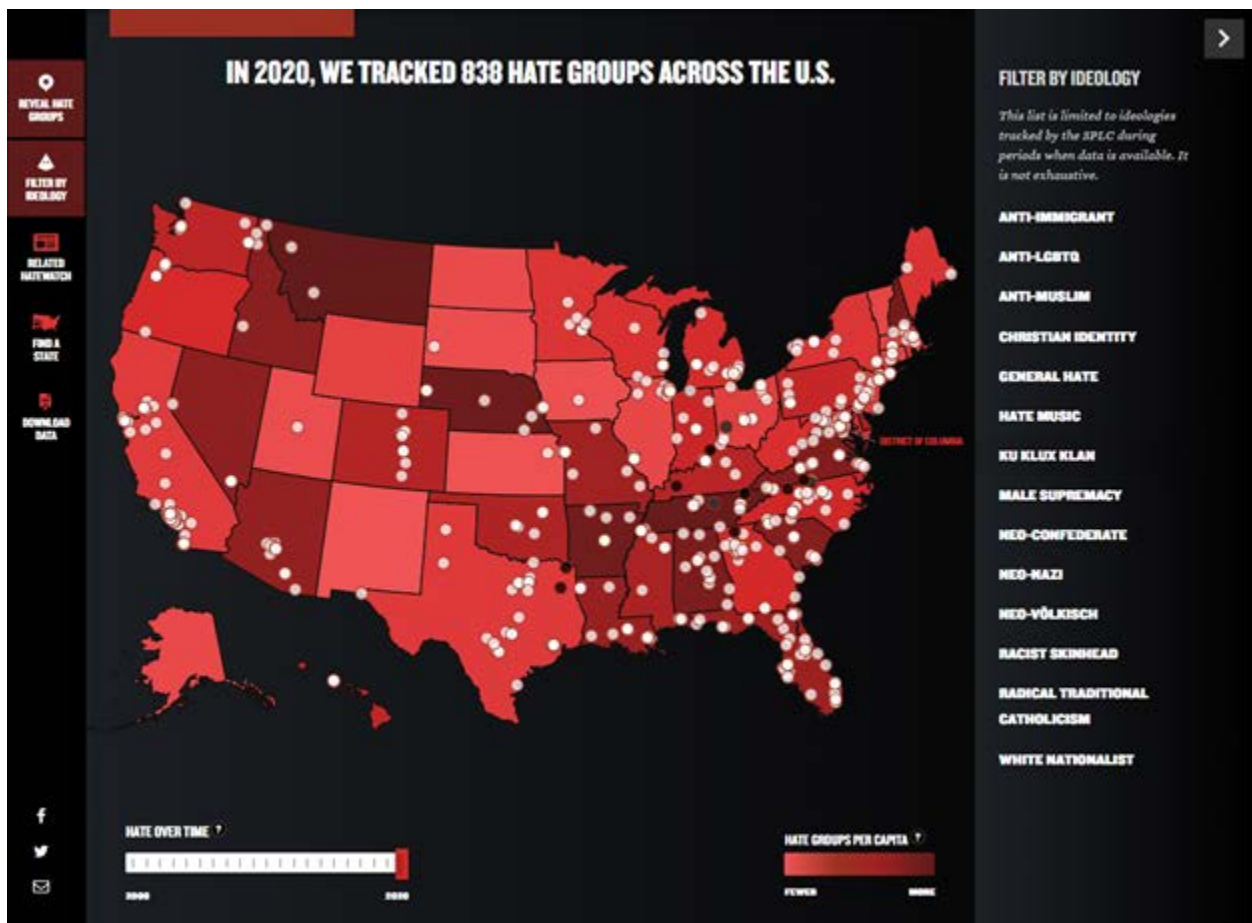
Hate Map (Southern Poverty Law Center)

<https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>

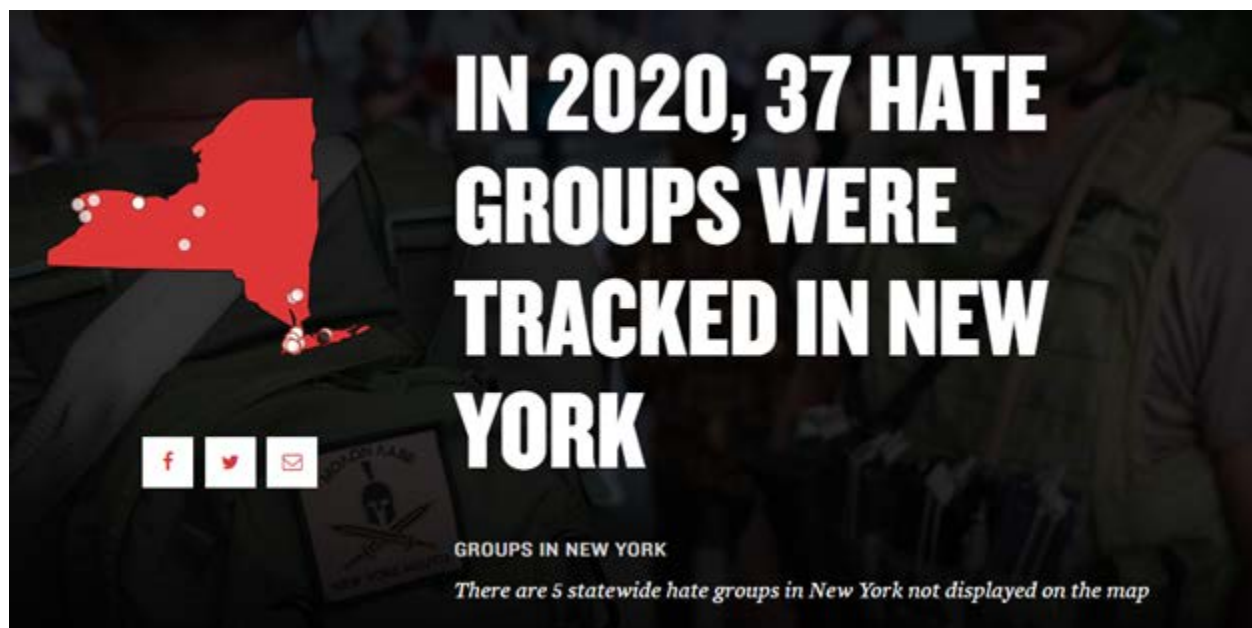
According to their About Us page, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is "a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people". Since its founding in 1971 by two civil rights lawyers, the organization

has become known for successful lawsuits, their Learning for Justice program providing free teaching resources, the construction of the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama and the Intelligence Project. The Intelligence Project tracks hate groups and extremists, such as the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis. One result of this project is the Hate Map, an interactive web map that visualizes the data from their annual census of hate groups operating domestically (conducted since 1990). The website's Frequently Asked Questions explains tracking hate group activity is "increasingly difficult", due to groups' trying to hide their activities, or – on the opposite side of the spectrum – exaggerating the size of their operations. The organization uses a "variety of methodologies" to follow these activities, such as reviewing group publications, news media and reports from law enforcement.

A quick glance at the national map will give users a general idea of the amount of hate groups in an area, since each state is shaded to show the density of hate groups per capita. The map visualizes specific hate group locations with a white dot. Users can filter the results to show hate groups for specific ideologies, including anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQ, general hate and male supremacy. As a user hovers over the list of ideology options, the dots representing each type of ideology change color. Clicking an ideology shows only states with such hate groups to appear, along with icons for known groups.



Users can explore specific states by searching in Find a State. Searching in this tool provides a detailed list of hate groups for the selected year. For my state, New York, clicking this tells me there were 37 active hate groups tracked in New York in 2020, and there are 5 “statewide” hate groups that are not displayed on the map. The FAQ page explains those 5 groups aren’t on the map since they “have chapters that meet in different cities across a state” and may have no designated headquarters location, so SPLC identifies them as “statewide” and merely lists how many statewide chapters exist for the state.



In addition to filtering by ideology type and state, users can explore the map by year using the Hate Over Time bar on the bottom of the map. Although the census data goes back to 1990, the map will only visualize results for 20 years (2000-2020).

The SPLC Hate Map is a great resource for exploring the activities of hate groups in the United States. It is incredibly user-friendly, due to the ease of switching between state and national map views, as well as specific years. All data used in the map can be downloaded as a CSV file for work with other mapping tools or further research. Users wanting to delve deeper into the topic can explore other resources on the website. The SPLC publishes their investigate reports on their Hatewatch blog, and produces the podcast series, *Sounds Like Hate*.

Conclusion

I am busy reviewing more titles from 2021. I look forward to sharing these with fellow MAGIRT members, and hope we all find room in our budgets to add these to our collections. Until then... have a great summer!



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From the Editor’s Keyboard



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