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base line

a newsletter of the
Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

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

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base line is an official publication of the American Library Association's Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT). The purpose of **base line** is to provide current information on cartographic materials, other publications of interest to map and geography librarians, meetings, related governmental activities, and map librarianship. It is a medium of communication for members of MAGIRT and information of interest is welcome. The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the American Library Association and MAGIRT. Contributions should be sent to the appropriate editor listed below.

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FROM THE CHAIR
Tracey Hughes, MSI, GISP, AICP
Colorado Mountain College,
Alpine Campus Library

Fall is upon us, and as usual, the months are flying by! Before we know it, we'll be packing our bags to head to Seattle for Midwinter 2013 (or attend our virtual meetings for those who will not be there in person). The Executive Board has been busy working on MAGIRT marketing, getting our documentation in order so that we can operate as effectively and efficiently as possible, setting up a task force to map the ALA membership in cooperation with the ALA Headquarters Membership Team, and last but certainly not least, working on the creation of new committee to manage MAGIRT's online presence.



As part of this new committee – called the Online Presence Oversight Committee, MAGIRT will be unveiling its very own LibGuide at or just prior to Midwinter! This has been in the works for a little while and it is looking great...and we'll be looking to all of the MAGIRT members to join us in making this a robust and current resource for the map and geospatial library community. Stay tuned for an announcement when it's ready to go!

The **Midwinter 2013** schedule is in place – we don't have locations for the meetings yet, but we do know **when** they will be held and we'll tell you **where** as soon as we hear! Details are below as well as on the MAGIRT website at <http://ala.org/magirt>.

Friday, January 25

10:30 am – Noon: *Round Table Coordinating Assembly* (Chair Trio & Treasurer only)
Friday afternoon tour (details being finalized but it should be very cool!)

Saturday, January 26

8:30 – 10:00 am: *MAGIRT/GODORT GIS Discussion Group*
10:15 – 11:30 am: *Map Collection Management Discussion Group*
(scheduled in a block with GIS Discussion Group to avoid travel issues between meetings)
1 – 1:30 or 1:45 pm: *Program Planning 2013: RDA program*
1:30 or 1:45 – 2:30 pm: *Program Planning 2014: Accidental Map Librarian*

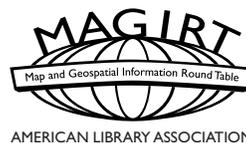
program (scheduled in a block with Program Planning 2013)
3 – 4:00 pm: *MAGIRT Online Presence Oversight Committee*
4:30 pm: *HAPPY HOUR for those who want to go!*

Sunday, January 27

8:30 – 10:00 am: *ALCTS/MAGIRT/CaMMS Interest Group*
10 – 11:30 am: *Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC)*
1 – 2:30 pm: *Membership & Marketing Committee*
3 – 5 pm: *MAGIRT Exec Board II*

Don't hesitate to be in touch with any suggestions or comments for the MAGIRT leadership at magirtbd@ala.org. 

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THE MAP AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION ROUND TABLE

ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

Tammy Wong, Library of Congress

ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Anaheim, CA
Sunday, June 24, 2012

The first discussion topics were coordinates issues in RDA cataloging of cartographic materials. Wong from LC raised the issue of applying coordinates as a work attribute in RDA environment. The FRBR conceptual model and WEMI model require catalogers to examine cartographic materials in a new perspective and in a new bibliographic structure.

“I was cataloging the map of ‘Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin’ by the US Forest Service. I started examining the coordinates, a work attribute. When I compared the map with records of same preferred title and same creator in the database, some maps with different scales and different years were already cataloged. The coordinates given in the records were not exactly the same, and some records did not even have coordinates.

“The maps overlapped approximately 95% of the geographic coverage. Therefore, I assumed that the map in hand was just another expression of the same work. The challenge was the issue of not knowing if something was the same work or not without pulling other maps already cataloged in the database. We just have to get a feel for this and may set up a default decision for cases like this.”

Larsgaard explained that every cataloger, if he/she has to extrapolate coordinates for the same map, will end up with different sets of coordinates. It is bound to happen unless catalogers take coordinates from a list of published coordinates (e.g., state or county coordinates in the US) [Editor’s note: e.g., the 4-corner latitudes and longitudes for states and selected counties are available at the MAGIRT website: <http://www.ala.org/magirt/publications>]

The second question raised by Wong was that many maps could have the same title, but they do not belong to the same work or the same expression.

“We have maps in our title collection for each country that share the same preferred title. A lot of them are tear-outs from magazines, maps from newspaper articles, some are from plates of unknown atlases. Very often they would have a simple title, e.g., “United States,” either printed or supplied by catalogers, and do not have a citation of their origin. They are clearly different works even though the titles or preferred titles are the same. It will be hard to bring out work differences in the authorized access points for the work because the bibliographic information is minimal.”

A participant raised the question of “undifferentiated work records.” Since we have undifferentiated personal name authority records, she asked if we could have “undifferentiated work records” in RDA cataloging. If we have 30 maps with the same preferred title “China,” one in hand, versus 29 others in the database that do not have specific citation information, differentiated work level records “China 1,” “China 2,” etc., are not anywhere helpful to patrons. WEMI model, in this case, does not work best for patrons. We just have to catalog the item as is and adopt a practical approach.

FRBR is a user-centered model that applies to a variety of resources. We have to see how sensible FRBR is to help different groups of patrons to find resources, and may have to adopt a practical approach.

Ratliff raised the question whether users are interested in the WEMI model in all cases? We could see the WEMI model at work when we work with antiquarian atlases with many editions, but how about work differentiation in cases where citation information is minimal? Coordinates do not necessarily identify the work — it is a functional tool used to identify a geographic area or political boundaries.

The group recommended that Zhang, the CCDA liaison, draft a discussion paper to be considered by CCDA at the ALA 2013 Annual Meeting. CCC members would have a chance to review them. We highlight cases in map cataloging where WEMI does not work best for patrons. Our patrons mostly come in to the library and ask for maps of Area X. There are cases where our patrons are not interested in seeing the WEMI models.

[Editor’s note: This has been postponed since all map catalogers have not gone through RDA training in LC yet. Zhang is planning to draft the paper after Midwinter Meeting when most catalogers start cataloging in RDA. Any feedback from MAGIRT members is welcome. Please send comments to Zhang so she can incorporate your ideas in the paper.]

The group then reviewed the LC discussion paper “Proposed treatment of globes in the LCGFT environment.” http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/genre_form_globes.pdf

Kandoian expressed concern about the inconsistency in structure between proposed genre heading “Globes” and existing LCGFT “World maps” and “World atlases.”

There are two new genre headings created in LCGFT that cover maps and atlases of world coverage. “World maps” refer to maps that cover the whole world, while “World atlases” refer to collection of maps bound in a volume that covers the entire world. Very often they are the only subject or genre term needed for such materials.

Title: Rand McNally world atlas
655 #7 World atlases. \$2 lcgft

Title: National Geographic world map
655 #7 World maps. \$2 lcgft

In globe cataloging, the old practice, through its reference structure, which includes a UF Terrestrial globes, enables “Globes” to be used for spherical depictions of the Earth [World globes]. The new genre/form term “Globes” would be redefined to refer to all globes, not just globes of the Earth. UF Terrestrial Globes would be removed and Globes would cease to be linked to a specific heavenly body.

Thus...

Title: Globe of the Earth.
651 #0 \$a Earth \$v Globes.
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

A LC cataloger worried that since Earth is not used for any other cartographic materials, the usage of “Earth lv Globes” in globe cataloging might lead to the misuse of “Earth lv Maps” for world maps.

“World maps” and “World atlases” belong to a special hybrid type of heading, which includes both geographic area and genre.

Wong expressed that there is no perfect solution in this case, and PSD offered a proposed solution to the problem.

Moore will draft a response to Janis Young in regard to the discussion paper.

Zhang raised the issue of the cataloging of non-essential items in the Geography and Map Division. There were discussions of the cataloging of National Park Service maps, tourist maps, and puzzles, due to shortage of staff. Andrew pointed out that at Penn State National Park Service maps are arranged by Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) classification number. LC has over 100 cartographic jigsaw puzzles. What are the implications if G&M does not catalog puzzles anymore? Who benefits from the cataloging of puzzles? Public libraries with a Children’s section might have a puzzle collection. Zhang thought since LC is a national library, they should have all the national park maps cataloged. The group does not have any specific concerns in regard to LC practice for these materials.

Zhang encouraged cartographic cataloging questions to be sent to mapcat@loc.gov, which is monitored daily by LC staff. All inquiries are answered in a timely manner.

Ratcliff asked if anyone has started cataloging using RDA. Carolyn Kadri (University of Texas, Arlington) has cataloged some 19th century atlases. Chris Winters (University of Chicago) has posted his manifestation-level records on ALA Connect. At LC, Seanna Tsung and Tammy Wong are trained, and have been cataloging in RDA for several months. Paige Andrew (Penn State) has done some RDA cataloging and he plans on training copy catalogers in RDA first, and then the original catalogers.

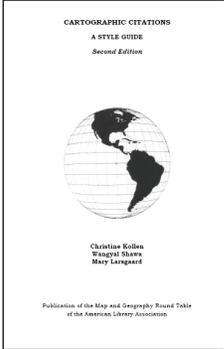
The group then addressed the topic of the genre/form term “Geodatabases.” Since “Geodatabases” refers to only ESRI’s database schema, a scope note is needed to clarify the definition for the heading. Feedback should be forwarded to Janis Young at PSD. 

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