

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

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

The end of a year is a busy time for most of us between holiday breaks, travel, stress and fun; and it's a busy time for MAGIRT as well as we gear up for Midwinter, put in our program requests for the 2013 Annual Program on RDA and a potential poster session on all things geospatial, and get the finishing touches on the structure of the MAGIRT Map & Geospatial Resources LibGuide. While we all feel the ebb and flow of the seasons, it's clear that MAGIRT's work keeps on moving forward due to the hard work of its dedicated membership and leadership.



As I've mentioned in previous columns, MAGIRT wants to hear from you—our members. Our goal is to better share our collective expertise with one another through our trials, tribulations and daily work practices. Did you find a good solution to a challenging geospatial patron inquiry? Create a cool guide or tutorial on something related to maps or GIS? Have a particularly good GIS Day activity or event? Craft a new and functional space in your institution? Give a talk that might interest other MAGIRT members? Figure out a solution to a geospatial cataloging question? Whether your contribution is as big as talking about how to move a map library or as seemingly small as figuring out a shortcut in ArcGIS, these are the kinds of things we would like to share with your fellow MAGIRT members so we can all learn from each other. Whether we are just starting in the geospatial librarian community or have been in it for decades, we want to hear from you! It's easy to do—just send an email to magirtbd@ala.org and we'll follow up via phone or email.

The **Midwinter 2013** schedule with days, times and rooms is now available on the MAGIRT website at <http://ala.org/magirt>. We are working on options for virtual participation at our Discussion Group meetings and will let you know when we have more details on that. And please join us on the tour of the MOHAI Museum if you are going to be in Seattle. Our Vice Chair Kathleen Weessies is taking RSVPs via email at weessie2@mail.lib.msu.edu for this great and free event on Friday, January 25, 2013.

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

Stay warm, have fun, be safe, and happy holiday wishes to all. 



2013 Midwinter MAGIRT Schedule

Midwinter 2013 MAGIRT Meeting Schedule

Friday, January 25:

- 10:30 – Noon: Round Table Coordinating Assembly (Chair Trio & Treasurer only)
- 2:00 - 5:00pm: [Tour of MOHAI Museum](#) Please RSVP to [Kathleen Weessies](#).

Saturday, January 26:

- 8:30 – 10:00am: MAGIRT/GODORT GIS Discussion Group - [W Seattle Hotel](#) Great Room 2BC
- 10:15 – 11:30 am: Map Collection Management Discussion Group (scheduled in a block with GIS Discussion Group to avoid travel issues between meetings) - [W Seattle Hotel](#) Great Room 2BC
- 1:00 – 1:30 or 1:45 pm: Program Planning 2013: RDA program - [Sheraton Seattle Hotel](#) Alki Boardroom
- 1:30 or 1:45 – 2:30 pm: Program Planning 2014: Accidental Map Librarian program (scheduled in a block with Program Planning 2013) - [Sheraton Seattle Hotel](#) Alki Boardroom
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm: MAGIRT Online Presence Oversight Committee - [Washington State Convention Center](#) Room 304
- 4:30 pm – HAPPY HOUR for those who want to go!

Sunday, January 27:

- 8:30 – 10:30 am: ALCTS/MAGIRT/CaMMS Interest Group - [Sheraton Seattle Hotel](#) Jefferson
- 10:00 – 11:30am: Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC) - [Sheraton Seattle Hotel](#) Jefferson
- 1:00 – 2:30 pm: Membership & Marketing Committee - [Sheraton Seattle Hotel](#) Kirkland
- 3:00 – 5:00 pm: MAGIRT Exec Board II - SHER Diamond - [Sheraton Seattle Hotel](#) Diamond

Electronic Mapping
Carol McAuliffe, Map Librarian
Map & Imagery Library, University of Florida

Taking Population Studies Beyond the Census with LandScan™

Census data for many countries is incomplete or non-existent and, yet, there is still a need for reliable population information from around the world. LandScan™ Global Population Datasets take population data beyond the census by determining how population is likely to be distributed using an award-winning modeling program.

Satellite imagery, land cover data, topographic data, roads, and various other elements are used in conjunction with census data to create an algorithm employed to predict population distribution. Not only does it look at the permanent residences of the population as provided by the census (night-time distribution), it also takes into account mobility during daytime hours resulting in a prediction of ambient population density during an average 24-hour period. The result is a powerful 1-km resolution global population database of value to a wide-range of disciplines.

Developed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) with funding by the U. S. Department of Defense, LandScan™ plays a pivotal role in natural disaster response worldwide. The first dataset was released in 1998/1999 and has since been produced annually. It has allowed emergency responders to pinpoint areas with potential victims after tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural and man-made disasters. It was soon realized that the data was useful in applications beyond the needs of the federal government and the commercial vendor, East View, was given sole licensing rights for LandScan™ products.

East View quickly began work on a public face for the resource and developed both a Web Map Service (WMS) and Web Coverage Service (WCS). The WMS has improved accessibility of the data for non-GIS users while the WCS allows advanced researchers to extract, edit, and spatial analyze the data. East View also added new services such as file format conversion and institution-level licensing agreements. Licensing fees are determined on a case-by-case basis, with discounts for academic users. The LandScan™ datasets remain free of charge for U.S. federal government agencies.

Studies published in the last three years, which have directly benefited or resulted from the availability of LandScan™ data, include:

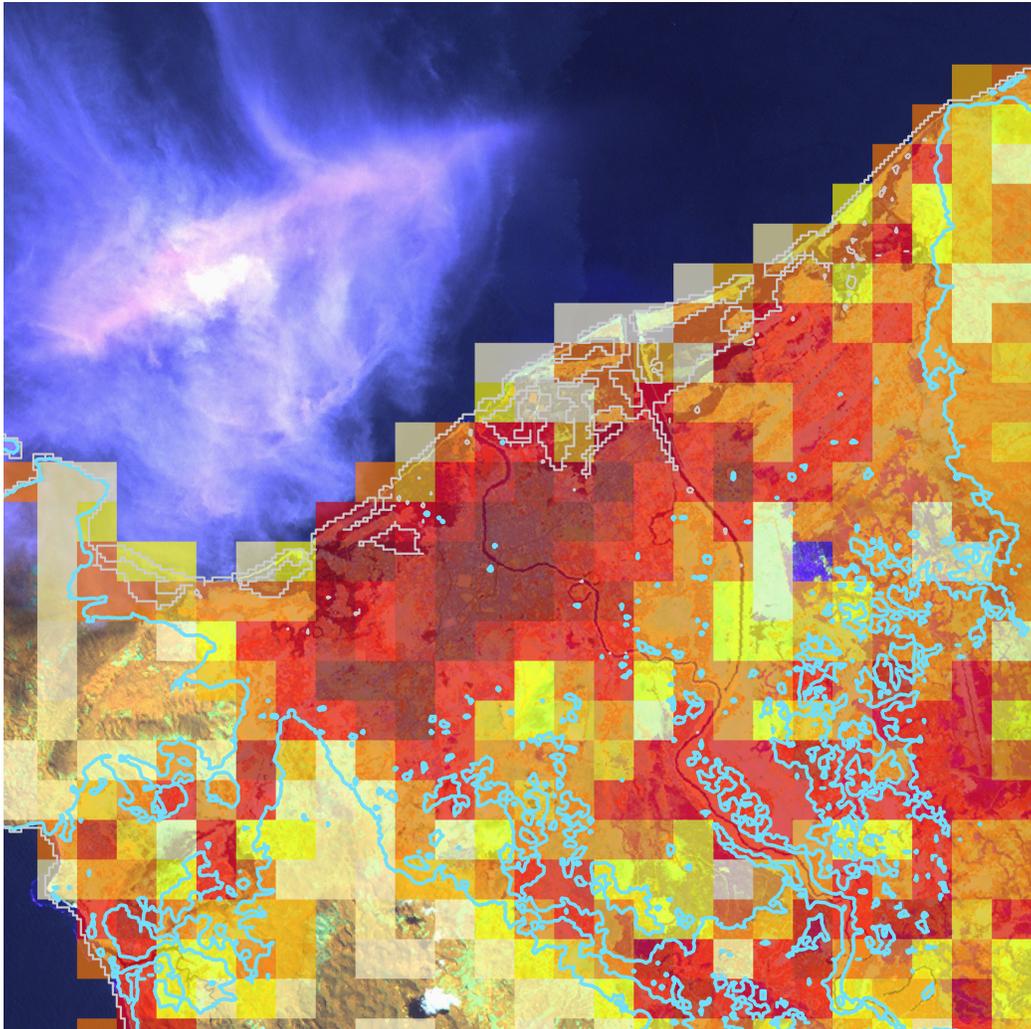
- Andresen, Martin A. and Greg W. Jenion. 2010. **“Ambient Populations and the Calculation of Crime Rates and Risk.”** Security Journal 23 (2): 114-133. [doi:10.1057/sj.2008.1](https://doi.org/10.1057/sj.2008.1).
- Berke, Ethan M., Susanne E. Tanski, Eugene Demidenko, Jennifer Alford-Teaster, Xun Shi, and James D. Sargent. 2010. **“Alcohol Retail Density and Demographic Predictors of Health Disparities: A Geographic Analysis.”** American Journal of Public Health 100 (10): 1967-1971. [doi:10.2105/AJPH.2009.170464](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2009.170464).
- Linard, Catherine, Victor A. Alegana, Abdisalan M. Noor, Robert W. Snow, and Andrew J. Tatem. 2010. **“A High Resolution Spatial Population Database of Somalia for Disease Risk Mapping.”** International Journal of Health Geographics 9 (1): 45-45. [doi:10.1186/1476-072X-9-45](https://doi.org/10.1186/1476-072X-9-45).
- Platts, Philip J., Neil D. Burgess, Roy E. Gereau, Jon C. Lovett, Andrew R. Marshall, Colin J. McClean, Petri K. E. Pellikka, Ruth D. Swetnam, and Rob Marchant. 2011. **“Delimiting Tropical Mountain Ecoregions for Conservation.”** Environmental Conservation 38 (3): 312-324. [doi:10.1017/S0376892911000191](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0376892911000191).
- Shi, X., J. Alford-Teaster, T. Onega, and DM Wang. 2012. **“Spatial Access and Local Demand for Major Cancer Care Facilities in the United States.”** Annals of the Association of American Geographers 102 (5): 1125-1134. [doi:10.1080/00045608.2012.657498](https://doi.org/10.1080/00045608.2012.657498).
- Xue, Jianping, Thomas McCurdy, Janet Burke, Budhendra Bhaduri, Cheng Liu, James Nutaro, and Lauren Patterson. 2010. **“Analyses of School Commuting Data for Exposure Modeling Purposes.”** Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology 20 (1): 69-78. [doi:10.1038/jes.2009.3](https://doi.org/10.1038/jes.2009.3).

A crucial element to consider is the extent to which the predictions prove accurate and reliable. As we all know, the devil is in the details and there are a lot of details that go into the LandScan™ model. Inaccuracies in any of the datasets that are used in the algorithm could result in unreliable population predictions. To help combat this uncertainty, the developers at ORNL routinely conduct verification and validation (V&V) studies. Independent researchers are also looking at the accuracy of the LandScan™ datasets. While some show that the model used holds up in real world situations, others argue that the incompleteness of census data from certain areas of the world, such as Africa, results in datasets whose uncertainty is under-acknowledged. Evaluating these factors and the accuracy and reliability of the LandScan™ data will continue to be a fruitful area of study as long as it is being used as a primary resource in research.

Library collection managers must carefully weigh the benefits vs. the cost of the LandScan™ resource. Access to each new year of LandScan™ data must be purchased separately and only the current year is available through the Web application. Archived datasets for past years could be available in the near future,

which would greatly increase the usefulness of the resource over time. Reasons to consider purchasing LandScan™ Global Population Datasets include its prevalence in research studies, increasing public awareness of the resource as it is used in high profile disaster relief efforts, and finally, its innovative and powerful modeling system—which makes it a cutting-edge population data resource. 🌐🌐

Indonesia, showing 1-km resolution.



**Reports from
ALA Annual Conference
Anaheim, June 2012**

**MAGIRT GeoTech Committee Minutes
Sunday, June 24, 2012 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Anaheim Convention Center - Rm. 212B**

1. Kathleen will be leaving to become vice chair. Pete Reehling joined as member.
2. From Geotech Committee Action Plan - Action Items/Projects List:
 - Project 1 needs follow up.
 - Projects 2 and 3 have been completed.
 - Project 4 - Becky Lowery has stepped down and Scott McEthern volunteered to take it over. Kathleen went to meeting yesterday.
 - Projects 5 and 6 will be incorporated into the new MAGIRT LibGuide. (More information in item 4 below.)
 - Project 7 report given today (below in item 3).
3. Spatial Data Catalog Subcommittee Report (Chris Kollen and Cynthia Dietz)
 - Chris Kollen provided a detailed report. Focus on spatial data catalogs housed at academic institutions managed by library.
 - Cynthia Dietz talked about Scholars GeoPortal (Canada). Some datasets are free to public, and not limited to Canadian members. Great Lakes bathymetry layer as well.
 - Chris Kollen also mentioned GeoData at Tufts, GoGeo (U. of Edinburgh, discovery portal aggregator), and ShareGeo repository.
4. LibGuide - Tracey Hughes
 - Sharing information, shared responsibility. What to do with the task force?
 - <http://Magirt.ala.libguides.com/resources>

NEW

Richard Huffine: New changes to National Geologic Map database beta, new enhancements are coming. Screen optimized, full version with Zoomify viewer technology.

Geospatial platform.gov in the cloud and map online.

Historic topographic maps, finish in Sept. non grid shaped map. Editions and forest cover as well as bump-outs are coming later. More states are coming (Alaska and Puerto Rico). Working for more elevation data for US, using LIDAR national coverage. Future as relying on real time data to enhanced navigation etc. Trying to make this a partnership, and seeking others in the initiative.

Pass on Your Values to the Next Generation of Librarian Leaders!

In June 2012, ALA launched 15x15, a planned giving campaign to help strengthen the impact and longevity of ALA's programs and activities in support of libraries and librarians. The goal of the campaign is to secure \$15 million in planned giving commitments by 2015.

You can be a part of this via a planned gift of any amount made to the association for general purposes, or specifically directed to an ALA division, round table, program or fund. Please consider giving to the profession or to MAGIRT specifically as you do your estate planning.

For more information on the variety of ways one can contribute a planned gift, please visit www.ala.org/plannedgiving.



Reports from *Virtual Board &* Committee Meetings

**MAGIRT Publications Committee
Fall 2012 Meeting, Conference Call Minutes
November 27, 2012
2:00 p.m. MST**

In attendance: Roger Knouff (chair), Colleen Cahill, Jim Coombs, Beth Cox, Kate Dougherty, John Olson, Steve Rogers, Sandy Schiefer, Kathleen Weessies
Guest: Tracey Hughes (MAGIRT chair)

1. Volunteer needed to serve as note taker (Roger)
 - a. Beth Cox agreed to serve as recorder for the next year.
2. Additional agenda items? (Roger)
 - a. Kathleen noted that our meetings should be public and should be announced in advance. The committee agreed and discussed avenues for announcements, including the MAGIRT e-mail list.
3. Chair – announcements and discussion items
 - a. Updated URLs in WorldCat for *base line* and *Coordinates* (Roger)
 - i. WorldCat link for *base line* is accurate (OCLC #263143079): <http://www.ala.org/magirt/publications/baseline/>
 - ii. WorldCat link for *Coordinates* currently points to the SUNY Stonybrook page. Roger asked if this should be changed to the Texas A&M Libraries Repository. All back issues of *Coordinates* now available there: <http://repository.tamu.edu/handle/1969.1/129156>
 1. After discussion, committee agreed that this change should be made.
 2. Beth Cox will contact Paige Andrew at Penn State to make this change. She will also check on the status of changing the author field to reflect the name change.
 - b. Updated URLs and text on the *base line* entry on ALA's Publications web page (Roger, Colleen)
 - i. Danielle (with ALA) is looking into how to make changes or determine whom to contact to make these changes. We want to change the URLs and the text of the paragraph on the ALA Publications page: <http://www.ala.org/offices/library/alaperiodicals#b>
 - ii. Colleen said that she has not received any additional information and will try to contact the ALA Helpdesk again.
 - c. Links and files for MAGIRT's Electronic Publication #7, "Map, GIS and Cataloging/Metadata Librarian Core Competencies": <http://www.ala.org/magirt/publications> (Roger, Colleen)
 - i. Committee members expressed concern that there are two copies of this document online and that the file name of one suggests a revision. The revision was not contextual but was to make the document ADA compliant.
 - ii. Colleen noted that changing the file name would break any links that people outside of MAGIRT and ALA had to the document. She also noted that the issues with changing a file name were linked to the old Web software and that she was uncertain if the same problem still exists in Drupal.

- iii. After much discussion, Colleen clarified that although two copies of this document are on the server, the public will only see and access one copy of the document — the correct and current version. By doing this, those with older links can still access the correct file.
- iv. The committee determined that the visible file name should be “MAGIRTCoreComp2008.pdf” and that a note should be added to the description in the Publications list regarding ADA compliance. Colleen made these changes during the meeting.
- d. ALA Store publications inventory (Roger)
 - i. Jim Coombs reported that he has 8 copies of the 2010 (2nd ed.) of *Cartographic Citations* left. He has not filled any orders since 9/7/2012. He has sold 5 copies since June. ALA Store also has some copies in their inventory and do not need any more.
 - ii. Committee agreed to hold off on reprinting until Jim has 2 copies left. Jim noted that reprinting only takes about 1 week.
- e. ALA Drive 15 x 15 (Tracey)
 - i. 15 x 15 is the name of the new ALA fundraising drive, which stands for \$15 million by 2015. Tracey Hughes attended the Roundtable Coordinating Assembly at ALA Midwinter in Dallas where an ALA representative discussed the drive. The focus is on estate planning and planned giving. ALA will not dictate where this money goes or how it is used. There is no minimum for gifts unless it involves a named gift. Website with further information is here: <http://www.ala.org/offices/dev/plannedgiving>
 - ii. Tracey said that MAGIRT leadership has been working on how we can help promote the drive and possibly post something in *base line*. When this idea was mentioned at the Round Table Assembly, the ALA rep said that we would be the first round table to do this, which Tracey thought was a great idea.
 - iii. Tracey has asked Marc Huber, Assistant Director of Development for ALA to draft language for us to use to promote philanthropic gifts in *base line*. She noted that she might have it in time for the MAGIRT Board meeting on Thursday, 11/29.
 - iv. After discussion, the committee agreed that we should do this. Roger will create a small ad using the drive’s logo and send to the committee for review and approval. The goal is to get it done and in the next *base line*, which has a deadline of December 10.

- f. MAGIRT Publication Series document by Hallie Pritchett (Roger)
 - i. Publication will be based on the ALA Annual conference session, “The Nuts and Bolts of Map Cataloging.”
 - ii. After manuscript is received, committee members will have an opportunity to look it over and determine if it is appropriate for the MAGIRT Electronic Publications series. However, we do not consider these publications to be peer-reviewed.
 - iii. Kathleen noted that MAGIRT Electronic Publications are a formal document somewhat similar to an ERIC document. Though they often grow out of conference presentations, they are not meant to be simply the Powerpoints and handouts from a presentation (we have other places to post those).
 - g. Announcement – call for publications? (Tracey)
 - i. Tracey suggested that the committee send out a call for publications for the Electronic Publications Series and the Print Publications Series.
 - ii. The committee agreed. Beth asked if there were any written guidelines for what is accepted or encouraged and what is not. Beth will work on creating these with assistance from Kathleen.
 - h. Ulrich’s entries for *base line* and *Coordinates* (Roger)
 - i. Committee members agreed that we should attempt to update these entries in Ulrich’s as well as in Oxbridge. Steve Rogers will contact Ulrich’s. Oxbridge has already contacted him directly about updating the *base line* entry.
4. Online Presence Oversight Committee representative (Kathleen Weessies?)
- a. Update/report on MAGIRT Libguides
 - i. Colleen and Tracey discussed issues regarding getting the LibGuides up and running. They are also working on ways to allow committee chairs to update what each committee is doing.
 - ii. Please send Kathleen any ideas for content in the Libguides.
5. *base line* editor report (Steve Rogers)
- a. Everything is going great, as our regular contributors are— as usual—submitting their timely columns and reports. 

**MAGIRT TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2012
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

What follows is based on the end-of-fiscal-year (August 2012) financial numbers. It is readily apparent that MAGIRT sports a healthy diagnosis from a financial perspective.

Financial Picture

Starting Balance\$27,829
Total Income\$12,327

Subtotal\$40,156
Less Total Expenses\$ 6,959

Total (as of end of Aug. 2012)**\$33,197**

Summary

Expenses, not including our overhead share paid to ALA, primarily come from ALA Annual Conference related activities. These include:

- \$2,017 for food/beverages, etc. for the Saturday Honors Award Reception
- \$1,564 for AV equipment rental/use
- \$331 for Honors Award recipients

These—combined with all other expenses, not including “overhead,” total \$6,216.

Net revenue over expenses for the 2012 fiscal year equals **\$5,265**. It is also nice to see that the bottom line figures indicate, when comparing total budgeted asset balance with total actual asset balance, that we completed this past year about \$1,650 over budget. I believe this reflects a combination of good executive management skills and decision-making on behalf of MAGIRT and its members, combined with the ongoing generosity of several sponsors who donated needed funds to support conference activities.

Finally, to continue to assist with decisions, clarify more specifically where monies are being spent as we move forward, and ultimately to assist an incoming new Treasurer, I look forward to completing a new budget document with fellow Executive Board members and our ALA Staff liaison, Danielle Alderman, by the end of 2012. 

Paige Andrew
MAGIRT Treasurer

Highlights for Librarians from the 2012 Esri User Conference

Librarians supporting GIS users will be glad to know that management of data and metadata was a prominent theme at this year's Esri User Conference in San Diego.

There were several technical sessions on [Data Reviewer](#) showing how to use this collection of tools to check the integrity of data and metadata. Data Reviewer can batch run a [check of your metadata](#) schema for adherence to FGDC or ISO standards. It can also run a separate check of the actual metadata content for specific information, such as a contact name or phone number in a certain field. Results are stored in a geodatabase so you can go back and correct them later or share them with others in your organization.

Other well-attended sessions demonstrated how to manage scanned maps and imagery with mosaic datasets. The [mosaic dataset](#), which was new with ArcGIS version 10, displays a collection of images covering a large area in a seamless grid for easy access. It also stores the associated metadata for the imagery. Users can also build a map index from the footprints of the images contained in the mosaic dataset. There are a number of ways to make your images and map index available, but anyone with ArcMap version 10 or higher can create a feature class from the image footprints and export it to KML format for display in Google Earth. You can see examples of Google Earth map indexes from the [Colorado School of Mines Arthur Lakes Library website](#).

Sharing data was another theme of this year's conference. For example, users can now collaborate with others by sharing geoprocessing workflows. [Geoprocessing packages](#), which are new at ArcGIS version 10.1, compress and share all the files, tools, and data used to achieve a certain result. They're very easy to create and share with other 10.1 users in a variety of ways, including email. This new functionality, which is a logical extension of the [map packages](#) and [layer packages](#) available with version 10, will make sharing and collaboration infinitely easier for your students, faculty, and researchers.

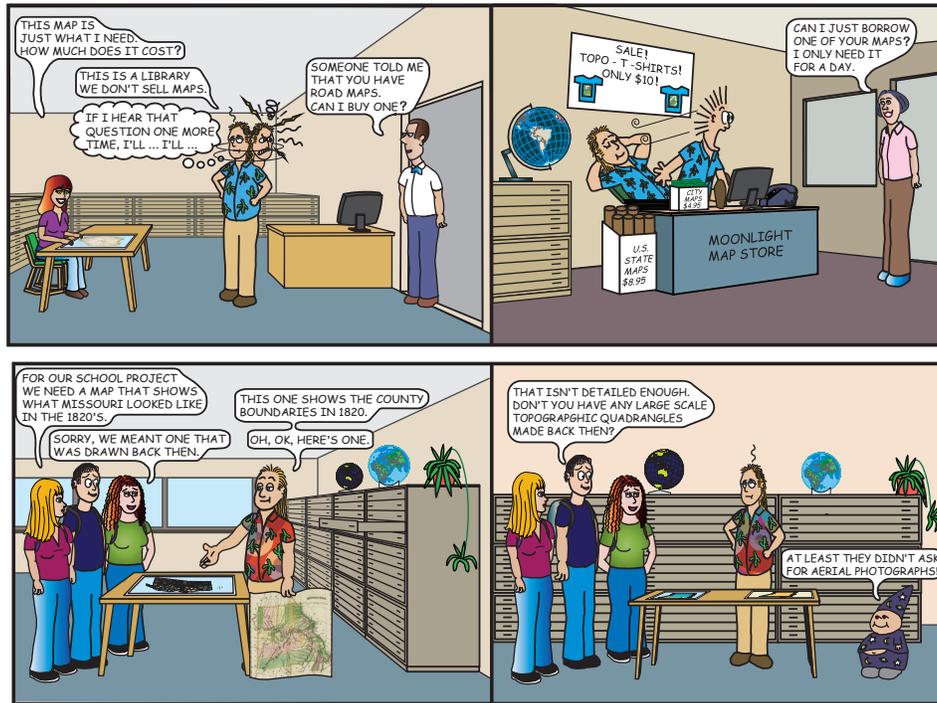
Submitted by Kate Dougherty
Geosciences and Maps Librarian
University of Arkansas
kmdoughe@uark.edu

THE EVOLUTION OF MAP LIBRARIANSHIP

as illustrated by
Great Moments In Map Librarianship by Jim Coombs

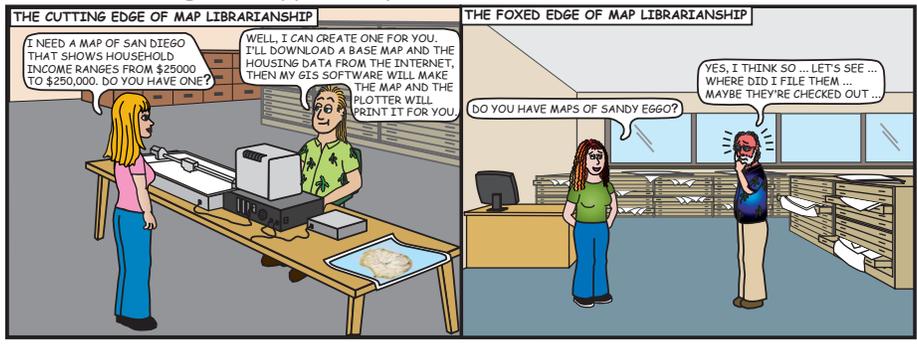
These selected cartoons illustrate how map librarianship has changed over the years.

When libraries opened new map collections and hired map librarians, most patrons were unfamiliar as to what kind of maps and services were available ...



Continued on next page....

As computer software and internet resources developed, some map libraries had the funding and support to provide GIS services ... others not so much



But patrons and others still have misconceptions about what was available

