

Map Scanning Registry (<http://mapregistry.library.arizona.edu/>)
Prepared by Chris Kollen, June 23, 2018, Revised May 7, 2020

Background

The Map Scanning Registry has been available since 2006. It is the result of discussions at the Map Libraries in Transition conference held in May 2005, where attendees expressed a need to find out what map scanning projects are being planned, in process or completed to head off duplication of effort. At about the same time, WAML developed the Scanning Projects Clearinghouse.

In 2012, the MAGIRT and WAML Executive Boards agreed to combine the two sites together. WAML sent their database to the UA Libraries and it was added to the Map Scanning Registry. At the same time, the Map Scanning Registry interface was revamped.

Current activity

The Registry has not been promoted for the past couple of years, resulting in few to no new entries. In the earlier years of the website, usage statistics (Webalizer) were pulled one year at a time. To replace Webalizer and obtain more accurate statistics, Google Analytics was added to the site in February 2019. See table below for a comparison of the number of users.

Date	Webalizer	Google Analytics
February 2010-June 2010	121	--
February 2019-June 2019	--	104
July 2019-April 2020	--	107

The past 10 months has seen a drop in the number of users, compared to the previous 5 months. The University of Arizona Libraries IT department, who maintains the website, is concerned that there are security issues with the version of the database and the web software we are using. They would like to either shut down the website or if the content is still needed, move the content to a static website.

2019 Survey

A survey was distributed on 5/22/19 and closed on 6/17/19. There were 27 people that responded. A summary of the results of the survey include:

Question	Percent (%)	Number
Have you used the Registry or Clearinghouse? Yes	44.5	12
If answered yes, how recently: this year or up to 1 year ago	58	7
Past 2-3 years, more than 3 years, or don't know	42	5
Do you have information to add to the registry? Definitely or probably	57	13
Should the Registry continue?		
Definitely or probably	32	7
Not sure	45	10
No longer needed	23	5

As a follow-up to the original report in 2018 and the survey, a presentation was made on the Map Scanning Registry at the WAML Annual Meeting on September 19, 2019 in part to obtain direct feedback from conference attendees and to supplement information obtained through the survey. The overall consensus at the meeting was that it was no longer needed.

Recommendation

The MAGIRT Map Scanning Registry has outlived its usefulness, it is not comprehensive, and there are other sources now available for the same information. The Registry has been available for 14 years, the usage continues to decrease, and it has been several years since we received an entry. I recommend that the Map Scanning Registry be shut down. MAGIRT may want to consider saving the database in some form and making it available on the MAGIRT website as a static webpage.