

base line

a newsletter of the

Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 From the Chair**
- 5 On the Cataloging/Cataloguing Front**
- 7 Exec Board minutes - March 29, 2022**
- 12 Treasurer's Report**
- 13 MAGIRT - Volunteer opportunities**
- 14 New Maps and Cartographic Materials**
- 19 Great Moments in Map Librarianship**

<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

MIN ZHANG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Moving Towards the New Normal

March is a month of celebration – spring is in the air. Nothing signifies the season in Washington quite like the blooming of cherry blossom trees and the National Cherry Blossom Festival to celebrate the occasion. As COVID-19 infections continue to decline nationally, the Library of Congress (LC) intends to restore on-site operations in April just in time for the upcoming ALA Annual conference.



MAGIRT has been very active in the last two months.

- MAGIRT vice-chair Kevin Dyke will represent MAGIRT to the ALA Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) Standardization to discuss the proposed standardized dues structure for ALA Divisions and Round Tables.
- Iris Taylor is currently serving on the LC's Inclusive Description Task Force. She also volunteered to be the MAGIRT representative to the ALA CORE Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee. In both roles, she will work to ensure that libraries describe holdings in a just, respectful, and inclusive manner.
- Education Committee Chair, Kim Plassche organized a special MAGIRT webinar: "*A New Way to Discover Map Collections: ALA MAGIRT's Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections*" presented by Carol McAuliffe and Melinda Sandkam to promote a dynamic web map of cartographic collections, big and small, across the United States.
- MAGIRT membership count is 246 in 2021, a 4.65% drop from 2020. Membership & Marketing Committee chair Erin Cheever formed a website redesign subcommittee and is putting together a new "Get Involved" section for the website. This will assist members with finding out which committee is right for them.

Board members met virtually in March and continued to plan for the upcoming ALA annual conference. We hope you'll join us for some of our thoughtfully planned events in June. Now, come to think of it, it has been two years since the last time we gathered in Washington, and it seems like a lifetime ago. I hope most of you can join us for an awards dinner on June 25. Kevin has already sent out a poll to get the number of members planning to attend.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas to raise, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at mizh@loc.gov or join us at our bi-monthly MAGIRT open board meetings.

Finally, I hope to see all of you in Washington this June.





east view GLOBAL CENSUS ARCHIVE

East View presents the **Global Census Archive® (GCA)**, an innovative program to collect officially published census-related materials from around the world. This global collection contains GIS census data as well as all available published volumes, questionnaires, and other census ephemera.

Global Census Archive provides a centralized publications platform and uniform GIS format for these materials, making a wide range of census assets easily accessible for discovery and analysis.

AVAILABLE GCA GIS CENSUS PRODUCTS

- Argentina 2001, 2010*
- Bolivia 2012*
- Brazil 2010*
- Chile 1992, 2002, 2017*
- Colombia 2005, 2018*
- Costa Rica 2000, 2011*
- Cuba 2002, 2012*
- Dominican Republic 2010*
- Ecuador 2001, 2010
- El Salvador 2007*
- Guatemala 2014, 2018*
- Guyana 2012*
- Honduras 2001, 2013*
- Mexico 2010*
- Nicaragua 1995, 2005*
- Panama 2000, 2010*
- Paraguay 1992, 2002
- Peru 2007, 2017*
- Uruguay 2011
- Venezuela 2001, 2011*
- Iran 2011
- Burundi 2008
- Egypt 2017
- South Africa 2011
- Tanzania 2012
- Estonia 2011*
- Latvia 2011
- Lithuania 2011
- Russia 2010
- India 2011
- Japan 1995, 2015
- **NEW** • Philippines 2015

**GCA Publications data is available for this country*

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ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Louise E. Jefferson A Hidden African American Cartographer

A new G&M blog created by Iris Taylor explores the wonderful cartographic work of an African American, Louise E. Jefferson (1908-2002). Recently uncovered in the Geography and Map Division, her work consists of many unique pictorial maps. Born in Washington, D.C., Jefferson received her art training at Hunter College in New York City, and Columbia University. Jefferson was actively involved with Harlem Artist's Guild and was credited as a founding member. Her works are truly inspirational. Her maps and illustrations do not hold back the sentiments of the time and tell stories as seen through the eyes of the people depicted and geographically placed within her maps.

View the Blog here: [Louise E. Jefferson – A Hidden African American Cartographer](#).



Indians of the United States of America. Map by Louise E. Jefferson, 1944. Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress. Louise provides in this 1944 pictorial map, a comprehensive and beautiful depiction of Native American history. This practical resource contains positive images with a stylized Native American motif of over 100 tribes that existed in the United States and southeastern Canada. The map effectively addresses the diversity of the Native American people. It also documents the forced removal from their ancestral lands and relocation to Oklahoma along the infamous "Trail of Tears."

Call for input - Recommended Format Statement for GIS/ Geospatial, and Non-GIS Cartographic materials

The Library of Congress is pleased to announce the latest annual call for input from stakeholders involved in the lifecycle of creative works for the upcoming annual revision of the [Recommended Formats Statement](#). The significant changes made in recent years in developing the 'RFS 2.0' represent the Library's understanding of the growing importance of the Statement not merely in its own work, but to the broader community and its determination to ensure that it meet the needs of all its stakeholders. Used as a crucial tool in implementing the Library's new Digital Collecting Strategy, it has such broad value that it was a quarter finalist in the Digital Preservation Coalition's World Cup this year.

Some of the planned updates for 2022 include a downloadable summary of all the RFS content categories and format designations, the addition of new file formats including WACZ for web archiving and the possible expansion of content categories, such as email, to cover acquisition pathways for non-commercially produced content.

In addition to hearing back from you about how the latest version of the RFS is working and what might be improved, the Library wants to know more about specific aspects of interest and use to particular groups of users. How might the RFS be revised in order to better meet the needs of your particular community?

The Library of Congress is encouraged by the value its partners and stakeholders around the world have found in the Recommended Formats Statement. We look forward to [hearing your thoughts](#) by **April 15** as we prepare for the upcoming revision of the Statement this summer, due out on June 30.

The current Recommended Formats Statement for GIS, Geospatial, and Non-GIS Cartographic materials [can be accessed here](#).

Please feel free to contact me directly with your thoughts, questions, or feedback.

Meagan Snow
Geospatial Data Visualization Librarian
Geography & Map Division
Library of Congress



MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

March 29, 2022

Time: March 29, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via [Zoom](#)

Present: Min Zhang, Pete Reehling, Iris Taylor, Amy Runyon, Laura McElfresh, Erin Cheever, Tammy Wong, Kevin Dyke, Kim Plassche, Wangyal Shawa, Craig Haggit

1. Call to order - 3:03 pm Eastern

2. Call for changes to Agenda

- none

3. Secretary--Minutes from past meeting

- [Minutes from Jan. 25 meeting](#) were approved via email and published in *base line*

1. Officer Reports

A. Chair (Min Zhang)

- Kevin Dyke will be MAGIRT Representative to the ALA Round Table Coordinating Assembly Standardization (for [dues & bylaws standardization](#)).
- Iris Taylor has volunteered to be the MAGIRT representative/liaison to the ALA CORE DEI Committee. Iris is currently serving on the LC's Inclusive Description Task Force to ensure that the Library describes holdings in a just, respectful, and inclusive manner. The TF strives to describe individuals and communities using terminology they would use to express themselves and create a narrative that minimizes harm to individuals or groups. These efforts may also aim to contextualize inequities and biases, and in some cases, to revise description that omits, marginalizes, or mischaracterizes marginalized or under-represented groups
- Website Redesign Subcommittee: Erin will talk more about it. They are putting together a new "Get Involved" section for the website.

B. Vice Chair (Kevin Dyke)

- Kevin's update will fall under New Business (MAGIRT at ALA Annual)

C. Secretary (Laura McElfresh)

- no report

D. Webmaster (Craig Haggit)

- Looking at website with Erin's group; most effort focused here
- Working w/ John to upload *base line*.

E. Treasurer (Pete Reehling/Iris Taylor)

- i. Feb 15th Danielle sent out spreadsheet: shows us with a \$38,502 balance
- ii. Should see positive adjustment in next quarter (corrected discrepancy in *base line* ad revenue). Let Pete know if there are any questions.
- iii. Should be fine for ALA -- Award Dinner comes from our budget, no other expenses
- iv. There is a lag between spending and when it shows up in our budget reports, so we need to track hard numbers for what money we are spending.
- v. Approaching 90-day deadline before ALA. Have to get details set.

F. Past Chair (Sierra Laddusaw) -- report given by Min for Sierra

- i. Sierra will be reaching out to the committee and discussion group chairs to confirm if they plan to continue in their role or not (this week)
- ii. She will be working with Danielle Ponton to order the Honor Award for this year's recipient soon (on calendar for the first Monday of May)

5. Old Business

- A. Emails spoofing Min's address (her actual emails do not have full name spelled out). Beware fake spam emails. Min uses her LC email address for MAGIRT business.

6. New Business: updates on MAGIRT 2022 Annual Conference Meetings & Programs

A. Discussion: Dinner locations and logistics

- i. Min: Looks like we will finally have an in-person conference! Min & Iris have been scoping out locations for MAGIRT dinner.
- ii. Kevin: According to the attendance survey, 18 people will be attending (out of 30 responses). Of these, 13 will attend Awards dinner, 15 will be there for pay-your-own-way dinner. We usually have ~30 attendees, so booking event space should be easier for a smaller event this time. Should be able to sign a contract with the restaurant so that ALA can cut a check before Annual.
 1. Min points out that she had a lot of event-organizing help from Iris & Tammy! Might have more people say they will attend as the conference date draws closer. Lots of the restaurants require a contract though. Cuisine possibilities are plentiful -- looks like American, maybe Chinese?
 2. Iris: Board mtg will be at Convention Center -- don't want us to have to go all the way back to LC, so maybe Sat night dinner near CC. (Higher-priced area but might be able to get a deal.) Looking at a Turkish restaurant? If anyone has anything they really want, tell Iris & Min!

B. Discussion: conference programs

1. "Transforming: Teaching & Learning" submitted to ALA: panel on Census 2020 from map, GIS, and data librarians -- range of speakers to talk about what we're doing with the Census (approaches to inequities, e.g.)
 - i. Confirmed: Frank Donnelly, Brown Univ.
 - ii. Invite?: Michele Hayslett, UNC Chapel Hill -- she is on the Steering Committee for the American Community Survey
 - iii. Other ideas for panelists? Let Kevin know ideas.
 1. Wangyal: Since we are in DC, Census people should be willing to come talk (for free?) We should make use of that. Can contact the Census and ask for a speaker.
 2. Pete: Could also do hybrid; have virtual speakers. Since this is for the Chair's Program, which is covered by ALA, we would *not* have to pay for AV for remote speakers.
 - iv. We CAN provide an honorarium; can pay speakers' way if they weren't already going to be at ALA.
 1. Pete needs numbers if we are paying speakers' transportation, hotel, etc. Is Frank an ALA member? Do these two speakers currently have any expectations of financial support from us?
 2. Wangyal: in the past we have given a uniform honorarium, and the speaker can use that for their travel & lodging expenses; we cover the registration (speaker registration from ALA -- still costs money though).
 3. Pete: Exec Board will have to discuss honorarium amount. (It was \$500 ten years ago. \$1000 is too much.)
 - v. Wangyal: To save money, ask speakers if their institutions will support them. (If their home institution will pay for them to come speak, that saves us money.) The federal agencies are required to give out information; the platform we provide helps them fulfill that requirement, so they'll do it for us.

7. Committee/DG/IG Reports

A. Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee (Sierra Laddusaw)

1. (included in Past President's report)

B. Cataloging & Classification Committee (Tim Kiser)

1. (no report)

C. Education Committee (Kim Plassche)

1. The Education Committee hosted a webinar on March 11th, 2022 titled *A New Way to Discover Map Collections: ALA MAGIRT's Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections*. Carol McAuliffe and Melinda Sandkam presented updates about the *Online Guide*. No attendance statistics

were recorded, but seventy-seven people registered for the webinar. The recording was distributed via ALA Connect and MAPS-L on the day of the event, and is available [on the ALA Events Zoom site](#).

2. Kim is still looking for education committee volunteers as well as ideas for webinars. She followed up on leads Kevin Dyke had but hasn't heard back from potential presenters. Please reach out to her with any suggestions!

D. Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG Coordinator (Wangyal Shawa)

1. (no report)

E. Membership & Marketing Committee (Erin Cheever)

1. Trying to put a few things together for Annual; would like to hear ideas about things that have worked well in the past, to revive for this Annual.
 - i. Brochures? get them printed
2. If you're on a committee or a DG, be on the lookout for the description Erin is putting together for the website.

F. Online Presence Oversight Committee (vacant)

1. (Still need someone)

G. Publications Committee Chair (vacant)

1. (Still need someone)

H. Cataloging of Carto Resources IG (Amy Runyon)

1. Moving rapidly on RDA Toolkit, trying to put forward some of the Application Profiles -- how have people been using those?
2. Have been using Extent Helper a lot; how are we going to move forward with that?
3. Iris would also like to suggest DEI in cataloging & description as a topic

I. Map Collection Management DG (Craig Haggit)

1. Will be sending out calls for topics (we're within 90 days already???)

J. Freedom to Read Foundation (Iris Taylor)

1. No update for FTRF (mostly has to do with "CRT" & book-banning, esp. during Black History Month; not much to do with maps & geographic information.
2. Nothing new on the geolocation case (developing case -- when a person crosses a geofence it triggers computer action). Iris will keep us up to date.

K. WAML liaison report (Katherine Rankin)

1. (no report)

L. CCDA Report (Min Zhang)

1. CC:DA will not be meeting in April -- no agenda items submitted since Jan. and no docs to be reviewed. The usual reports (NARDAC, PCC, MAC, LC) will be posted shortly for review.
2. Next CC:DA meeting will be June 28th (after ALA Annual; virtual meeting). Unfortunately there will be no on-site meeting during Annual.

M. Open Discussion?

1. Any LC event? -- Yes; tour will be Friday, 24 June at 3pm. (LC closes at 5pm.) Min submitted a proposal to LC and last she heard, it was tentatively approved. Hasn't heard otherwise so is assuming it is approved.
 - i. Event will be open to all ALA members, not just MAGIRT. Capacity is 30 ppl. Will be publicized on ALA website.
2. MAPS-L announcement/request for comment from Megan Snow? -- she is a new hire at LC. Would be nice to have her come to the meeting so she can talk about it. Min asks Wangyal to send her a note so she can talk w/ Megan's supervisor about it. Comments are due June 30th so the timing is good.
 - i. Kevin knows Megan from grad school so he'd like to be in on the conversation!
3. Do we know what date/time our meetings will be? -- Sat. June 25th.
4. Will our meetings be hybrid, so people could join from home even if they're not traveling? NT include that information.
 - i. Would have to purchase microphones and an internet connection. (AV would not be sustainable for us for our meetings. Would do better to have just a handheld microphone or something that the meeting leader could plug into a computer.)
 - ii. Challenge: If we just bring a laptop & start up a Zoom, remote attendees won't be able to hear people at the far side of the table. Also we might get feedback from multiple microphones, etc.
 - iii. Check into prices for microphones & stuff. Don't want to run afoul of contracts with conference venues.
4. Want to do an exhibition of unique items in the LC G&M collection. National Archives could also be an interesting place for us to visit. Person who manages the maps could come talk to us. (Need to be careful though; not everything is open yet. G&M will be fully open again on April 11th)
5. Next meeting is scheduled for May 31 -- this is the day after Memorial Day, so (as always! -lkm) people who can't be there can send their reports via email.

8. Adjournment - 3:57 pm Eastern



MAGIRT Treasurer's Report

Financial Summary for (Sept-Nov 2021)

Fiscal Year '21 Ending Asset Balance: \$58,178

Fiscal Year 2022 - Q1

Total Revenue: \$ 460

Total Expenses: \$ 56 (Overhead & Taxes)

Ending Balance: \$ 58,582

Pete Reehling
MAGIRT Treasurer



[MAGIRT – Map and Geospatial Information Round Table](#)

- **MAGIRT committee chair openings**
- **Survey Invitation: Student Employment and Geospatial Services in Academic Libraries.**
- **ACRL ALSGIG : Call for Submissions for Notable Works in Graduate Services**

MAGIRT committee chair openings

There are two open chair positions, **Online Presence Oversight Committee Chairperson** and **Publications Committee Chairperson**. If you are interested in either of these opportunities please reach out to a member of the Chair Trio, Min Zhang (mizh@loc.gov), Kevin Dyke (kdyke@okstate.edu), or Sierra Laddusaw (sladdusaw@tamu.edu). Both of these are a great way to become more involved in MAGIRT!

The **Online Presence Oversight Committee (OPOC)** coordinates and ensures the usability, currency and relevancy of information provided by MAGIRT via all of its online outlets, and maintains a high level of professionalism for MAGIRT's online presence. OPOC oversees and guarantees coordination of content creation by MAGIRT committees, discussion groups, and the general membership.

The **Publications Committee** coordinates, edits and produces MAGIRT publications, including but not limited to *base line*, the Electronic Publication Series, the Print Publication Series, and the MAGIRT Information Brochure. The committee oversees and executes changes to the MAGIRT website, and serves as an intermediary with publishers.

I am happy to answer questions concerning terms of chairs, workload, etc. You can also read more about the committees and duties of the chairs in our [Organizational Manual](#).

Sierra Laddusaw
Curator
Texas A&M University Libraries



NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

“Come to the book as you would come to an unexplored land. Come without a map. Explore it and draw your own map.”

- Stephen King, *Hearts in Atlantis* (2017)

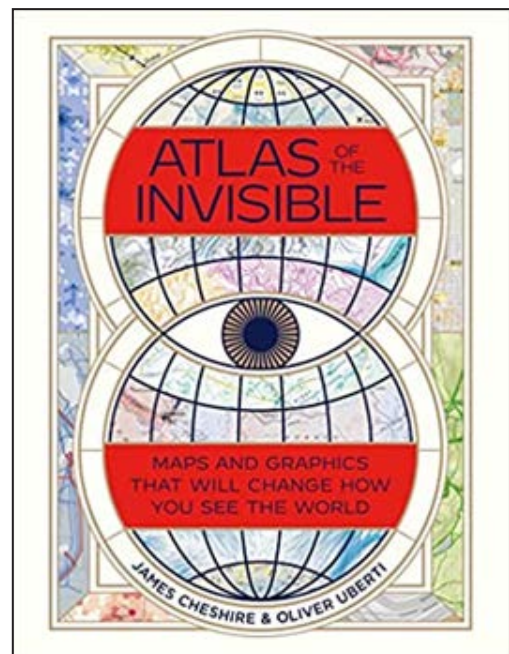
Introduction

Data visualization continues to be an important topic to researchers and educators. Here at my institution, librarians are asked to create finding aids, teach workshops, and help with individual projects related to visualizing research data and statistics. The trend doesn't stop there. More atlases are relying on supplemental graphs and charts to convey data outside of traditional maps. This month's column includes two books demonstrating different techniques for data visualization and one very important website that proves exactly how important accurate depictions of data are, particularly in the case of mapping.

Books

Cheshire, James and Uberti, Oliver. *Atlas of the Invisible: Maps and Graphics That Will Change How You See the World*. London: Particular Books, 2021 (ISBN: 9780393651515). 216 pages: color illustrations, color maps; 26 cm. List price: \$40.00.

It is increasingly difficult to ignore the impact of COVID-19 on our lives, research, and publications. Like many books that have been published in the last two years, one of the authors of *Atlas of the Invisible* makes a point to mention the effect of coronavirus on the writing of this book. In his preface, James Cheshire notes that co-author Oliver Uberti arrived in London just prior to the global shutdown. He continues to exclaim that, by the time Uberti flew home, he was guiding his own students as they mapped the growing case counts. By the time he wrote this preface in February 2021, Cheshire witnessed the death of his neighbor, his own positive antibodies test, and the loss of his wife's sense of smell. This is likely just a peek into how the virus had an impact on this author's life, but his anecdote is marked by the parallels he draws to John Snow's 1854 cholera map. Cheshire laments that his neighbor's house has been reduced to just one data point on the COVID 19 case map, but the story is larger than this one map marker.



Considering the efforts to map the spread of the virus while simultaneously neglecting to highlight the people affected, the author introduces his own book as an “ode to the unseen”.

James Cheshire and Oliver Uberti are frequent collaborators known for their focus on maps, graphics, and geographic topics. Their 2017 volume ***Where the Animals Go: Tracking Wildlife with Technology in 50 Maps and Graphics*** was reviewed favorably by David Bertuca in this column (*base line* 259 (5): 10). Prior to that popular release, they published ***London: The Information Capital: 100 Maps and Graphics That Will Change How You View the City***. The two authors call on their shared expertise in geography, cartography, journalism, and graphic design in this newest book focusing on the trends and realities we cannot see with our eyes but can visualize with data and maps.

The introduction gives us a glimpse into the history of data visualization, briefly summarizing the contributions of notable figures such as von Humboldt and Nightingale, as well as innovations including Fisher and Benson’s SYMAP punch card data maps (p. 17-23). Ending with a comment on the unseen data mapped by fitness watches in the present, the authors state their goal with this book is to “show you patterns not places” (p. 27).

The bulk content of the book, which is where we find the most maps and visualizations, is split into four chapters: WHERE WE’VE BEEN -- WHO WE ARE -- HOW WE’RE DOING -- WHAT WE FACE. In addition to maps, the book reveals data visualized in graphs and charts to convey the trends and stories we see in the “invisible”. One such example includes several pages of graphs detailing the most common names across the globe (p. 54-59). Using data from the UCL Worldnames Database, the authors construct multiple word clouds to show the top surname per country in 2020 for Europe, Africa, and the Americas. The reverse side shows the top forenames. A chart showing the frequency of four popular forenames or their variants in the year 2014 (for the names John, Mohammed, Joseph, and Mary).

This atlas breathes new life into familiar maps. Most are aware of the breathtaking satellite images showing light pollution illuminating earth at night, indicating where major cities are on the globe. The authors of this book offer another view of this image. Looking at light emissions data from 2012 and 2016, they compare where lights have turned on, switched off and dimmed. With their map, viewers can see the “effects of war, economic development, urbanization and increases in energy efficiency”. The annotations on the map explain significant changes in specific areas, such as the reduced light pollution in Western Europe due to the use of LED bulbs and other energy mitigation efforts (pages 80-85).

One of the sections in this book that truly illustrates the importance of seeing the “invisible” charts out unexploded bombs in Southeast Asia that were dropped during the Vietnam War (p. 142-146). As the authors explain, the locations are known only since 2000, following the declassification of documents by US President Bill Clinton. Although the documents don’t pinpoint exact areas of unexploded bombs, the newly available information provides data to aid nonprofit organizations as they approximate the locations and defuse the bombs, thus preventing death and injury.

The final chapter lays out “what we face”, and begins with a discussion of the first weather observation map installed by Joseph Henry at the Smithsonian headquarters in 1856 (p. 153-156). Henry relied on telegraph transmissions of data reports from weather

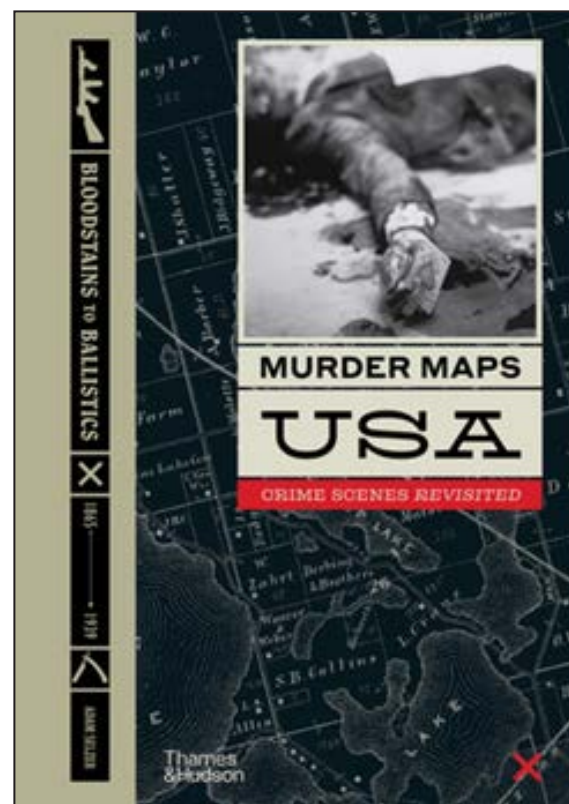
stations across the country. His map was updated with the addition of simple colored discs to represent clear skies, snow, or rain, as well as with arrows for wind direction. This rudimentary weather map shapes the final chapter's focus on climate change visualizations. Simple weather observation maps have evolved into complex maps depicting rising sea levels, increasing hurricanes and wildfires, and the threats of overfishing.

Atlas of the Invisible includes an annotated list of recommendations for *Further Reading*. The authors use this opportunity to explain why they relied on certain resources as they researched and wrote their book. They applaud their favorite news outlets for their exemplary maps and graphics, including National Geographic, Washington Post, New York Times, and Financial Times. The authors also provide a concise overview of map projections (p. 200-203), which is entirely appropriate given the authors' clear goal of providing accurate representations of data. A detailed list of citations concludes the book.

Selzer, Adam. ***Murder Maps USA: Crime Scenes Revisited: Bloodstains to Ballistics, Civil War to World War II, 1865-1939.***

London: Thames & Hudson, 2021 (ISBN: 9780500252598). 223 pages: color illustrations, color maps; 26 cm. List price: \$35.00.

Just over one year ago, I was delighted to read and review a book that represented two intersecting interests of mine: cartography and true crime. *base line* readers may recall my opinion that while the book fulfilled the promise to describe forensic practices of the nineteenth century, I felt the maps weren't given enough attention, which was especially frustrating due to the title of ***Murder Maps: Crime Scenes Revisited, Phrenology to Fingerprint 1811-1911*** (*base line* 42 (1): 33-35). Despite the book's failure to emphasize the backgrounds of the historic maps used to illustrate the path criminals took in the covered cases. I was happy to see a second volume in this series. The 2021 follow-up focuses on crimes specifically in the United States, and I was looking forward to "revisiting" some familiar stories.



The following content warning shouldn't be necessary given the title of the book, but readers should take care turning the pages of this volume. The gut-wrenching photographs in this book may be deemed inappropriate by many readers. This volume includes multiple images of corpses, including an especially grim photo of a murdered four-year-old boy. The photographs aren't meant to be sensational but are intended to illustrate one of the key policing methods highlighted in the book (crime scene photography). Prior to picking up this book, I was on a hiatus from true crime podcasts, books, and documentaries. I occasionally take a break from this genre because, while criminology is fascinating, the fact

that these events happened to real victims can bear a heavy weight on my mental health and well-being. Unfortunately, the graphic images in this book will be sending me back to my true crime break for a few more months.

Murder Maps USA consists of an introduction with a concise history of the development of modern forensics, four chapters representing four regions of the United States (The Northeast -- The Midwest -- The South -- The West), and a criminology matrix which serves as an index to all the cases in the book. The arrangement of this book is similar to the first ***Murder Maps***, and contains a listing of all images and maps appears at the end of the volume. Again, most of the maps are from the David Rumsey collection. In addition to multi-page spreads on specific cases, the book includes smaller half-page sections for other crimes. The story of each case and forensic investigation is described in a brief story, photos, floor plans and a map. Readers can also explore two-page maps marking locations across larger regions, such as “homicides in the home in Philadelphia, 1932” with 33 spots marked for one year (p. 58-59).

The author provides a timeline of the investigation of the murder of William Guldesuppe (p. 35). This is a welcome addition given the strange sequence of events surrounding the case, yet the timeline lacks dates. The pertinent dates aren't mentioned in the accompanying text, which makes the timeline feel incomplete. Even approximate dates would add value to the timeline and story.

Overall, I enjoyed reading this book. The information provided about each case was sufficient despite the lack of space available to devote to each. Some pages include floor plans, showing locations of bodies and or evidence in buildings, which are incredibly relevant in cases like that of Lizzie Borden (p. 25). However, the maps are still lacking. A small map (roughly a quarter-page) accompanies each case, showing key locations on a map of the area. Readers must flip to the back to find the citation for the map, and even then, are given basic information. No scales are shown for the maps and much of the text is difficult to read (even with my best friend, Mr. Magnifying Glass). It seems the purpose of including maps at all is to justify titling the book ***Murder Maps USA***, since the usefulness of the small maps is slim.

Murder Maps USA (2021) is penned by Adam Selzer, an accomplished author with an impressive bibliography including young adult novels and adult non-fiction. His non-fiction titles focus largely on Chicago history, ghost hunting and true crime. In 2017 he released a biography of famous murder HH Holmes (*HH Holmes: The True History of the White City Devil*, 9781510713437). The author's interest in American history, criminology, and forensic science contributed to the fascinating and well-researched stories detailed in this book. If a third *Murder Maps* volume is released, I will rush to acquire and read it. I am eager to learn if the maps play a more central role in future volumes.

Web Resources

The True Size Of... <https://thetruesize.com/>

The True Size of Africa : A small contribution in the fight against rampant Immappancy, by Kai Krause <http://kai.sub.blue/images/True-Size-of-Africa-kk-v3.pdf>

One of my frequent requests from faculty here on campus is for comparison maps. Maps showing the size of individual African countries compared to the United States or Europe are valuable for faculty in political science and history. Map enthusiasts are aware of the problematic history of reliance on map projections to diminish the size of Africa, but still many students are surprised to see these comparisons.

I recently discovered a web map that allows users to choose one or more countries and overlay them on any space on the globe. Using the website is incredibly easy. Users simply need to type in the name of a country and watch that location become instantly highlighted. The highlighted region can then be dragged and overlaid anywhere! Users wishing to compare multiple areas can continue searching, adding, and dragging additional countries. Clicking “Clear Map” will remove all highlighted areas. The only drawback of using this website is the persistent advertisement at the bottom of the map view. The prominent “START NOW” button can be assumed to be a part of the map, which is potentially misleading.



Screenshot of *The True Size Of...* website, showing Algeria and Togo displayed on a map of the United States, March 29, 2022. <https://thetruesize.com/>

This website is an incredible teaching tool that demonstrates how map projections distort the size of continents and countries. As users click and drag, the sizes of the countries change as they move across the globe.

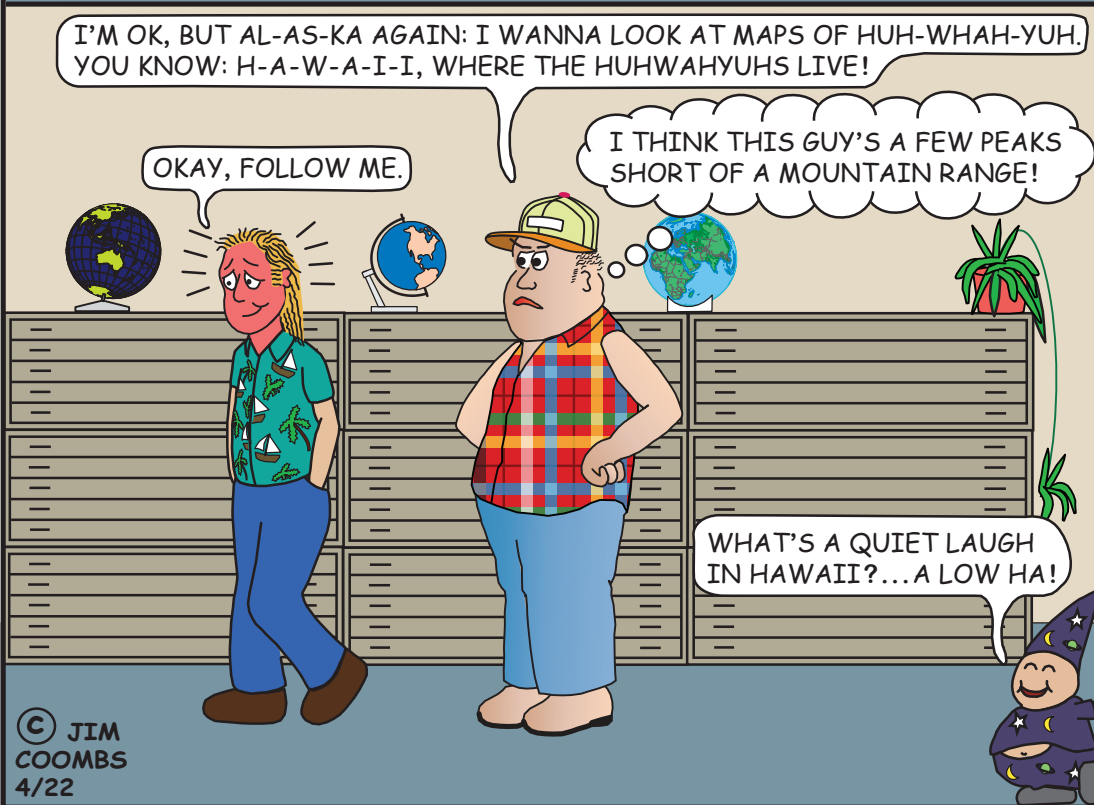
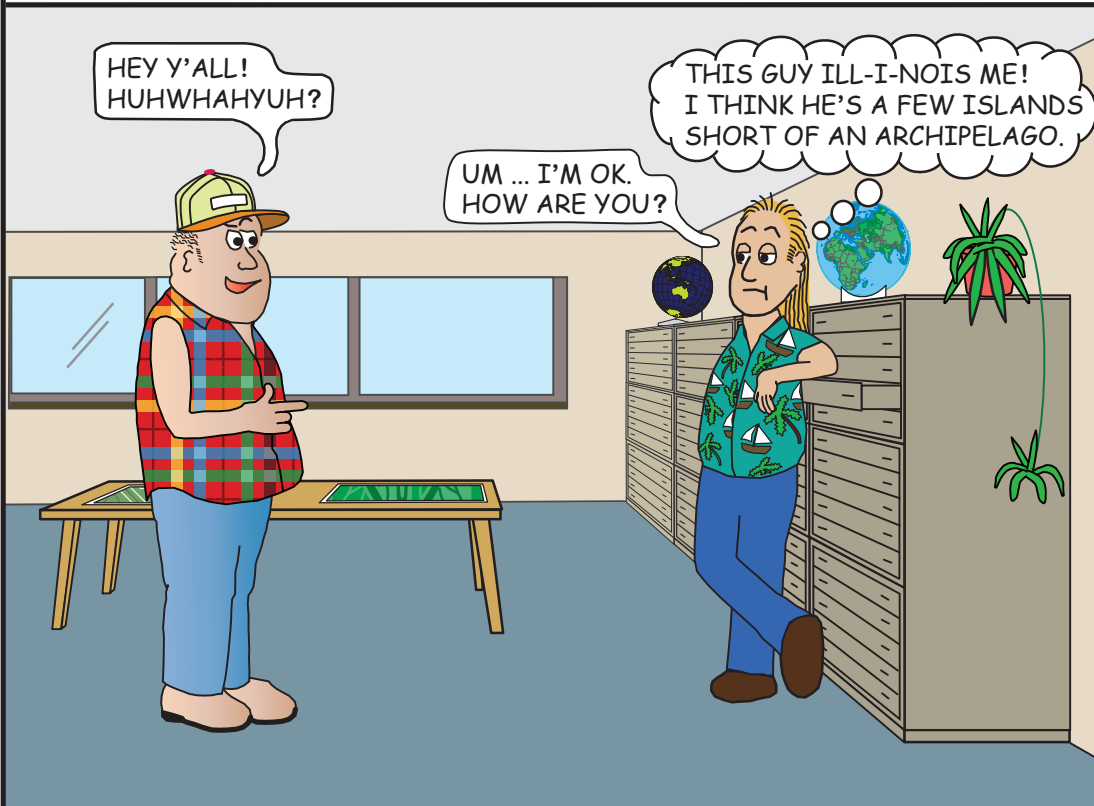
Per the website’s *About* section, the app was created by James Talmage and Damon Maneice, and inspired an episode of the television show *The West Wing*. The website links to an infographic by Kai Krause entitled “[The True Size of Africa](#)”, which also contributed to the idea for the website.

Conclusion

As always, I hope *base line* readers find my reviews valuable. I am always looking for recommendations, so please share publications you would like to see highlighted here. Until next time, please stay safe and be vigilant!



GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs



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