

# base line

*a newsletter of the*

**Map and Geospatial Information Round Table**

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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

MIN ZHANG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Hello, MAGIRT:

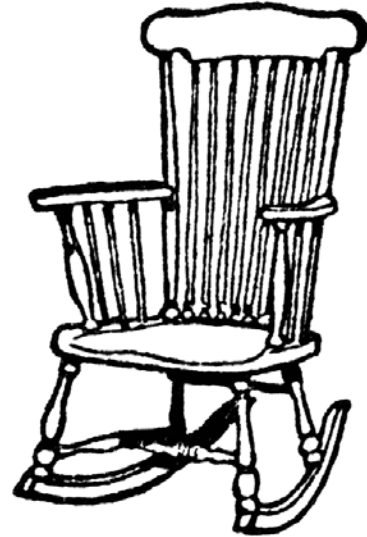
It's been an honor being elected by you to serve as the new chair for MAGIRT. I appreciate your vote and your confidence in me. I would like to thank all of you, MAGIRT members, supporters and friends, for your continued support and engagement as we pull through the pandemic together. It has been hard for everyone to skip three face-to-face ALA conferences. I'm sure that all of you miss seeing familiar faces, chatting with friends, and social outings. That's what I miss the most.

At our MAGIRT Honors Award Ceremony in June, we celebrated two award recipients, David J Bertuca, Map Librarian Emeritus and Carol McAuliffe from the University of Florida in recognition of outstanding achievement and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the Round Table. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to David and Carol.

I still remember my first MAGIRT meeting in the summer of 2009. I represented LC's Geography & Map Division and gave a report. I put everyone to sleep by reading through the entire report instead of focusing on key elements. In a way, I'm still learning the ropes as MAGIRT Chair. Several past MAGIRT chairs and members have been imparting their knowledge and experience to me as I'm "coming on board". I'm sure there will be more helping hands to guide me through all the tasks and timelines ahead. I plan to have regular Executive Board meetings and to keep all communications channels open. We are here to serve you—MAGIRT members. Please do not hesitate to let us know what's on your mind.

As I mentioned at the ALA Annual in June, I have really enjoyed being a MAGIRT member with map librarians helping each other whenever we can. Libraries are about sharing, and MAGIRT members are always ready to share resources, expertise, and tips to assist colleagues when needed.

In many ways, 2020 has been a year unlike any other—and that's true at work as well. 2021 is getting better. The Library of Congress is reopening to researchers and others. We will all go back to work on site soon. We are very excited by the news and I hope that you are beginning to see changes around you that inspire hope for the future.



# Minutes to the MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

## 2021 MAGIRT Virtual Conference

Date: June 28, 2021

Time: 3:00-4:30pm CT

Location: Virtual (Zoom; 22 attendees)

Attendees: Sierra Laddusaw (Chair), Min Zhang (Vice Chair), Iris Taylor (Past Chair), Pete Reehling (Treasurer), Laura McElfresh (incoming Secretary), Kevin Dyke, Carol McAuliffe, Susan Moore, Tim Kiser, Kathy Stroud, Erin Cheever, T. Wangyal Shawa, Michael L. Smith, Chris Kollen, Christopher J.J. Thiry, Angela Lee, Katherine Rankin, John Olson, Tammy Wong, Dorothy McGarry, Brian Falato, Megan Rush

**1. Call to order** – Chair Sierra Laddusaw called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**2. Call for changes to Agenda (Sierra)** -- Sierra asked for any changes to the posted agenda. There were none received, and we proceeded with the agenda.

**3. Secretary--Minutes from past meeting (Paige)**

Minutes to the January 25, 2021 Executive Board meeting were approved.

**4. Officer Reports**

a. Chair (Sierra)

- Midwinter Meeting 2022: Midwinter - new format is [LibLearnX](#). It will be held January 21-24, 2022 in San Antonio. Focus is to be professional development/ education and networking rather than business meetings.

b. Vice Chair (Min)

- Happy Hour event - 17 members got together to give out awards: David Bertucca and Carol McAuliffe were co-recipients of the 2021 MAGIRT Honors Award. Attendees also participated in some geography trivia & icebreaker games. A more complete report appears in the Appendix at the end of these minutes.

c. Secretary (Laura McElfresh for Paige)

- No report from Paige. You can send written reports to Laura after this meeting to help with completing minutes.

d. Webmaster (Colleen and Craig)

- No report

e. Treasurer (Pete)

- Information for this report is from a spreadsheet from Feb 2021 that Danielle mailed out. Numbers that follow are from September 2020. Balance \$57,741. This FY we have \$400 put into our account (from base line advertisements); no expenditures

listed. (Only expenditures we've had are the awards.) Overhead associated w/ maintaining the account always gets taken automatically by ALA too. "We're doing alright!" A full report will appear in the August issue of MAGIRT's *base line* newsletter.

f. Past Chair (Iris)

- Thanked Sierra for her leadership over this challenging year, which was full of uncertainties. Welcomed incoming officers; congratulations to MAGIRT Honors Award recipients
- Positions recently filled and needing to be filled: Kimberly Plassche volunteered to be Chair of Education Committee; need to fill vacancies for OPOC Chair; GIS DG Coordinator (see discussion later)
- Email list is migrating from SYMPA to ALA Connect -- full move will be completed by July 1st
- Will talk in a bit about merging Geotech Committee and GIS Interest Group.

## 5. Old Business

a. Forward Together/Roundtables and Bylaws:

Official recommendations have been released & are being discussed by Council. Membership requirement has been lowered (125 members?) so we more than meet this requirement! Do still need to have standardized bylaws across all roundtables; shows that RTs are acting in good faith, but also allows us to control what the bylaws will be (rather than having them handed down by ALA).

b. ALA Bylaws committee had a representative from almost each RT (a few did not send a rep)

Forward Together would also like to have a standard dues rate for RTs -- looking at \$20. RTs firmly believe there should be a discount rate though (for retirees, students, unemployed people) and have communicated this. Sierra encourages us to look at the Forward Together website (<https://forwardtogether.ala.org/>)

## 6. New Business

a. Treasurer - Pete, will stay in position only 1 year

Iris will be Assistant Treasurer during this time. Since this is unusual, there was a need to present to membership for an informal vote. Motion to approve this change in office passed.

b. Proposal to rename/merge two GIS groups – Iris

These groups are so similar that they often hold their meetings together; since one is an Interest Group co-sponsored with [??] and the other is a MAGIRT Committee it will take some work to accomplish. Question: Is there any reason to keep them separate, or would we like to merge them?

- i. Wangyal: Geotech Committee charge does not mention GIS at all. But if we insert that language, it should take care of that. Wangyal thinks the different groups were intended to provide leadership opportunities; over time, the different topics that the two groups developed for discussion converged. Hard to do with the short time we have for the meeting.
- ii. Pete: Historically the two groups tended to meet at the same time (unlike the Cataloging meetings). So it is fine to merge, just give more time please! (Sierra pointed out ALA limits groups' time to 1.5 hour because of space -- so if they want a 3 hour time slot, they would need to have 2 groups)
- iii. Wangyal: need to accommodate broad range of needs; give leadership opportunities to newer members. Future ALA meetings *should* be in person (DC in 2022), but Sierra hopes there will be virtual attendance options for those who can't be there.
- iv. Value in having two groups -- but need to look at their charges. Also schedule them back-to-back so that they can have the longer time. (We don't get to pick times -- ALA allots time slots and then MAGIRT can hand them out as we can.) Scheduling during pandemic was much easier because we did our own thing!
- v. Wangyal: Need to take care of the Geotech & GIS side of things so we don't just become a cataloging group.
- vi. Carol: suggests that business meetings could be virtual, save the in-person meetings for discussion.
- vii. GIS Discussion Group (DG) Coordinator - Joy? Her term ended last year; she's retired or retiring. Need to still have a Coordinator so that there's a name to provide in the ALA form and someone to take charge of organizing this particular meeting. Iris will add GIS DG Coordinator to list of positions to be filled.
- viii. Also are there still DG members from GODORT who are not members of MAGIRT? Need to do more outreach? People do come in; they have an interest. More outreach would be good.

## **7. Committee/Discussion Group/Interest Group Reports—Liaisons reports**

- a. Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee (Iris)  
No report.
- b. Cataloging & Classification Committee (CCC) - (Tim)  
Met earlier that day; peak attendance was 14! Low-key past 6 months; low-key meeting.
- c. Education Committee Discussion Group (Kevin/Eric)  
Also a low key meeting. Topics of discussion included:

i. Carol talked about the Online Guide as a way for people to inquire about intern positions with the project, etc. She presented the idea of organizing an annual message about the project and its needs and status. Carol is also looking to organize a webinar around the Online Guide.

ii. How to hire for an internship in a library? Advertising? Difficulty in hiring for internships? Outreach to LIS schools -- also GIS programs? Talked about best practices.

iii. StoryMaps - Angie Lee from Esri was there. How do you find educational material to put into StoryMaps? Kevin will get in touch w/Angie to contact StoryMaps team, looking to do webinar around Labor Day time on this topic.

iv. Webinar next month [July]: Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Geoportal team will provide a comprehensive overview of the geoportal site.

v. John Olson asked Kevin to send blurbs about the webinars for publication in *base line*.

d. GeoTech Committee Discussion Group (Wangyal)

See the combined GeoTech Committee and GIS Discussion Group report in the *Addenda* for details.

e. Membership and Marketing Committee (Maggie)

No report.

f. Online Presence & Oversight Committee (Megan)

I am stepping down as OPOC chair but will remain on the committee. With the move to ALA Connect, now is a good time to start posting *base line* newsletter there, even if it will also go on our website. John will copy me on the email when he asks to post it online. Then, I will post in ALA Connect and Colleen or Craig will post it to the website. We will not start embargoing new issues at this time but want to make sure it is an option.

g. Publications Committee (Abbey)

No report.

h. Cataloging of Cartographic Resources Interest Group (Maggie)

No report.

i. Map Collection Management Discussion Group (Craig)

There were 14 attendees at the meeting.

- Carol McAuliffe gave a brief update on the progress of the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections project, reporting an over 300% increase in the last 10 months since its initial re-launch with well over 200 institutions now represented. Additional regional coordinators are welcome and needed, contact Carol McAuliffe if interested ([carolmc@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:carolmc@uflib.ufl.edu)).

- Discussion on handling pocket maps in the collection: Common practice is to leave maps in the book, especially if the historic artifact is important in its own right. Agreement that creating title-level entries in some way in the record for the parent resource is valuable for access and discoverability for users, and collection management and stewardship for the institution.
- Some discussion was heard on Story Maps, including whether tutorials on teaching Story Maps, and teaching WITH Story Maps, are available. Some learning materials were shared, including from:
  - University of Minnesota
  - University of Florida
- If anyone is interested in taking over the leadership of the Map Collection Management Discussion Group, let me know and I'd be happy to discuss.

j. MAGIRT/GODORT (GIS) Discussion Group Coordinator

This group met with the Geotech Committee, see the note above under "GeoTech Committee Report".

k. WAML Liaison Report (Kathryn Rankin)

Katherine Strickland from the University of Texas at Austin has been elected vice-president of WAML and Kevin Dyke of Oklahoma State University has been elected secretary. Evan Thornberry of the University of British Columbia takes office as WAML president on July 1, 2021. The newly-elected officers also take office on July 1st.

There is a major revision of the WAML website going on, and the new website is to be unveiled in August. A specially convened task force has recently reviewed appointed positions and honoraria. The executive board is working on a plan, based on the task force's report, to make some changes to the definition and division of labor of these positions, and their honoraria.

This year's WAML conference will be entirely virtual, as planning an in-person conference with international attendees was too risky given the nature and uncertainty of US/Canada border closures. The conference was originally going to take place on the campus of the University of British Columbia. The dates are October 26-29, 2021. Currently, the call is open for submissions to present and to give workshops. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, August 13th. More information can be found at: <http://www.waml.org/conf/call-for-submissions/> The keynote speakers are set; they are Christine McRae and Victor Temprano of Native Land Digital. Next year's WAML conference is tentatively planned to take place in Hawaii.

## 8. Announcements

- Position for Membership Committee Chair is filled -- thank you, Erin Cheever!
- *base line* is still seeking someone to write a regular column on digital mapping



## 9. Passing of the gavel

- Sierra is looking forward to this year in her role as Past Chair, and to working with Min as Chair and Kevin as Vice Chair/Chair Elect. Good ideas floating around for the next year, especially for outreach and education.
- Min - has been in MAGIRT since 2009 but still feels like she has a lot to learn! Appreciates help from past Chairs (and from all of us!) to get her on track as MAGIRT Chair. Looking forward to seeing us all IN PERSON for a real Happy Hour event in DC next year.

## 10. Adjournment

Sierra adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Reported by

Paige Andrew, Secretary, MAGIRT

(With thanks to Laura McElfresh for taking notes at the meeting)



## ADDENDA/SUBMITTED REPORTS

### Vice Chair's Report

#### MAGIRT Honors Award Ceremony/Virtual Happy Hour

Saturday, June 26, 2021 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. CT. 17 attendees.

MAGIRT Honors Award: The Award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding achievement and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the Round Table. 2021 Award Recipients:

- David J Bertuca, Map Librarian Emeritus, University at Buffalo
- Carol McAuliffe, the University of Florida.

MAGIRT Chair Sierra Laddusaw presented the awards, then followed by geography trivia and ice breaker games hosted by the upcoming MAGIRT Chair Min Zhang.

## GeoTech and GIS Discussion Group Report

by Wangyal Tshawa

- The GeoTech Committee and GIS Discussion Group meeting was held virtually on June 28, 2021 from 10:30 to 11:30 CST. There were 22 people who attended the meeting.
- Geocoding project report: T. Wangyal Shawa reported on the project he is working on to develop geocoding reference data for different years in the United States. He downloaded 2002 and 2019 street and address range data from the Census website and created address locator tools for geocoding 2002 and 2019 data as a test. One problem he found for building the geocoding database by using the census data is that the census removes address ranges from certain sections of streets where there is a single address range. This was done because of Title 13 Privacy Protection Provisions. Knowing issues with the census data, Wangyal proposed during the Midwinter virtual conference developing an open-source geocoding database by downloading individual state address points and road central lines with address ranges. With the help of one of the GeoTech committee members he downloaded New Jersey and Indiana Address points and central line street data, created a geocoding database for those two states, and made them freely accessible to the public through Princeton Library's ArcGIS Enterprise server as an example for creating an open-source geocoding database. Since other GeoTech committee members did not show much interest in this project, Wangyal will explore working with like-minded groups or individuals to develop an open-source geocoding database for the United States for different years.
- Lightning talks: Before her lightning talk, Chris Kollen made an announcement that she will be retiring by the end of June but will continue to work on the Housing Discrimination in Tucson project. She described her project, which involves looking for racial covenants found in CCR (Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions) put on purchasing houses or property in the Tucson area. Her project concentrated on mapping housing subdivisions that show racial covenants. Based on her research she found 25 to 30 subdivisions that had racial covenants against African Americans. She enjoys working on the project and will share her project on a website using ArcGIS online technology when the project is completed.
- Wangyal gave a lightning talk on projects he has finished or is working on right now.
  1. Historical aerial photo orthomosaic of Northern Namibia from 1943 and 1970
  2. Autogeoreferencing Indian subcontinent topographic map sets
  3. Creating Ward Boundaries of Metropolitan boroughs of the County of London
  4. Creating metadata and publishing data created by the Princeton's Net Zero American Project
  5. Autogeoreferencing Historical Maps

- Data vendors' updates:
  1. Esri updates from Angela Lee: Esri Education Summit videos are now available online. ArcGIS Online has a new Map Viewer and also has an option to collaborate between partners. There will be a new ArcGIS Image tool which will allow users to analyze images. This tool will be released by the end of June. Esri released ArcGIS Online Assistant, which will help copy contents from one ArcGIS online organization to another. Esri's Learn ArcGIS team has created introductory courses on remote sensing. All these materials are freely available online.
  2. EastView update from Mike Peters: The Global Census Archive project that EastView is working on is growing. Now they have over 40 different countries including Egypt, Iran and India.
  3. Historical Information Gatherers (FIMO) update from David Hodnefield: Historical Information Gatherers is getting ready to launch the beta version of HistoryMosaic, its next generation platform for historical research, this summer. HistoryMosaic is a GIS-based platform for the discovery, viewing, and interpretation of historical information based on place. By utilizing a variety of data types such as aerial photography, fire insurance, topographic and cadastral maps, street address directories, and other sources, a virtual mosaic can be created showing the history of our world. Powerful tools to create projects and output data will be included. HistoryMosaic will provide a platform for library collections, institutions, and private individuals to showcase materials from their collections and share our collective knowledge.



## Treasurers Report - July 2021

All reported expenses and revenues were related to normal/recurring operations activities. No expenditures have been reported by the MAGIRT Executive Committee.

**Prior Balance = \$56,708 (April 2020)**

**Net Ending Balance = \$56,718 (February 2021)**

Year to Date Expense Categories:

1. Direct Expenses
2. Overhead & Taxes
3. Year to Date Revenue Categories:
4. Personal Dues
5. General Donation
6. *base line* Advertising



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# ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

TAMMY WONG

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee (CCC)

Monday, June 28, 2021 12:00-1:00pm CDT

Remote Meeting

Tim Kiser, Chair of the CCC, called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. He welcomed all the attendees to the CCC meeting. There were 25 attendees in total. Members present: Tim Kiser, Maggie Long, Susan Moore, Iris Taylor, Tammy Wong, and Min Zhang.

### 1. **Call to order** (Tim Kiser)

### 2. **Welcome and introductions**

CCC members and guests introduced themselves.

### 3. **base line cataloging editor report** (Tammy Wong)

The minutes from CCC meeting held at ALA Midwinter Meeting, in January 2021, were approved as published on page 4 of the February 2021 base line. See

[https://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org/rt/files/content/publicationsab/baseline/BL42\\_1.pdf](https://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org/rt/files/content/publicationsab/baseline/BL42_1.pdf)

### 4. **ALCTS CaMMS/MAGIRT Cartographic Resources Cataloging Interest Group report** (Maggie Long)

Held at ALA Annual Meeting 2021 online via Zoom, Monday, June 28, 2021.

25 Attendees: Cheryl Morrison, University of Washington; Laura McElfresh, University of Minnesota; Tim Kiser, Michigan State University; Susan Moore, University of Northern Iowa, Sierra Laddusaw, Texas A&M University; Keiko Hill, University of Washington; Mech Frazier, Northwestern University; Faye Mazzia, University of Central Florida; Dorothy McGarry, retired from UCLA; Naomi Shiraishi, UC Berkeley; Natasha Zaleski, New Jersey State Library; Amy Runyon, Baylor University; Nancy Kandoian, NYPL; Jorge Gonzalez, U of Florida Libraries; Ronda Seward, Indiana University; Tammy Wong, LC Geography and Map Division; T. Wangyal Shawa, Princeton University; Iris Taylor, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division; Min Zhang, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division; Paul Kirk, University of Florida; Andie Craley, Hartford Community College; Christopher Thiry, Colorado School of Mines.

## Meeting notes:

### 1. Announcement: Using MARCEdit to Batch Process Coordinates in 255\$c and 034 Field

(Announcement submitted on behalf of Paige Andrew) Members of the Cataloging and Metadata Services Department at the Penn State Libraries worked with Terry Reese to successfully add 255\$c and 034 coordinates to 2700+ local bibliographic records and then return and convert over 52,000 records with 034 coordinates in the degrees/minutes/seconds format to decimal degree format. There were some minor glitches concerning adding 255\$c during the first step due to the need to work with the entire field but those were ironed out during the process.

Terry recently added a coordinates convertor to the MARCEdit software and we were happy to serve as a “guinea pig” to see how it would work on a large quantity of records. In return, the vast majority of our local records now have the 034 coordinates in decimal degree format, which is very desirable for machine manipulation under other circumstances. In summary, we now have map records with 255\$c in the DMS format and 034 coordinates in the decimal format, which is ideal for both human-readable and machine-readable functions. A couple of years ago the Maps Cataloging Team invested in always using the decimal degree format in the 034 field (via output from the Klokan Bounding Box Tool) so we will consistently be following this best practice. If anyone would like more details, please contact Paige Andrew, [pga2@psu.edu](mailto:pga2@psu.edu) and he can assist.

2. Susan Moore provided an update on the MARC Discussion Paper No. 2021-DP03: Coordinates for Geographic Positioning of Structures in Images (see Susan’s report for details).

3. Open discussion: Attendees shared their work-related work from home and return to onsite work experiences, including the adjustments all have made, especially for those whose primary job duty is to catalog physical materials that only be accessed while onsite in the library.

## 5. CC:DA report (Min Zhang)

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND LIBRARY REOPENING**

The Library of Congress has begun the process of restoring on-site services and reopening to Congress, Congressional staff, and researchers, in Reopening Phase 3.1. Geography & Map reopened on June 1, 2021. By the end of June 2021, twelve reading rooms will be open to researchers (not to sightseers), by confirmed prior appointment only,

#### Revised romanization tables

The Library of Congress (LC) and the American Library Association (ALA) have jointly developed the [Revised Procedural Guidelines for Proposed New or Revised Romanization Tables](#) in order to provide a standardized and consistent romanization used in the metadata cataloging records for non-Latin script materials.

## BIBFRAME (Bibliographic Framework Initiative)

LC continues to work on BIBFRAME development and testing. The new BIBFRAME Editor, the input-update interface to the BIBFRAME system, was released in a soft launch to LC staff on June 2, 2021. The new Editor is conceptually very similar to the existing Editor but has a new interface and is significantly easier to use. Cataloging staff can load initial bibliographic control records from the LC Integrated Library System (Voyager) into the BIBFRAME Database (BFDB) and use the BIBFRAME Editor to upgrade those records with full bibliographic descriptions. **The pilot has been successful, and the Library will transition from the pilot to full BIBFRAME production in 2021.** Staff can also create descriptions directly in the BFDB using templates for thirteen different materials formats that the BIBFRAME Editor supports. The BIBFRAME Editor accommodates input of diacritics and Cyrillic script and enables lookups of name and subject authority data from within the Editor, facilitating “one-stop shopping” for production staff. A total of 4,263 BIBFRAME descriptions were produced by LC staff and publicly shared in the first half of fiscal 2021, providing the library community with a growing testbed of linked open metadata to described library collections.

## Program for Cooperative Cataloging

The Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP) organized and hosted a two-day virtual PCC Operations Committee meeting, May 6-7, 2021. The meeting featured more than twenty presenters, and the number of attendees over both days totaled 476. Judith Cannan and Melanie Polutta presented an update on the RDA/PS Project. Sally McCallum provided a BIBFRAME update including preparation for the new BIBFRAME Editor. Presentations and recordings are available from the meeting agenda at URL <<https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/documents/OpCo-2021/Agenda-OpCo-2021.pdf>>

Also available on the PCC website are the presentations from the PCC-At-Large meeting and the PCC Participants’ meeting that were held as a virtual combined meeting on Feb. 19, 2021, as a replacement for the usual two meetings held during ALA Midwinter Meeting. Presentations included “RDA Update”, “Emerging thoughts on LCSH”, and a panel discussion on “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and the PCC.”

## Subject cataloging policy

LCGFT Manual. The LC *Genre/Form Terms Manual* (GFTM) was revised and made official in May 2021. Revisions to the manual will be made as needed going forward, in the same way that the *Subject Headings Manual* and *Classification and Shelving Manual* are revised. GFTM is available as free PDF form on the ABA website at <https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCGFT/freelcgft.html>

## New editions of subject cataloging tools.

The 2021 PDF editions of *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH), *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials* (LCGFT), *Library of*

*Congress Demographic Group Terms* (LCDGT), and *Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music* (LCMPT), as well as the LC Classification schedules and tables, were published in May and June 2021. They may be found under “Products available for download” on the ABA website, URL <<http://www.loc.gov/aba/>>.

Four CC:DA Task Forces have been in operation between February and July, 2021.

- CC:DA Task Force on the “Proposal on Changing Procedural Guidelines for Proposed New or Revised Romanization Tables”
- Virtual Participation Task Force to address new ALA Connect adoption.
- CC:DA Procedures Review Task Force
- CC:DA RDA Beta Toolkit Training Investigation Task Force.

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) continued to track the proposal for a Curator element at the Work level from CC:DA and ARLIS-NA. The revised proposal was referred to the RSC Technical Working Group for review. The Technical Working Group has been developing an RDA treatment for Collections, the form of work that a curator of an exhibit or collection creates, as a prerequisite for the Curator proposal.

The PCC Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was launched in February. The charge for the PCC Working Group on Metadata Application Profiles was posted. The NACO Advisory Group created a new guidance document, the PCC Policy on Compilations of Works by One Agent. This document, along with the related FAQ created by the Standing Committee on Standards, is also available from the NACO Website. The LC-PCC Task Group on Aggregates in the Beta RDA Toolkit has issued part 2 of its final report: <https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/taskgroup/RDA-Aggregates-TG-Final-Report-Part%202.pdf>. The Task Group on Developing Guidelines for BIBFRAME and MARC Bibliographic Encoding Languages, reporting to the Standing Committee on Standards, began its work in March 2021.

## **6. LC Geography and Map Division report (Min Zhang)**

### **G&M ALA Update 2021**

The Geography and Map (G&M) ALA update reflects the activities in the Division since January 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the G&M Reading Room was closed, shifting to 100% virtual service to patrons. However, on June 1<sup>st</sup> the G&M Reading Room opened to researchers by appointment with limited capacity.

In FY21, the Geography and Map Division acquired a number of important cartographic collections and some noteworthy early maps produced in developing countries in local indigenous languages. Deaccessioned maps from the Foreign Map Procurement Program (FMPP) collection were received via the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). Although transfers of cartographic materials from U.S. Federal agencies, other Library divisions, and mandatory deposits from the Copyright Acquisitions Division (CAD) slowed



due to the CV-19 pandemic, the number of items is expected to reach thousands of maps once the shipments are received.

In FY21, The Geography and Map Division (G&M) reference staff, as part of a library wide effort published several new LibGuides, including; the [modern history of the Caucasus](#); sources about [renowned sixteenth-century Flemish cartographer, Abraham Ortelius](#); and [Fire Insurance Maps at the Library of Congress](#).

In April 2021, John Hessler, a GIS Specialist and Meagan Snow, the Library's Geospatial Data Visualization Librarian, presented a two-day briefing to over 100 staff members from the House and Senate on new methods for mapping and understanding the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey.

G&M was featured in the [May/June 2021 issue](#) of the Library of Congress Magazine, items were selected that illustrate the history of cartography and the way humans perceive themselves and those perceptions have changed over the centuries. Articles include topics such as using GIS to map the CV-19 pandemic, history's first atlas, how hyperspectral imaging reveals hidden stories of historical maps, and more.

Since March 2018, G&M has published thirty-nine online interactive applications that highlight creative ways to facilitate the accessibility of thousands of collections, using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based tool Story Maps ([loc.gov/storymaps](https://loc.gov/storymaps)) which have garnered well over 350,000 views.

The Cataloging Team (CT) continued to accomplish important work remotely, with a focus on arrearage reduction to increase user discoverability and expand access to the Library's cartographic collections:

- The Remote Atlas Project enhanced 12,965 Pre-MARC records to full bibliographic records. These records are now fully accessible online for all users.
- The Title Collection Project created 608 collection level records describing pre-1970 map collections, including 212 records for most countries of the world, in addition to 396 records for the United States and the Caribbean region. The project reduced 185,000 sheets from the arrearage backlog.
- Twenty-two new EAD finding aids were created for special collections, controlling 40,121 items. This number includes the Heezen Tharp Atlantic Ocean, the Heezen Tharp Indian Ocean, the Engineering Society Library, and the WWII Military Intelligence Map Collection.
- CT reviewed and commented on MARC Advisory Committee proposals and discussion papers related to the cartographic community.

MAGIRT Chair Elect (2020-2021) - Chair (2021-2022) – Min Zhang

MAGIRT Cataloging and Classification Committee — Iris Taylor, Tammy Wong, and Min Zhang

MAGIRT liaison to the Committee on Cataloging: Description & Access - Min Zhang

## 7. OCLC report (Laura Ramsey)

**OCLC Update**  
**MAGIRT Cataloging & Classification Committee**  
**2021 ALA Annual Conference**  
**July 2021**  
**Prepared by Laura Ramsey**

### **Mellon Grant/Reimagining Descriptive Workflows**

OCLC received a new Mellon Grant this year to convene a group of experts to discuss ways of improving descriptive cataloging practices to incorporate antiracist and inclusive language. Learn more about the initiative at <https://oclc.org/reimagine-workflows>

### **Dewey (DDC) News:**

- Since last year's meeting, the Dewey team has made updates to historical periods and/or administrations for Algeria, Chad, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, and Tanzania
- In partnership with faculty from the University of Goa, added provision for Indian traditional medicine, including an option for any library to give preference to a chosen therapeutic system, similar to such official options given in religion
- There is ongoing work with global volunteers to improve coverage of Central Asian geography, and work with users in Egypt and Pakistan to further expand coverage of Islam. We plan to present these proposals to our Editorial Policy Committee at an in-person meeting to be held June 2022
- The Dewey editorial team is, as of July 1, part of the Metadata Quality division at OCLC. The editorial team encourages anyone interested to propose revisions to the classification. Please contact [dewey@oclc.org](mailto:dewey@oclc.org) if interested

### **VIAF News:**

- New contributors: Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale (RILM) & Slovenská národná knižnica (Slovak National Library); One contributor has withdrawn: Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc (National Library of Morocco)
- New Contributors in progress: United Arab Emirates University & Bibliothèque nationale de Tunisie (National Library of Tunisia)
- VIAF currently has 57 data sources, 86,945,222 authorities, 35,294,232 clusters

### **WorldCat validation changes installed April 22, 2021**

This release of changes to WorldCat Validation involves the following new features, enhancements, and bug fixes:

- OCLC-MARC Validations of New MARC Codes Announced February and March 2021
- New ISSN Centre Codes Validated for Bibliographic 022
- Correction of Relationship Between Authority 008/17 and 18X Fields
- Correction of ISAN Validation in Bibliographic and Holdings Fields 024
- Correction of Validation for Bibliographic Field 345
- Correction of Validation for Authority Field 348

### Metadata Quality News:

- Member Merge: OCLC now has over 50 member libraries merging duplicate bibliographic records. The only requirement is that your library be a PCC member. If interested in participating, let [askqc@oclc.org](mailto:askqc@oclc.org) know.
- We presented 10 Virtual AskQC office hours over the past year (August – June 2021), offering each monthly session twice. We take July and December off. See [oclc.org/askqc](https://oclc.org/askqc) for topics, registration, and recordings of past office hours.
- As part of OCLC's effort to bring OCLC-MARC into line with MARC 21, we have begun the long process of converting the alphabetic encoding levels to the standard MARC numeric values. We have begun with K level records and are almost half-way through that project. We hope to change our new bibliographic record additions contributed via batch processes over to standard MARC values within the current fiscal year.

### OCLC WorldCat Quality Statistics

- Bibliographic records replaced by OCLC staff July 2020-June 2021: 26,130,064
- Bibliographic records replaced by member libraries July 2020-June 2021: 985,641
- Change requests received by OCLC July 2020-June 2021: 72,616
- Bibliographic records merged into other records by OCLC staff July 2020-June 2021: 317,498
- Bibliographic records merged into other records by member libraries July 2020-June 2021: 60,121
- Bibliographic records merged into other records by DDR July 2020-June 2021: 10,856,783

Prepared by Laura Ramsey  
July 2021

### 8. MARC Advisory Committee report (Susan Moore)

The MARC Advisory Committee met virtually June 28th-30th. Here are the results of the discussion of the proposals and discussion papers of potential interest to the cartographic community.

Proposal 2021-11 defines \$y and \$z for incorrect/invalid ISSNs in field 490. The proposal passed.

Discussion Paper 2021-DP07 discussed adding a new field (Field 023) to record Cluster ISSN, which is a new concept defined by ISO 3297:2020 in the bibliographic, authority, and holdings formats. There was a positive response to the discussion paper and the ISSN Review Group will bring a proposal to add the field at the next meeting.

Proposal 2021-13 expands the definitions of field 034 to allow for the recording of geographic coordinates, when appropriate, for any type of resource. This comes out of Discussion Paper 2021-DP03, which was discussed at the midwinter meetings. The definition and scope would be changed to allow records for non-cartographic materials to use field 034 without a corresponding field 255. The \$a would not be used for non-cartographic materials. The definition of \$g will be changed slightly, dropping the phrase

“for a map or plan” to allow center point coordinates to be used for non-cartographic materials in the bibliographic format and a similar change to the definition in the authority format. The proposal passed with an additional change to the second paragraph proposed for the Field Definition and Scope which now will be “For non-cartographic materials (i.e., images, graphic materials, textual materials, etc.), geographic coordinates are recorded to represent the position of the structure, site or feature depicted or described in the resource, or the geographic location from which the image was captured by the creator of the images or graphic materials. In this case, geographic coordinates may be recorded in field 034 without the presence of a corresponding field 255 in the record.”

Proposal 2021-16 would add a new subfield (\$I) to field 340 to record the type of binding to accommodate the RDA element “type of binding”. This is not a required element so libraries that use the same record for different types of bindings will not be required to use the subfield. The proposal passed.

Discussion Paper 2021-DP-10 explored the potential of recording data provenance in the MARC 21 formats. Currently there is no way to determine what library added what information to a MARC record. This paper is related to Discussion Paper 2021-06 that was discussed at midwinter. Potential ways of recording data provenance explored in this paper are deploying additional subfields in field 883, deploying non-standard subfield delimiters, or the deployment of various subfields for the same purpose across different fields. There was a great deal of discussion. The German language cataloging community has a current need to record data provenance and created a side paper to explain their needs. However, none of the options provided in the paper had overwhelming support. There will be another discussion paper covering the topic at the next meeting that will explore the deployment of various subfields across different fields to record provenance (since there is no common subfield open across all fields) in combination with the technique of coded values (which was option 5 in this paper).

Discussion Paper 2021-DP11 would change the definition and scope of field 507 to be the scale note for graphic material, so that the scale for visual materials can be recorded in the MARC bibliographic record. Scale for cartographic materials will continue to be recorded in field 255. During the discussion, there was interest expressed by some to use Field 255 instead of Field 507. I responded that the cartographic community was not in favor of changing the use of Field 255.

Discussion Paper 2021-DP12 explored ways of recording representative expressions, which is defined in RDA as “an expression that is considered a canonical source of data for identifying a work.” This way it will be possible to indicate in the record that the expression is assumed to be the original or canonical realization of the work. This will come back as a proposal.

This meeting concluded Matthew Wise’s term as chair. Cate Gerhardt from the University of Washington will be the chair.

## 9. **RBMS/DCRMC report** (Amy Runyon)

RBMS/DCRMC Report – ALA Annual 2021

### 1. RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee Task Group on Addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Bibliographic Standards and Bibliographic Description

This BSC task group's final report came out on June 2, 2021. This task group's charge was "to assess existing work on best practices for creating institutional statements on harmful language and bias in cataloging, and to identify what work is in scope for BSC and what work should be undertaken in collaboration with other groups, both within RBMS and externally" (from RBMS BSC Task Group Final Report). The task group met six times virtually from March to May 2021, with separate subgroup meetings. From their work, the task group made five recommendations in their report regarding statements on harmful metadata, remediation of metadata and eliminating bias in current cataloging practices, supporting staff, consulting and working with communities, and developing programs. Next steps were discussed. It was recommended that the BSC charge a new task group, made up of members from RBMS and other relevant groups, to further identify and develop strategies to address DEI needs within the cataloging community and look into collocating this work on the BSC website, possibly in the form of a DEI toolkit. Many of the same issues discussed in this report were examined at this year's annual RBMS conference (held June 8-10, 2021) whose theme was power, resistance and leadership.

### 2. Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials, RDA Edition (DCRMR) Update

When completed, the DCRMR (RDA Edition) will consolidate the multiple manuals currently used to catalog rare materials in different formats. This will include cartographic materials, though currently there is only one small section devoted to cartographic cataloging. The DCRMR can now be found at the following link: [DCRM \(RDA Edition\)](#). A bibliographic standards review of the initial DCRMR was mostly positive, so once edits have been made based on this review, the text will be taken to the RBMS Executive Committee, hopefully in early December 2021.

## 10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Wong





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## Welcome MAGIRT Officers for 2021-2022

Min Zhang	Chair
Kevin Dyke	Vice-Chair
Sierra Laddusaw	Immediate Past Chair
Laura McElfresh	Secretary
Pete Reehling	Treasurer
Iris Taylor	Assistant Treasurer

## Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections

The [Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections](#) is a directory of map collections, big and small, across the United States. This initiative is a project of the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table ([MAGIRT](#)) of the American Library Association.

Add Your Map Collection to the Online Guide

Take the [Survey](#) to Get on the Map!

Questions or Comments? Email [magirtonlineguide@gmail.com](mailto:magirtonlineguide@gmail.com)

# MAGIRT Honors Award for 2021 presented to Carol McAuliffe and David Bertuca

CHICAGO — The Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) Nominations and Awards Committee selected Carol McAuliffe and David Bertuca, as the recipients of the 2021 MAGIRT Honors Award. This award is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the Round Table. They will each receive a \$350 monetary award and a plaque.

McAuliffe is map librarian at the University of Florida. She has been an active member of MAGIRT since 2007, serving on the Publications Committee, the Education Committee, and on the MAGIRT Executive Board as secretary. She has tirelessly guided the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections project and team for years, exploring myriad ways to improve it, and this year it was officially relaunched. Through a coordinated campaign and presentations at MAGIRT, WAML (Western Association of Map Libraries), and smaller regional gatherings (all virtual no less!), and multiple newsletters, the word is not only getting out but is receiving highly positive feedback and increasing participation. This resource will help researchers within and outside of the mapping field to locate cartographic research materials to aid in their own projects.

Bertuca is map librarian emeritus at University at Buffalo (UB). During his time working at UB Libraries (1984-2019), He worked in cataloging, serials, website administration and finally as the head of the Map Collection and liaison to the Department of Geography. He also taught cataloging in the University's Department of Library Science program. Outside of UB, David has contributed to the field of map librarianship in countless ways. He was active in the North East Map Organization (NEMO) from 1999-2013, serving in roles including as president (2011-2013, 2002-2003), board member (2002-2013), website editor (2000-2015), newsletter editor (1999-2013), and annual meeting coordinator (2011-2012, 2002, 2003, 2011). He was also a member of MAGIRT. From 2006-2019, he wrote the bi-monthly column "New Maps and Cartographic Materials, Along with Other Items of Interest" for base line: a Newsletter of the Map and Geography Round Table . His "Map Catalogers' Tool Box" ( <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~dbertuca/maps/cat/map-cat-toolbox.html> ) is a valuable tool for map catalogers, referenced as recently as October 2019 in the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services webinar titled Special Collections Cataloging: Maps .

Congratulations to both Carol and David on their accomplishments!

ris Taylor  
MAGIRT Past Chair  
Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT)  
[itaylor@loc.gov](mailto:itaylor@loc.gov)







## MAGIRT WANTS YOU!

MAGIRT has a number of leadership opportunities open! I encourage you to consider submitting your interest in one of these roles, it is a great way to become more involved with the organization and to add a national leadership role to your CV/resume. Information on the responsibilities of these roles can be found in our [Organization Manual](#), additionally you can email me with questions you may have or to express your interest in one of these six positions: [sladdsuaw@library.tamu.edu](mailto:sladdsuaw@library.tamu.edu)

### Committee and Interest Group Chairs

- Online Presence Oversight Committee Chair
- Membership and Marketing Committee Chair
- Publications Committee Chair
- Core/MAGIRT Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG Coordinator

### Liaisons

- FGDC National Geospatial Advisory Committee
- USGS, United States Geological Survey

Sierra Laddusaw  
Past-Chair

## NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Kim Plassche

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

“I see the shapes, I remember from maps. I see the shoreline. I see the whitecaps.”  
- Talking Heads, *The Big Country* (1978)

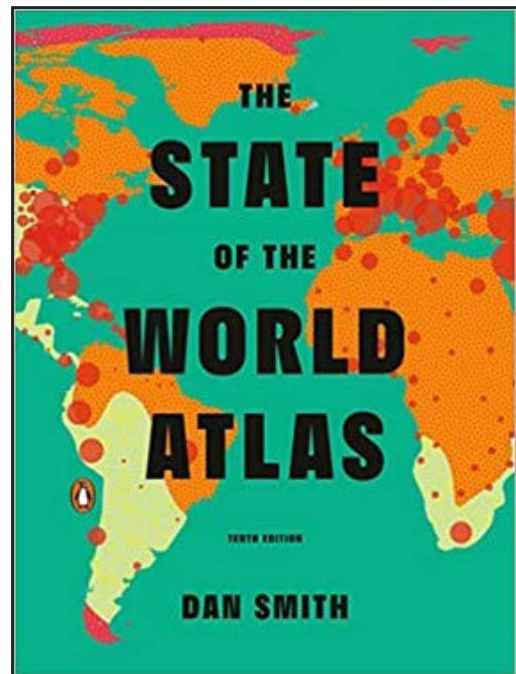
### Introduction

This month’s column features only two reviews. Both the book and website were a joy to explore, but I found some areas for improvement in both these resources. As such, I hit my word (and time) limit much earlier than previous columns. I strive to be as thorough as possible in my examination of these materials, and never want to give an unjustified “bad” review. I welcome any comments or feedback on these publications or my evaluation of them.

### Books

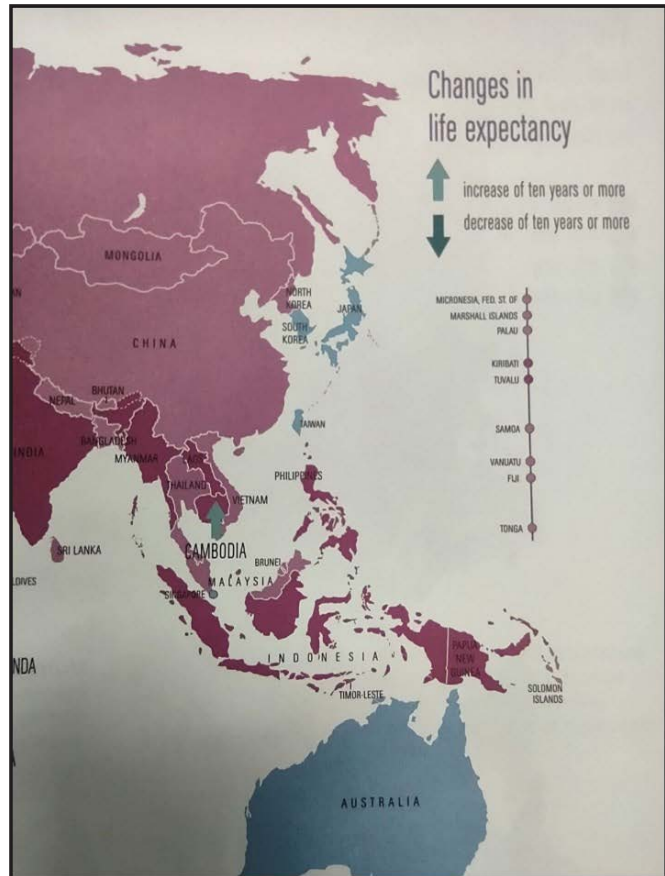
Smith, Dan. *The State of the World Atlas*. London: Penguin Books, 2021 (ISBN: 9780143135074). 208 pages: color illustrations, color maps; 25 cm. List price: \$25.00.

Many of my colleagues are optimistic we are finally nearing the end of the coronavirus pandemic, but news about the virus still dominates many of our lives. Although this is now a common occurrence, I am still shocked when I come across a new book detailing the first few months of the pandemic. *The State of the World Atlas* was completed in mid-2020, when infection rates were soaring, and the world was uncertain when we would see our first vaccines being administered. In his introduction, the Dan Smith identifies four big changes that occurred during the past 30 years (“the passage of time normally associated with one human generation”). These major changes are the end of the Cold War, the September 11, 2001 attacks, the 2008 financial crash, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The author admits we don’t yet know what the full impact of the pandemic will be. He again addresses the virus in the *Health of the People* chapter, with one map showing the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic for January - June 2020. A second map charts the countries worst affected by SARS, H1N1, MERS and two Ebola outbreaks (2014-2016 and 2018-2020). This coverage is just one example of the timeliness of the information and maps in this atlas.



If the name Dan Smith or the title *The State of the World Atlas* sounds familiar, you have likely seen one of the previous nine editions of this atlas (with the slightly altered title *The Penguin State of the World Atlas*). The ninth and tenth editions follow the same general format, and there is even some duplication of maps in the 2020 book (updated with new data). Each edition groups maps and infographics into six main chapters: Who We Are -- Wealth and Poverty -- Rights and Respect -- War and Peace -- Health of the People -- Health of the Planet. However, an introduction detailing “the problem with maps” (p.16) and several pages of global vital statistics are missing from the new edition. Illustrations, maps, and graphics in both editions are flashy and employ various data visualization techniques to convey complicated ideas.

I look at dozens of atlases each year, both for this column and in my daily work. I have favorite map techniques, but I also have pet peeves. I don't like when cartographers take short cuts resulting in a misrepresentation of scale or shape that could have been avoided. For example, I am not fond of the way island nations are represented on the maps in this book. Nine Pacific islands (Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Tonga) appear as small, connected circles west of Japan on the far-right on several maps (p. 15, 21, 25, 29, 37, 43, 45 are just a few examples of this). Various other islands appear as circles throughout the maps, as well, including Comoros, Mauritius, Cape Verde, and Caribbean islands. This style of representing islands may be preferred for ease of interpreting the color for smaller islands on a choropleth map, but the size and location of many island countries are misrepresented through the atlas (see image above). Unfortunately, this is one of the style choices in the tenth edition that are leftovers from previous editions.



This new edition includes a description of the Panama and Paradise Papers document leaks, along with three maps visualizing trends and statistics from these leaks. The summary of these events is brief and confusing. The author does not provide a date for the leaks until the last sentence of the final paragraph of the textual material (p. 56). The dates of the leaks and the events detailed in them should be mentioned at the outset to provide context to the reader. The map showing the “top ten providers based on the number of companies registered there that appeared in Mossack Fonesca’s files” is misleading, as well. Both the British Virgin Islands and the Bahamas land in the top ten, so the statistic for the

Bahamas hovers west of Peru instead of north of Cuba. Likewise, Panama appears above the lower half of South America. Maps should be used to convey geographic information accurately. If the graphic designer and cartographer (listed as Clare Shepherd and Isabelle Lewis, respectively) realized the data was not appropriate for display on a map, a different visualization should have been used. The authors and designers of this book used bar charts effectively in other areas of the book, including to express biodiversity loss by region (p. 173). This is a practical alternative to using a map in the Panama Papers chapter, as well.

Another area of confusion is in the children’s rights section (p. 78-79). The map showing “Unregistered births as percentage of all births” depicts data on the following scale: 70% or more, 50% - 69%, 30% - 49%, 10% - 29% and 19% or fewer, as well as a grey color for regions having no data. The choice to include the 10%-19% range in two categories (10%-29% and 19% or fewer) is baffling. Should we assume there is a typo? Or is data really duplicated in two classes? If there is a reason for grouping the classes in this way, an explanation in these pages would be appreciated.

The ninth edition of *The Penguin State of the World Atlas* was published in 2012. Although less than a decade transpired between editions, that publication represented a vastly different world than this new release. This edition features many new topics, including 3D printing (p. 130) and artificial intelligence in defense applications (p. 131). “The New Front Line” map/timeline in the ninth edition classed drones, cyber attacks, special forces, and terrorism/piracy as distinct warfare types (p. 64-65). In the tenth edition, we now see two pages devoted entirely to cyber warfare (p. 128-129), which is a strong indicator of how much the world has changed in less than a decade (see image below).



Although this reader disagrees with many style choices made by the author and cartographer, several simple visualization techniques enhance the data display. For example, in the bar graph showing “threatened species as percentage of those evaluated by IUCN”, each bar is filled with a simple pattern representing that type of species (fishes with scales, mammals with leopard prints, corals with coral reefs, etc.) (p. 173). This same approach is used in a chart depicting the number of most common items of debris found by volunteers worldwide as part of the Ocean Conservancy beach cleanup efforts (p. 183). Illustrations of cigarettes, food wrappers and plastic bottles make it very clear what types of trash litter our beaches. Future editions of this atlas employing more techniques that don’t sacrifice accuracy would be welcome.

## Web Resources

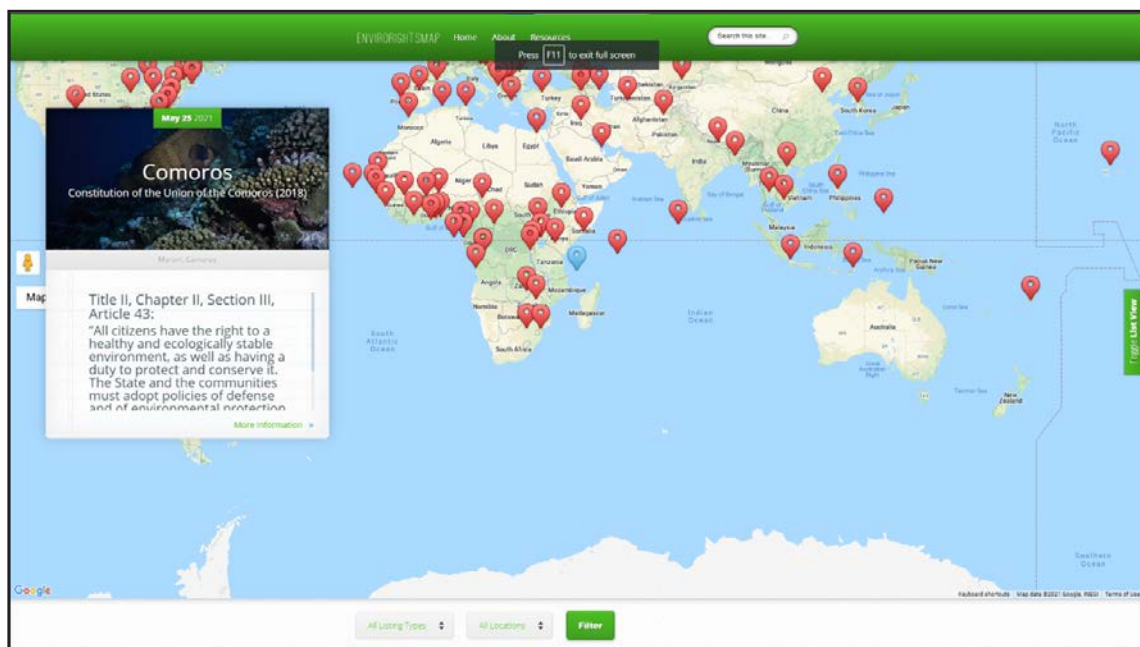
### ***Enviro Rights Map***

<https://envirorightsmap.org/>

### ***Digital Humanities Institute - Enviro Rights Map***

[https://www.unf.edu/dhi/Enviro\\_Rights\\_Map/](https://www.unf.edu/dhi/Enviro_Rights_Map/)

*Enviro Rights Map* is a Google Maps-based tool mapping global environmental rights. The goal of the project, as detailed by the Digital Humanities Institute, is to provide a way of “democratizing information about environmental rights through a user-friendly, visually engaging format”. The project was developed by Josh Gellars (University of North Florida), Erin Daly and Jim May (both from Widener University Delaware Law School). Data is pulled from four sources, and catalogs environmental rights at national and subnational levels.

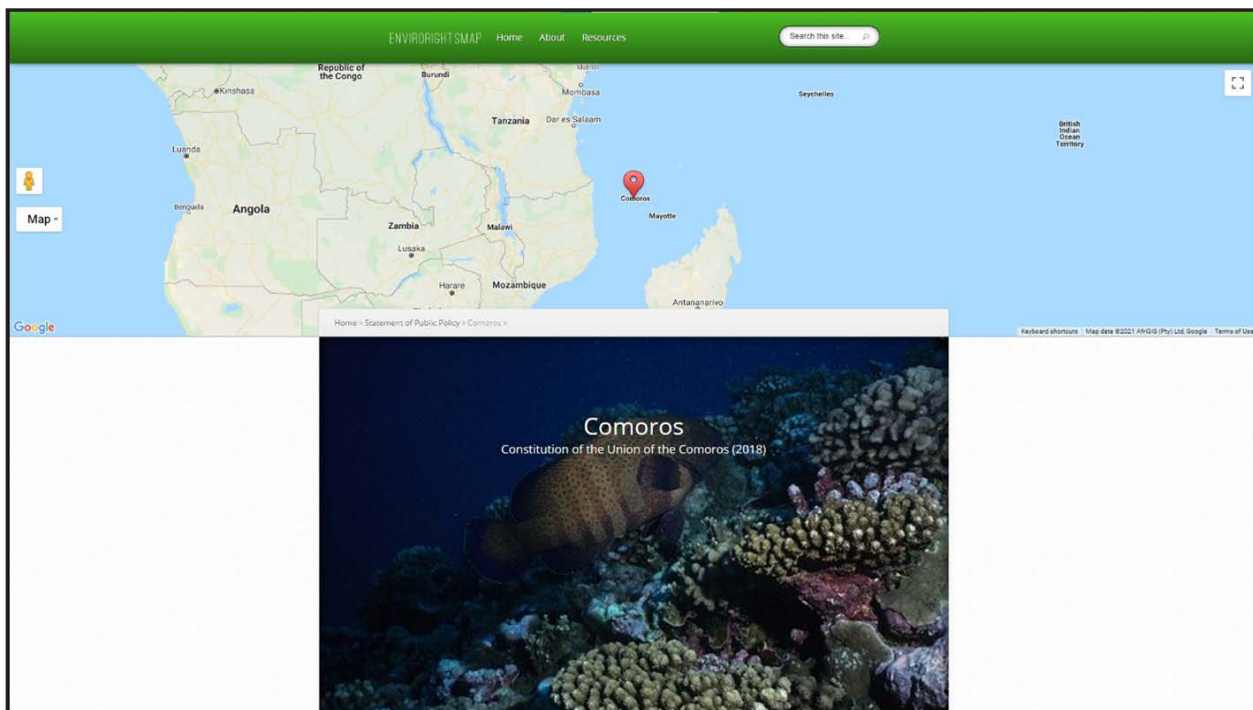


Opening the site brings users to a view showing data from what appears to be the last update. In my test of the site, I was greeted by a summary dated May 25, 2021 for Comoros (see above image).

Please note that there is no clarification that the date represents the date it was added to the website but is an assumption on behalf of the reviewer. Clicking *More Information* opens a new browser page with a simple listing of information including *Location, Legislation updated, Author, Date Posted, Category, Address*, and the quoted legislation. The main map view with the Comoros listing is pictured below.

The map view can be changed according to category, referred to as Listing Type. Those options are: *All Listing Types, Procedural Right, Right of Nature, Right to Water, Statement of Public Policy*, and *Substantive Right*. A single legislative listing may be assigned more than one category, which is the case for the Comoros legislation. The map extent is also customizable by location, including: *All Locations, East Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, North America, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa*, and *Western Europe*.

As mentioned above, this project aims to be user-friendly. The listings are simple and concise, which allows for easy absorption of the information. However, the website unfortunately isn't user-friendly due to how links open on the site. When users click the *More Information* link, the page refreshes to a view of the listing. A Google map still appears in the top portion of the page, but there are no markers to click to other listings (see below image).



There is also no button to click back to the map, requiring users to use their browser Back button to return to the main map view and continue exploring environmental rights in other locations. Of course, users may open the listing in a new tab by holding the CTRL key when clicking the link (as I do) or right-clicking to select the option, but this is only helpful for users that are in the habit of browsing this way.

There are notable blank spots in the map. Gaps include North Africa/Middle East, Australia, South America, western United States and Canada. I am happy to see such extensive coverage in Africa and Europe, but the developers and students could have gone much further with this project to make it more valuable to researchers and the public. Based on the information in the website's *About* section, this project relies on student workers or volunteers, so I am optimistic the gaps will be filled in time. Collecting this information in one database is a great concept, and the site has a generally clean feel. In addition to regular updates, some style and formatting changes can make this an extremely valuable and easy-to-use tool. Suggestions for improvement include standardizing the format of the author's name. This field in the listing refers to the person that added the content. In one instance, the author is just "Josh", but in another we see a first and last name. The addition of a promulgation or effect date for the legislation would be helpful, as well. Presently the only date we see when we click a pinpoint is the date the listing was added to the database. This is not useful when there is a disparity between the addition date and the legislation date (for the Comoros example, the date appears as May 2021, but the legislation was enacted in 2018). With added data and a few stylistic alterations, this will continue to be a valuable tool for researchers.

## Conclusion

To my colleagues in academia, I wish you luck and calm for the beginning of the fall semester. To all MAGIRT *base line* readers, please be safe. See you in October!



**M**AGIRT Connect page. For all the resources you need to know about what is happening inside MAGIRT.

<https://connect.ala.org/magirt/home>

Recent topics as of August 2021

- WAML Diversity and Early Career Librarian Scholarships!
- MAGIRT committee chair, IG chair, and liaison openings

## DIGITAL MAPPING

*"YOUR NAME HERE"*

### From the Editor's Keyboard



#### Digital Mapping editor wanted

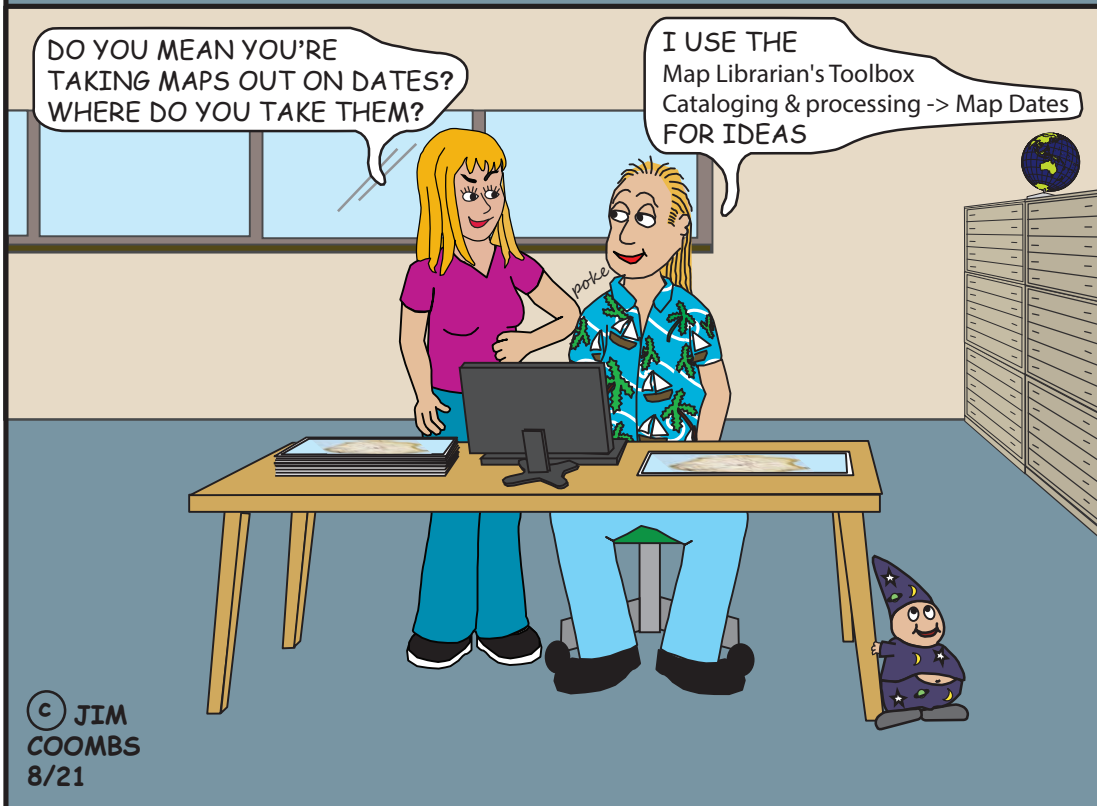
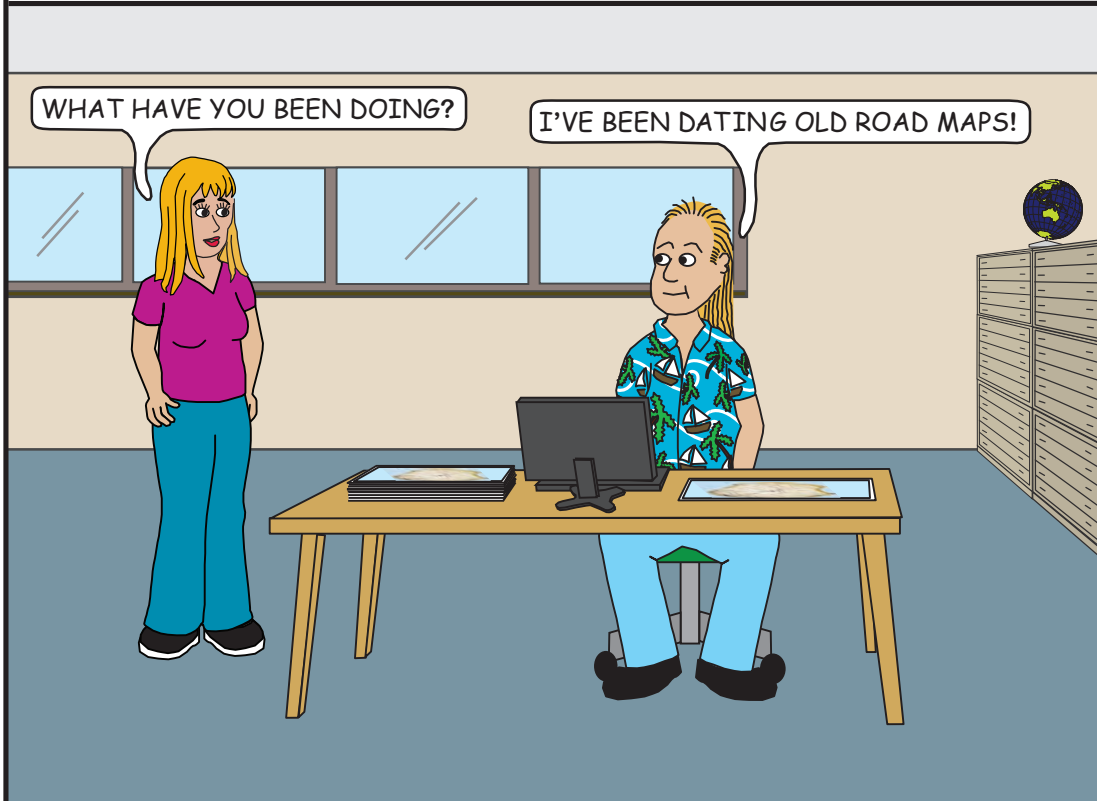
Are you finding new and interesting GIS programs, geospatial data layers, or websites? Want to inform your colleagues about what you found? Then why not write about them as our new Digital Mapping columnist.

I would like to encourage any MAGIRT member to volunteer in contributing to this important part of *base line*.

Contact the [editor](#) for more details. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone to make a concrete and impactful contribution to our portion of the library profession.



GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs



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COOMBS  
8/21