



# base line

*a newsletter of the*

**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

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This may very well be the shortest From the Chair column that you have ever read from me. The reason for my brevity this month is that my department, Cataloging & Metadata, and the Print Acquisitions Department are moving this month. In our





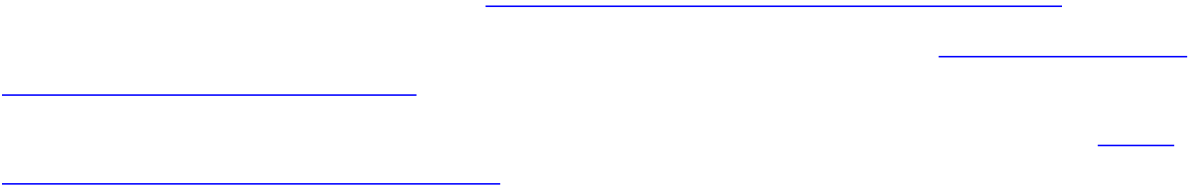




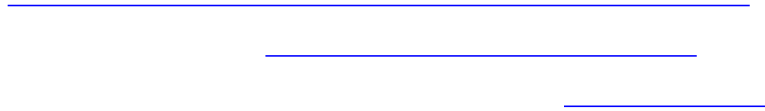








ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois:



Hello!

The MAGIRT Core Competencies Task Force (MAGIRT CCTF) have been continuing and are nearing completion of their work on the updating of the [“Map, GIS and Cataloging/Metadata Librarian Core Competencies”](#) document published in 2008.

The group last met via ZOOM video conferencing on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, to review the latest draft of the document.

A final draft of the document, along with a report on the project, will be presented in June 2017 to the MAGIRT Executive Board during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

A link to the draft document will be sent out to the MAGIRT community at large for review and commentary. The MAGIRT CCTF highly encourages everyone to participate!

We look forward to hearing from you.


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MCP S104

Rebecca Lowery, Reference Librarian in Genealogy and Local History at  
Newberry Library, Chicago, IL



*“The fascination of maps as humanly created documents is found not merely in the extent to which they are objective or accurate. It also lies in their inherent ambivalence and in our ability to tease out new meanings, hidden agendas, and contrasting world views from between the lines on the image.”--J.B. Harley*

The current *ArcUser* magazine has a nice, short article entitled “What Geographers Do” that provides a nice summary to share with students who want to know why geography is important and why it will be relevant to their prospective fields. The author explains what geography is, how it differs from what was taught in high school (simple memorization, etc.), and what

abandoned because of natural or man-made events. The theme is that urban centers have a life



essential criteria for statehood to exist. It must have “a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states.”—p. 13



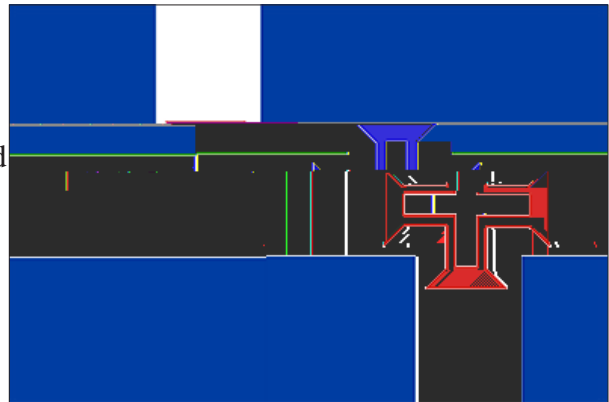
He does caution that these factors do not completely cover all examples of nations. For the scope of the atlas, the chosen places fit the basic premise of “countries that don’t exist.”

There are fifty “nation” hopefuls in the atlas; it is a selection from a larger body of places that fit the scope of the work. Some places, such as the Isle of Man, are dependencies that are not part of a nation, while other places, such as Sikkim,

were independent nations that were annexed or incorporated in a unilateral move. Additionally, there are places, such as Hutt River, situated within Australia, which “separated” from the main country for a specific reason.

Some of these nation hopefuls are very large (e.g., Greenland), while others are quite tiny (e.g., Christiania). To clarify, some of the places in this book were at one time, independent nations, though they may or may not have been recognized as such by other nations in the world.

The contents are arranged by continent (and by ocean region or miscellaneous category). Each region is described, with statistics of capital name (if appropriate), size, population, language spoken, and flag. Index maps and a general map show the location and its boundaries, and the text describes the status and history of the place.



*Atlas of Lost Cities*, there are no references. The work provides enough of a starting point for further research.

One interesting feature of the book is that each place’s opening page has a cutout of the boundary that shows its shape. Upon turning the page, the map gives the regional context.

Many of the regions had historic claims that were either ignored or overruled by other countries that absorbed them into their realms.

Similar to the previous title reviewed, this book provides an interesting look at the inconsistencies in the ordered world of established legal claims. It shows the transient nature of national borders and the man-made entities, which often ignore the logical lines of human development and relationships.

The book will be useful for history, geography, and anthropology studies, among others. It will appeal to high school through adult learner and also makes a good gift item. It can be the basis for more detailed research.

Aber, Susan Elizabeth Ward, and Jeremy Ward Aber. *Map Librarianship: A Guide to Geoliteracy, Map and GIS Resources and Services* (Chandos Information Professional Series) Amsterdam: Boston, 2017 (ISBN: 9780081000212). xv, 278 pages: illustrations (some color), maps (some color).

New to maps? Looking for a job as a map librarian? Becoming a geospatial data resources librarian? Need to teach map literacy to students?

This book may be a good solution. *Map Librarianship* was written to instruct non-map librarians and library students, as well as anyone else who needs to work

The authors designed the book to provide the necessary skills needed to begin as a map librarian. They also prepared the work to teach geo-literacy to anyone who needs it. This is also a good book for reference librarians needing to understand enough to be able to assist patrons in accessing and using maps and geospatial data.

In addition to traditional maps, this book also discusses digital maps, GIS and spatial datasets, and related topics. It is easy to follow and does not require prior knowledge to understand the concepts being taught.

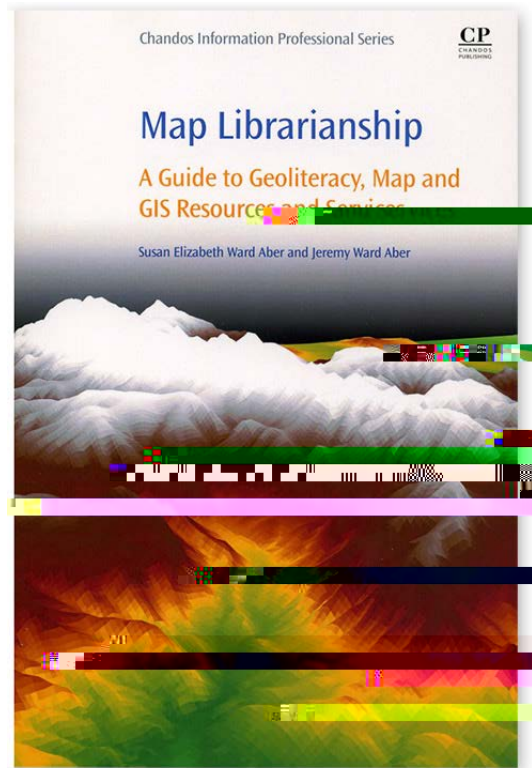
Introductory chapters provide the basics on maps and cartographic data. The opening chapters explain why maps are important and the need for map librarians, who understand and appreciate the value of maps.

General topics cover the various attributes of maps, including terminology, types of maps, and cartographic concepts. Examples are shown to support these attributes (e.g., choropleth maps, aeronautical charts). The text is concise and clearly defines each concept. Key map concepts (projection, scale, coordinate systems) are described in their own chapters.

Types of maps are described, plus the use for each type is explained. The first three chapters of the book cover standard maps, printed and digital.

The next two chapters cover Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing techniques for creating maps. The basics of GIS are clearly described, again with illustrations. Data types are defined and explained. The second chapter covers digital representations of data, again with examples and descriptive text.

Chapter six will be of interest to map librarians as it gets into the topic of map and geospatial librarianship. Included are chapters on preparing for map librarianship, academic and professional associations that exist for map librarians, and ideas on the setup and operation of a map collection.



Chapter seven discusses geospatial resources and instruction services that can be provided by librarians. It covers ways to locate and access data, legal aspects of data and map use, and other topics.

Chapter eight discusses maps at the reference desk, including how to conduct map reference, types of questions that are asked, and other topics, such as citing maps and data.

Chapter nine is on collection development and ways to improve services while developing policies and other documents to improve services and access to maps.

Chapter ten covers cataloging and classification of cartographic data. This chapter describes the basics of cataloging and various classification schemes for maps. It is designed as an introduction rather than being a comprehensive course.

Chapter 11 is on ways to promote map collections and services. This includes special events, promotional programs, and a summary of map librarianship.

Several appendices provide additional links to materials, Appendix A is a subject bibliography of additional resources relating to the book. Appendix B gives a Student-Learning Outcome (SLO) chart for a map librarianship course. Appendix C provides more map cataloging instruction, including a basic checklist for cataloging a map.

Overall, this is a good instruction tool for training map librarians, for improving map reading skills, and for explaining all aspects of maps and geospatial data. It is a good reference for any collection and is also good for teaching other librarians about map librarianship.

The work is geared toward college and graduate level learners, but is also useful to anyone who needs to understand how to read and use maps and spatial data.

Welborn, B.J.



cannot always provide maps that show where relevant places are, I can find books such as this that do give locations that can be transferred to a map.



that are available. The map and its resources were compiled using Wellborn's book (above) and provide direct links to sites listed in the book.

Some states are still sparse in listings of resources, but looking at New York State, you will see the quality of the selected materials.

For mappers, there is a *USA Literary Map that might be of interest* <http://americanwritersmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/USA-Literary-Map.jpg>. It is a word map with the author

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