

generalization for tactile maps may require symbol offsetting to ensure haptic legibility.

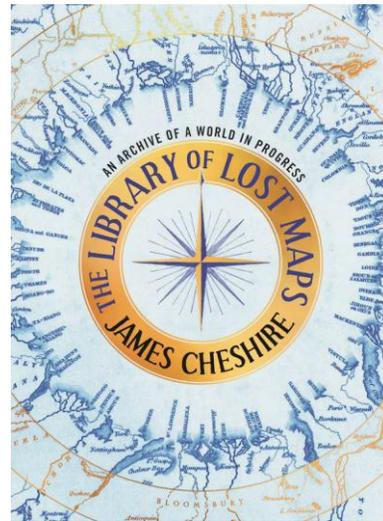
Part IV emphasizes the need for user feedback and product evaluation, including cost, portability, and robustness. It is important to understand how map reading and geographical concepts are taught to the visually impaired, along with the training the blind require in physical mobility and orientation. The best route for a sighted person walking through a city may not be the best for a blind person.

Part V assesses the suitability of different media and production processes for tactile maps. This Part reiterates that usefulness, ease of use, and affordability matter as much as the map's content, reinforcing the need for user input into the initial design process.

All chapters are accessible to the non-specialist reader, and include a bibliography and reading list, although several technical words (haptic, kinesthetic, veridical, proprioception) were not defined up front. Also included are eight specific case studies of tactile mapping in use around the world, from Norway to Kenya, and seven "personal stories" from the vision-impaired about how access to mapping has changed their lives. These extras reinforce the book's focus on modern and future technologies and methods, and highlight the centrality of map users and their needs.

The book is an excellent, multicultural overview of the cartographic needs of the visually-impaired, and the current state of play in the design and production of tactile maps. I found the book literally eye-opening(!) and highly recommend it for cartographers and map libraries.

The Library of Lost Maps: An Archive of a World in Progress



Cheshire, James. *The Library of Lost Maps: An Archive of a World in Progress*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2025. 383p. \$53.00 CAN. ISBN: 978-1-63973-428-3.

In *The Library of Lost Maps: An Archive of a World in Progress*, renowned geographer and professor James Cheshire provides an insightful and sober account of how cartography helped shape world events in the 19th and 20th centuries by exploring an archive of lost maps in the map collection at University College London (UCL). Through his colourful descriptions and striking close-ups, Cheshire breathes new life into these maps, capturing their artistry and the meticulous work that went into them to encapsulate a perspective in time. As he embarks on this exploration of dusty maps, Cheshire is as interested in the minds behind the work as he is about the maps themselves, providing important historical context and a glimpse into the forces that drove their creation.

It is an honest and open account of key figures in cartographic history, with a clear warning for readers that maps can and have

been used as powerful tools to convince, unite, separate, dream, and inform. Among others, we learn about Greenough's early influence on scientific societies, Humboldt and Berghaus's emphasis on the use of maps as scientific tools, Haushofer's darker role in geopolitics and accentuation on suggestive cartography, Schneider's transportive renderings of the snowy peaks of the Himalayas, and Heezen and Tharp's passion to map the depths of the Atlantic.

This book would be useful to academic and general audiences interested in maps and cartography. The writing style is engaging and accessible, with short chapters punctuated by eye-catching close-ups of maps, etchings, and sprawling two-pagers. While the thickness of the book may turn some away, it would make a helpful guide for students looking to learn about the recent history of cartography, map librarians who have only known the modern era of mapmaking using computers and GIS, or historians who seek a cartographic perspective on world events that have shaped the past 200 years.

Cheshire is currently Professor of Geographic Information and Cartography in the UCL Department of Geography and inaugural director of the UCL Social Data Institute in London, UK (Cheshire, 2026). He received his PhD in GIScience from UCL in 2011 on the spatial analysis and visualization of large surname databases (Cheshire, 2026). He has been a prolific researcher, publishing over 100 peer-reviewed articles and conference proceedings, and won the American Association of Geographer's Globe Award for co-authoring the Atlas of the Invisible (Cheshire, 2026). This background makes him very well-suited for this work.

This text should not be thought of as a comprehensive examination of recent world

history through maps, but rather as a compelling look at how cartography has evolved throughout the last two centuries and how various cartographers, map makers, and geographers have played a role in altering the course of history. By the end of the book, Cheshire also looks to the future and does not undermine the importance of advancements in technology to the digital map in this evolution. He does so while also emphasizing the value of historic maps as a part of our collective heritage to be cherished and preserved. Cheshire's excitement and reverence for maps and the work that has gone into them is palpable and may drive you to take a detour to your local map library in search of what hidden gems it might contain.

Sources Cited

Cheshire, J. (2026). James Cheshire. <https://jcheshire.com>