

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES  
**BULLETIN**

**A “world-startling discovery” - Stories in the Canada Lands Survey Records**

Roddy McFall  
Library and Archives Canada

**Abstract**

*In 2017, a small collection of survey plans in the custody of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) grew exponentially when Natural Resources Canada’s Office of the Surveyor General transferred over 90,000 original survey maps and field books from the Canada Lands Survey Records (CLSR). Dating as early as 1769, these underused archival records document the survey, settlement, and sustainable use of Crown Lands. Among many other things, the CLSR collection documents Canada’s Indigenous history and culture such as the distribution of language groups, treaty rights, the location of Residential Schools and Indian reserves, and Indigenous land use and occupation. Through these, we can see the history of Indian reserves, National Parks, military bases, railway development, the fur trade, and the Arctic. As we will see, the records also help tell the story of the significant Indigenous contribution to the Klondike Gold Rush.*

**Keywords:** Bonanza Creek, gold rush, Klondike, mining claims, Skookum Jim, William Ogilvie, CLSR

Historians are taking an increased interest in memory studies: how different societies tell their stories, and what is remembered and omitted from a society’s collective memory. The Canada Lands Survey Records (CLSR) collection at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) tells countless stories. One of the CLSR’s more significant stories involves the mapping of the claims discovered in the Klondike Gold Rush and the role of Indigenous people in this endeavour.

But first, some background. In 2015, the Surveyor General Branch at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) approached LAC about the potential transfer of approximately 90,000 records from the CLSR collection, for a total of 1.5 kilometres of archival holdings. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between LAC and NRCan in early 2017 governing the transfer, preservation and circulation of this major acquisition for LAC.

The collection consists of the official textual surveys and their associated documentation of Canada Lands (First Nations reserves, national parks lands, Crown lands and territorial lands) dating from 1769. It consists of maps, survey files, survey plans and survey field books. NRCan, the caretaker and owner of the official records of the Surveyor General of Canada Lands, had digitized and made the CLSR collection available online. This made possible the physical transfer of the collection to LAC to ensure its long-term storage and preservation. This acquisition complements LAC’s

existing collection of 1,034 official survey plans of reserves and residential school lands across Canada, transferred from the Legal Services Division at NRCan in 1959.

These underused CLSR archival records assist in documenting aspects of Canada's Indigenous history and culture, including the distribution of language groups, treaty rights, the location of residential schools and reserves, and Indigenous land use and occupation. Through these, we can see the history and evolution of Indian reserves, national parks, military bases, railway development, the fur trade, the Arctic, and defining events like the Klondike Gold Rush. As Bob Weber points out: "Reconciliation is rewriting Canada's memory banks as archivists across the country work to make their collections more open to and sensitive towards Indigenous people."<sup>1</sup>

Now for that story of the Klondike Gold Rush in the CLSR. Before he became the second Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, William Ogilvie was a noted Dominion land surveyor working in western and northern Canada. In 1895, he was commissioned to make all of the required surveys for town sites, mining claims and mineral deposits in Yukon. He surveyed the Alaska-Yukon boundary at the Yukon River in 1887–1888, and in 1896, the Klondike goldfields of Bonanza Creek and Eldorado Creek. Ogilvie's surveying work determined the approximate location of the 141st meridian, the current boundary between Alaska and the Canadian territories.

The "Plan of Placer Mining Claims on part of Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Mining Division of the Yukon Territory," plotted by Ogilvie's field books, documents the discovery claims made by Kèsh (also known as "Skookum" Jim Mason, meaning strong, and identified as "Tagish Jim" on the map), who was a member of the Tagish Khwáan First Nation, his American brother-in-law George Carmack, and his sister Shaaw Tláa, also known as Kate Carmack. These three are credited with discovering the first piece of gold in Bonanza Creek, an event that triggered the Klondike Gold Rush. This specific survey map and the accompanying field book reflect the important roles of Ogilvie, Mason, and George and Kate Carmack in what Ogilvie called a "world-startling discovery."<sup>2</sup> It was unusual for discovery claims made by First Nations prospectors to be accepted by mining authorities, which makes these records even more remarkable.

It is now recognized that First Nations people were relegated to the back pages of the history of the Klondike Gold Rush. However, through these records, Ogilvie put Indigenous prospectors like Mason on the front pages. Ogilvie used the sobriquet "Tagish Jim" in his field books and on his survey maps, and Mason also figures prominently in Ogilvie's memoir *Early Days on the Yukon*; the chapter "Discovery of the Klondike" includes a section dedicated solely to Mason. Ogilvie described Mason as his "old friend," and Ogilvie spoke of how he "employed Jim in various capacities, and always found him reliable, truthful, and competent to do any work I gave him. Afterwards, while working on his claim on Bonanza, I had more experience with him, and it only corroborated the opinion I have expressed of his character."<sup>3</sup>

In describing Mason, Ogilvie wrote that "he possesses a practical knowledge of prospecting that is far beyond what one would expect to find in an uneducated savage. Further, he is qualified as a

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<sup>1</sup> Bob Weber, "Rewriting Canada's memory banks: Archivists 'decolonize' collections," Canadian Press, February 19, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> William Ogilvie, *Early Days on the Yukon & the Story of Its Gold Finds* (Reprint Edition, Arno Press, 1974), p. 115.

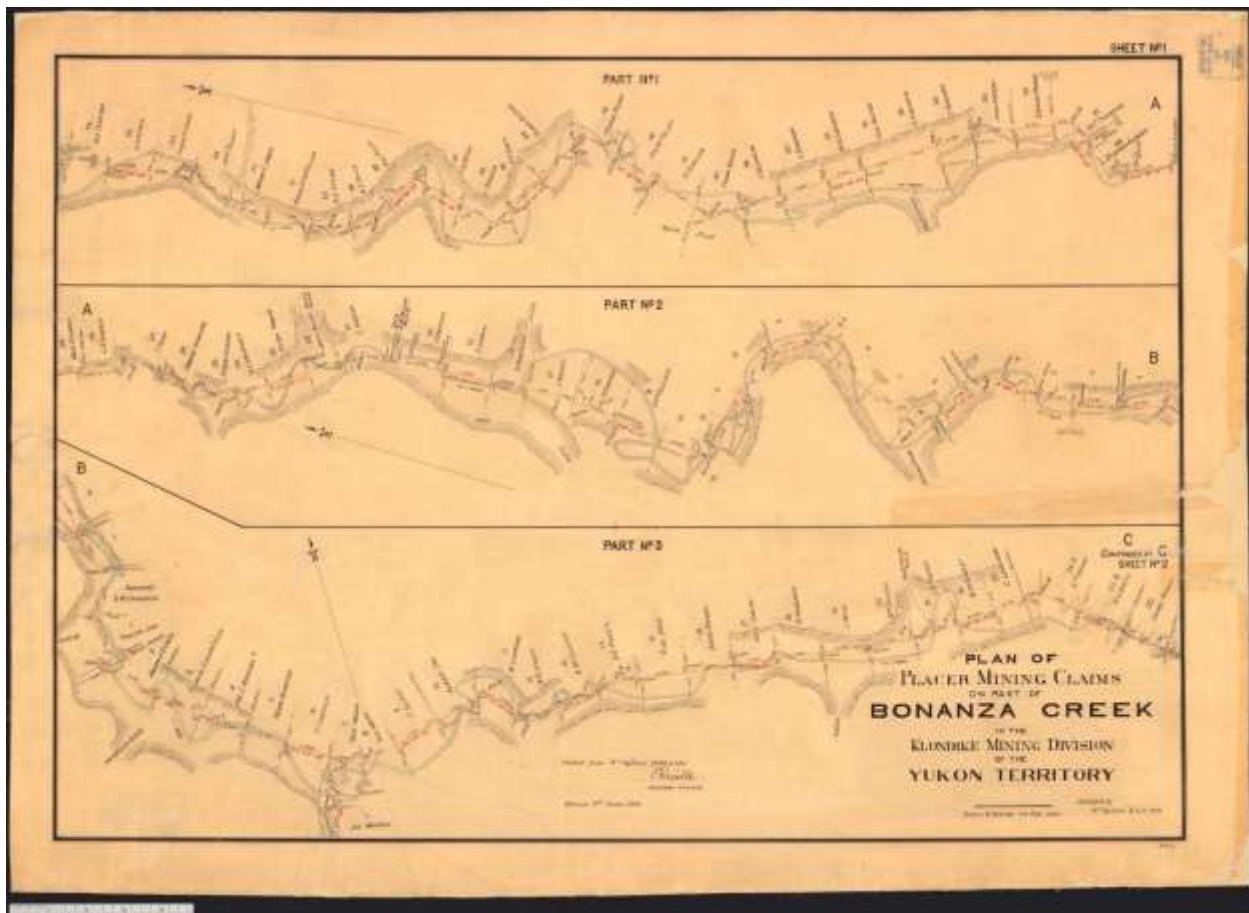
<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 134.

prospector in a way that few white men are, for he carries nothing on his outings, which last weeks at a time, but a rifle, hatchet, and gold pan.”<sup>4</sup> As jarring as it is in 2018 to read this account referring to an “uneducated savage,” Ogilvie nevertheless assigned the discovery mining claims at both Bonanza Creek and Eldorado Creek to Mason and his nephew “Tagish Paddy”.

Through these records, we can see the history and evolution of Indian reserves, National Parks, military bases, railway development, the fur trade, the Arctic, as well as defining events such as Ogilvie’s “world-startling” Klondike Gold Rush. The CSLR acquisition, then, and the survey plans maps acquired earlier from NRCan, will offer more untold stories. Hitherto unknown voices are bound to emerge.

### Image 1:

The survey map below was based on the field books of William Ogilvie, a noted Dominion land surveyor working in western and northern Canada. The map documents the discovery claim that triggered the Klondike Gold Rush, an event Ogilvie called a “world-startling discovery.” On the bottom-left corner, we can read the names of George Carmack and Tagish Jim.



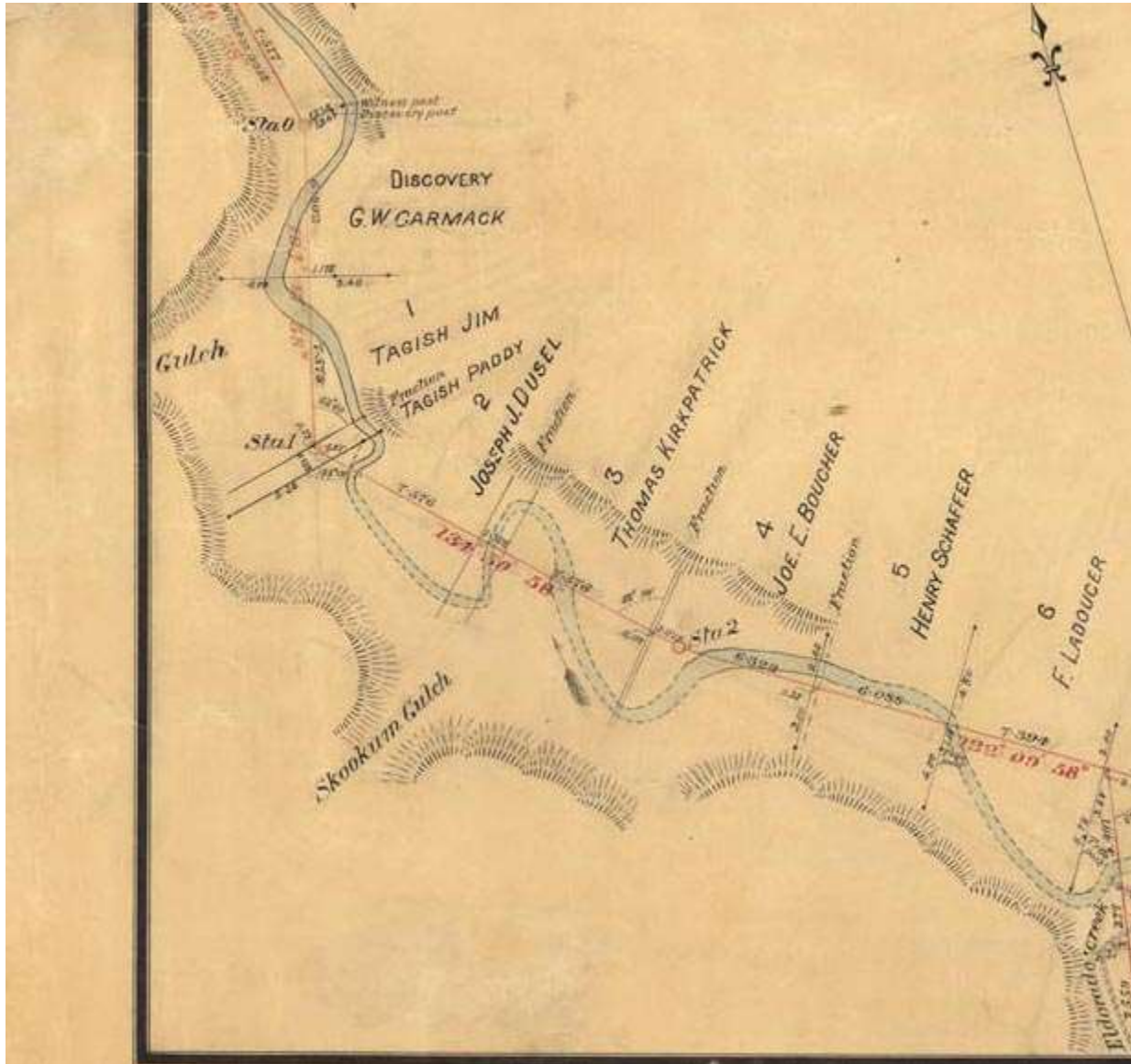
[Placer Mining Claims on part of Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Mining Division of the Yukon Territory](#)

Credit Library and Archives Canada, R214, vol. 2089 (8284 YT CLSR), [MIKAN 5012299](#) / e011202237

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 135.

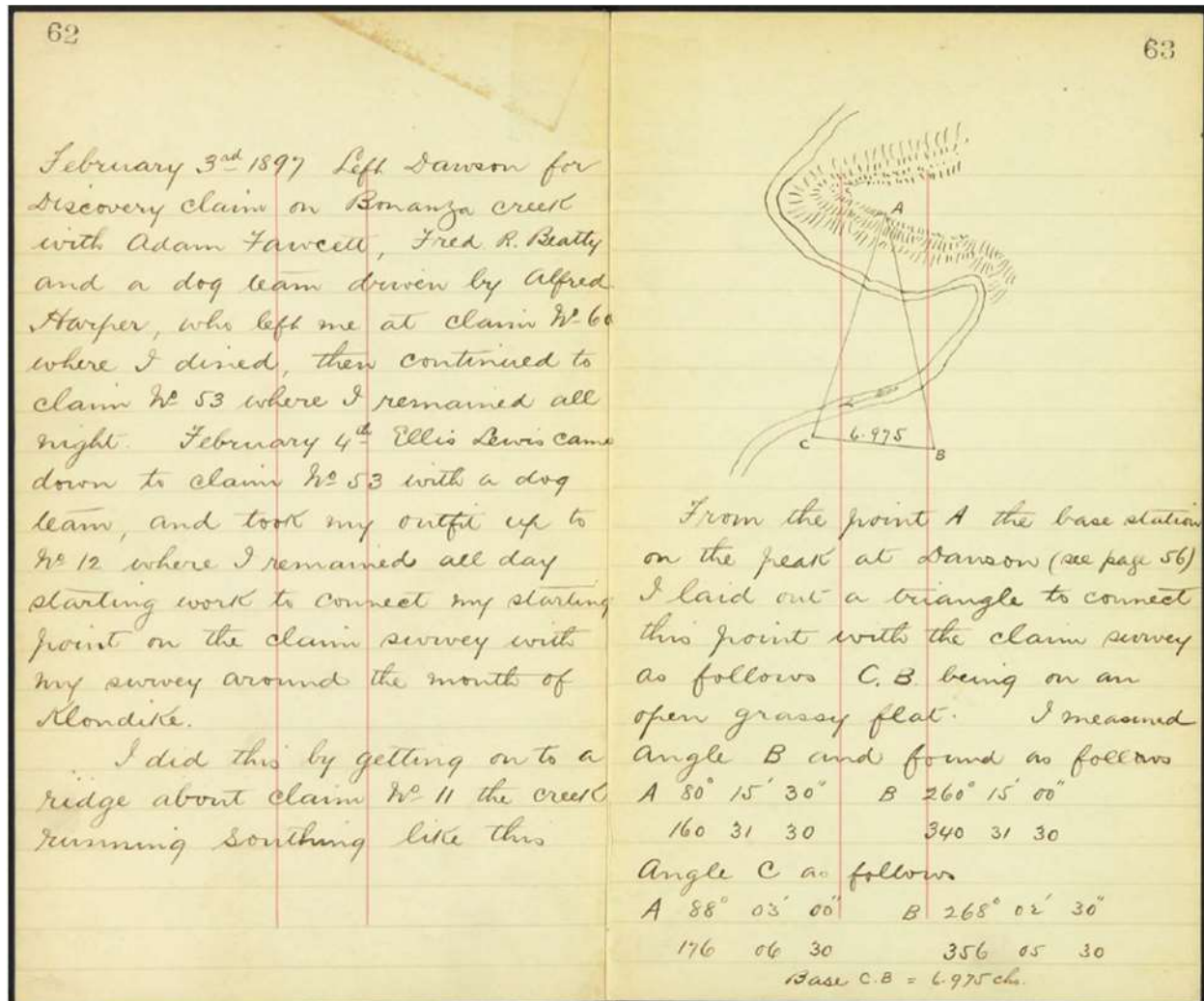
**Image 2:**

An enlarged version of the bottom-left corner of the same map. We can read the names of “G.W. Carmack” and “Tagish Jim” Mason, both credited with making the first discovery of gold at Bonanza Creek in 1896, an event that triggered the Klondike Gold Rush.



**Image 3:**

The "Plan of Placer Mining Claims on part of Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Mining Division of the Yukon Territory" was plotted by Ogilvie's surveying field books, including the passage from the one below.



Field book of surveyor William Ogilvie Credit Library and Archives Canada, Field book no. FB6192 CLSR YT, R214, Vol. 4044, MIKAN [5012291](https://www.mikan.ca/5012291)

**Image 4:**

Undated photo of prospector Jim (Kèsh) Mason (also known as “Skookum” Jim), and identified as “Tagish Jim” on the survey map above. A member of the Tagish Khwáan First Nation, Mason was exceptional as it was unusual for discovery claims made by First Nations prospectors at the time of the Klondike Gold Rush to be accepted by mining authorities.



**Skookum Jim, Yukon Pioneer** Credit: Canadian Dept. of Interior/Library and Archives Canada/  
PA-044683, MIKAN [3358566](https://www.icanada.ca/3358566)

**Image 5:**

William Ogilvie, noted Dominion land surveyor and second Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, and his party surveying the 141st meridian, the current boundary between Alaska and the Canadian territories, in 1895. Ogilvie is seated second from right.



**William Ogilvie's party at winter quarters near the Alaska–Canada boundary line, October 1895.**  
Credit: William Ogilvie/Library and Archives Canada/C-074924, MIKAN [3389602](#)

*Roddy McFall is a Senior Archivist at Library and Archives with responsibility for – among other portfolio assignments – the cartographic records of Natural Resources Canada. He spent five years writing on Canadian politics for The Economist Intelligence Unit, and spent three years at the Bermuda Government Archives assisting in the creation of its nascent government records programme. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History and Political Science as well as a Master of Arts in History, both from Carleton University.*

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**Preparing a two day GIS workshop for Arts and Humanities researchers**

Joël Rivard and Sarah Simpkin, University of Ottawa Library

**Abstract**

*In winter 2018, Joël Rivard and Sarah Simpkin were approached to lead a two day (12 hour) workshop for arts and humanities researchers as part of the Digital Humanities Summer Institute: Technologies East (DHSITE) conference hosted by the University of Ottawa. The workshop, Introduction to Mapping and Spatial Methods for the Humanities, built upon a shorter offering presented by Sarah last year. It had a Historical GIS (HGIS) twist and was open in terms of datasets, software, and instructional materials. All of the activities and exercises referenced in this paper are available on the course website, found online at <https://ssimpkin.github.io/dhsite2018/>.*

**Keywords:** Digital Humanities, Historical GIS, HGIS, Instruction, QGIS

**Focus of the workshop**

The workshop was advertised to scholars from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds in the arts. In view of this, we felt that demonstrating multiple ways to create geospatial data from various sources (textual, existing maps, tabular data, etc.) would provide a good foundation for the students, even though their individual research interests were varied.

Building on our own interest in HGIS and local history, we chose to use historical data of Ottawa, Canada for the exercises. We downloaded fire insurance plans and city directories from Library and Archives Canada's website, and additional reference datasets from the City of Ottawa's open data website.

Geocoding and georeferencing operations were both introduced as methods to create geospatial data. The historical city directory was the basis for the geocoding portion, which allowed students to learn how to structure tabular data for use in a GIS application. The "historical factor" additionally exposed students to the nuances of working with changing street numbers and names, the importance of using other historical datasets as reference points, and the need to perform a quality check on the geocoding results.

As for the georeferencing operations, participants were shown how to georeference a fire insurance plan of the same geographic area that would be covered by the historical city directories. This allowed them to see how the neighbourhood blocks had changed over time through comparisons



with modern day datasets, and also provided a historical data layer that could be used to verify the geocoded address points.

The major components of the workshop were as follows:

- 1) Participants each took a unique scanned Fire Insurance Plan (FIP) of Ottawa from 1901 and georeferenced the image in QGIS. Each FIP covered a different set of city blocks within the same neighbourhood.
- 2) Information from the FIP was digitized by tracing buildings to create polygons. Additional information found on the FIPs was added as attributes to the polygons. For example, types of building materials.
- 3) Using the historical 1890 Ottawa City Directory, participants filled in a table with information about the residents who lived in buildings within the same geographic coverage as the FIP. Street names and address ranges that matched each FIP were identified and assigned in advance. This data table was then geocoded in QGIS.
- 4) A spatial join was conducted to copy the attribute information from the point file to the traced polygons of the building outlines from the FIP.
- 5) Building outlines from all of the students were combined into a single shapefile.
- 6) The group discussed potential display options for the dataset and the design decisions that might affect the final product. For example, would our users want to create a map for print production or would they rather create an interactive map to be published online?

### **Software selection**

Since registration for DHSITE was open to the public, we wanted to make software choices that could be fully accessed by all of our students, even those without institutional affiliations.

After much deliberation and testing using a multitude of tools, we discovered that no one free online mapping tool would allow us to complete all of the operations that we wanted to show the participants. While Mapwarper allowed us to georeference an image, it didn't allow us to re-use the image in other tools that were powerful enough to digitize the features into vector files, let alone complete the spatial join. We tried embedding the georeferenced image in other applications as well as exporting it to Google Earth, but the digitizing tools in Google Earth were cumbersome to use for our purposes.

With this goal in mind, and through feedback received on the ACMLA listserv, we settled on QGIS. While we felt that desktop applications might be overkill for some users, QGIS allowed us to teach GIS fundamentals using software that could be used for more advanced functions down the road. We were also conscious of the fact that our workshop was not scheduled to take place in a computer lab, and students would be using their own laptops. QGIS is compatible with Windows, Mac, and Linux, which meant that the students' choice of operating system would not

affect their ability to participate. Ahead of the workshop, we also asked students to bring a mouse to class to make conducting the geoprocessing operations, such as tracing step, much easier.

The website we developed for the course was created using a static site generator called Hugo, and is hosted on Github. It offers a central place to keep course materials. The site provides step-by-step directions for the hands-on portions of the course as well as links to our slide decks and data sources.

## **Reflection**

Only four students participated in the workshop this year. While the numbers for the workshop were low, the conversations that we had as a group were stimulating and made us think differently about how humanities researchers perceive GIS technology.

Each portion of the workshop featured both theory and practice, with lively discussions throughout. To introduce participants to both geocoding and georeferencing concepts, we started each session with warm-up exercises that would allow them to gain some understanding of the GIS concepts and would allow them to build from these concepts when we introduced them again in QGIS. The warm-up exercises were done using some online mapping tools such as Google Fusion Tables and Google Earth. The group seemed to enjoy these exercises and were enthusiastic about how quickly a web map can be produced.

Because there were two of us co-hosting the workshop, we could each alternate between speaking and circulating around the room to help with technical issues. For the hands-on activities, we created animated gifs (available on the website) to show participants the various steps. We went through them in class and then gave the participants some time to do the exercises themselves. This proved to be an effective way of delivering the session.

On the second day, we powered through and showed more intense GIS work. At the end, because we had some extra free time, we thought it would be a good idea to visit each individual student to discuss their research interests and to brainstorm the best ways to tackle their projects. The participants really appreciated this personal touch. We also gave them our email addresses in case they have additional questions and encouraged them to reach out at any point for help or guidance with their projects.

Despite the low attendance, we appreciated the opportunity to put together a series of lessons based around common HGIS tasks. It is our hope that these could eventually be offered as stand-alone workshops, as needed. We also invite you to reuse or adapt any of the lessons we created for your own teaching.

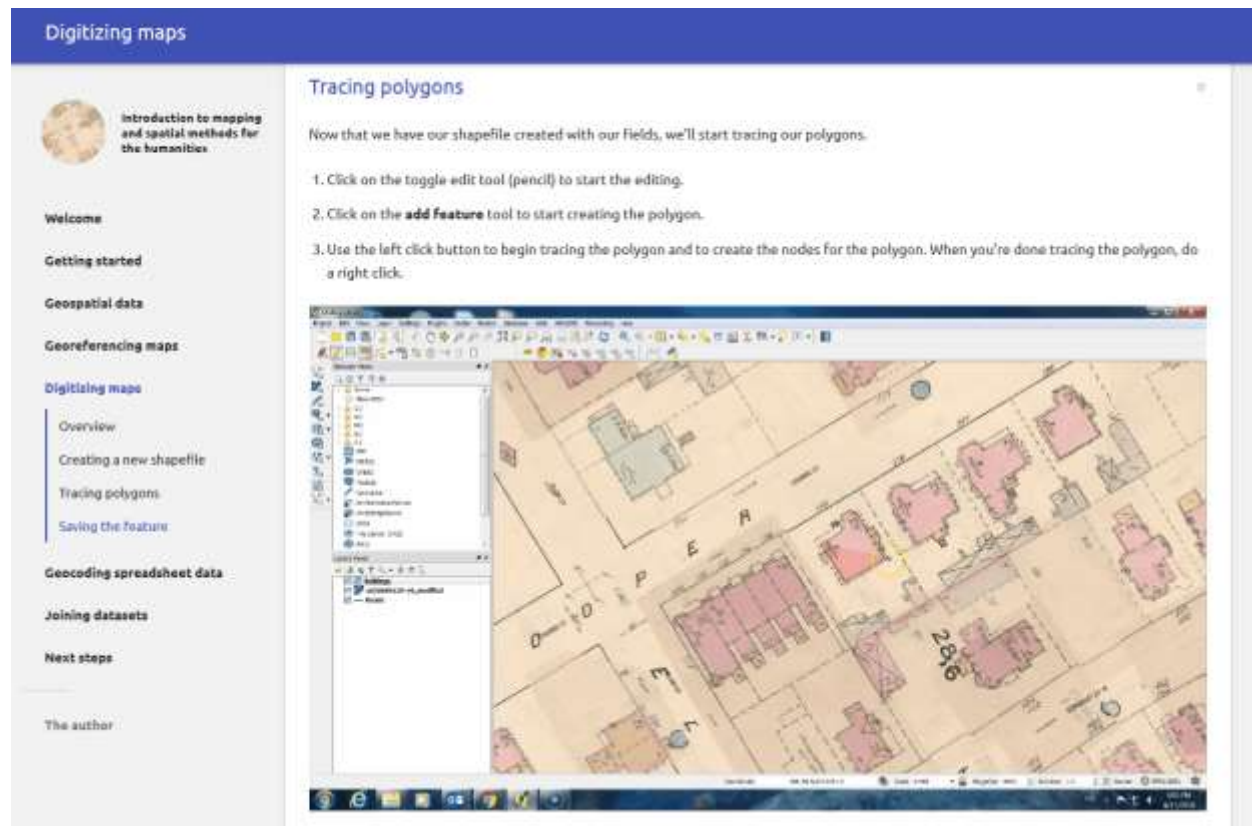


Figure 1. Screenshot of website showing instructions on how to trace polygons in QGIS

## Thank you

We would like to thank Teresa Lewitzky and Quin Shirk-Luckett from the University of Guelph for their helpful advice leading to the first iteration of this course, as well as Catie Sahadath from the University of Ottawa for editing this article.

*Joël Rivard is currently the GIS and Geography replacement Librarian at the University of Ottawa. Before taking this position in the summer of 2017, Joël spent over 15 years working as the Cartographic Specialist and the GIS Technician at the Carleton University Library.*

*Sarah Simpkin is currently serving as Interim Head, Research Support (Arts and Special Collections) at the University of Ottawa. She is also the book reviews editor for the ACMLA Bulletin*

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**ACMLA NEWS**

**Award to Geo Community**

The OCUL Geo Community's Historical Topographic Map Digitization Team has been recognized as one of the recipients of the 2017 OCUL Outstanding Contribution Award.

A small panel of OCUL Directors serving as jury members felt that the project met and exceeded all key criteria for the award.

With 18 separate institutions and organizations and over 40 individual participants (see [contributors](#)) the jury believes the project embodies the value OCUL places on networking, collaboration, and community.

The success of this project has had a national impact on the importance of historical topographic maps and their usefulness.

Congratulations to everyone involved!

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**Exploring the Landscapes of War: D-Day, Other Second World War Maps Available on GeoPortal**

Scholars Portal and members of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) [Geo Community](#) are pleased to announce the release of a collection of Second World War military maps via [Scholars GeoPortal](#), a shared geospatial data repository. In commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the D-day landings, the OCUL Geo Community, Wilfrid Laurier University's Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS), the University of Waterloo, and McMaster University, have collaborated to release these historically significant maps to the public. The project aims to improve access to these maps by making them freely available online and offering visual exploration and download through the Scholars GeoPortal platform.

These 87 maps of various scales were originally part of a collection created by the Allied powers in advance of the D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. The collection includes various materials such as defence overprints, tank "going" maps, and flooding overprints. It primarily concentrates on those areas of Western Europe that were the focus of Allied forces in the initial months following the D-Day landings.

The maps were acquired by the [Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies \(LCMSDS\)](#) in 1991 from the Department of Defence, Canada, and were recently digitized and georeferenced at the [University of Waterloo GeoSpatial Centre](#). Sheet-level description was done with help from the University of Waterloo GeoSpatial Centre, [McMaster University's Lloyd Reeds Map Collection](#), as well as the expertise of many others in the OCUL Geo Community. Digital scans of these maps, along with other historical military maps are available from the [McMaster University Library](#).

The digital collection can be accessed through the [Scholars GeoPortal](#) by clicking on the **Military and Intelligence** subject category, or by searching for "[Second World War](#)."

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## IASSIST & CARTO 2018

This year's conference brought together members of [IASSIST](#) and [ACMLA-ACACC](#) (CARTO), expanding the scope of the conference programme to include data specialists from a variety of fields and workplaces. The purpose of this joint initiative was to promote the development of long-lasting approaches to many shared concerns and interests in the growing heterogeneous data landscape. The conference took place May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>, in Montreal. The conference website, including the full program is available at <http://www.library.mcgill.ca/iassistcarto2018/>.

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**Book Reviews**

Compiled by Sarah Simpkin

**Books Reviewed in this Issue:**

*The GIS 20 Essential Skills, third edition*

by Gina Clemmer

Reviewed by Kelly Schultz

*Atlas of Empires*

by Peter Davidson

Reviewed by Martin Chandler

*The Red Atlas; How the Soviet Union Secretly Mapped the World*

by John Davies and Alexander J. Kent

Reviewed by Andrew Nicholson

*The First Mapping of America: The General Survey of British North America*

by Alexander Johnson

Reviewed by Erika Reinhardt

*A History of Canada in Ten Maps, Epic Stories of Charting a Mysterious Land*

by Adam Shoalts

Reviewed by Larry Laliberté

***The GIS 20 Essential Skills, third edition***

*Kelly Schultz*

*Data Visualization Librarian*

*University of Toronto*

Clemmer, Gina. ***The GIS 20 Essential Skills, third edition***. Redlands, California: Esri Press, 2017. 182p. \$49.99 US. ISBN 9781589485129.

Gina Clemmer is the president of the research and training company New Urban Research Inc. and holds a Master's degree in urban planning from the University of Iowa. ***The GIS 20 Essential Skills*** from Esri Press is now on its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, having recently been updated for ArcGIS Desktop 10.6. This book is intended for absolute beginners to GIS, with the goal of teaching 20 “essential” GIS skills using plain language (no jargon). The book provides an EVA code for a 180-day trial

of ArcGIS Desktop, along with 200 credits to use with ArcGIS Online (some of which are used in the geocoding activities in the book).

The book starts with detailed instructions on how to obtain and install ArcGIS Desktop. After that, each chapter focuses on one skill and provides step-by-step instructions on how to accomplish a simple task. The 20 skills are:

1. Downloading shapefiles and using essential ArcMap tools
2. Creating basic maps and layouts
3. Projecting shapefiles
4. Preparing data for ArcMap [using Excel]
5. Joining data to maps
6. Creating thematic maps
7. Working with data tables
8. Address mapping [using ArcGIS Online for geocoding and creating an address locator]
9. Creating a categorical map
10. GPS point mapping
11. Editing
12. Creating attribute queries
13. Creating location queries
14. Using geoprocessing tools [how to use buffers, merge, union, append, clip and dissolve]
15. Creating geodatabases
16. Joining boundaries [i.e., spatial joins]
17. Working with aerial photography [i.e., georeferencing an image]
18. Creating reports
19. Sharing work
20. Publishing maps [to ArcGIS Online and to geoenabled PDFs]

In a few chapters, the book also directs the reader to find and download common US data, such as county boundaries through the TIGER/Line Shapefiles web interface or census data from American FactFinder. In other cases, data has been provided by the author. However, the data is packaged up in an executable that “installs” the data in a folder that does not match the folder/directory structure described in the book. As a result, files were missing references to the source layers, an error that would likely confound the target “absolute beginner” reader.

The book is a very quick read (a number of chapters are very brief, only 3 pages long) and covers all of the topics (and a bit more) that we cover in the Introduction to ArcGIS Desktop workshops that we offer at our library. All the steps are outlined, and there are a number of screenshots to supplement the steps. The steps are easy to follow and complete; however, I noticed on a few occasions the screenshot or special “tip” was not near the corresponding step, which could cause confusion. In other cases, I believe a few more screenshots would help a new GIS user to better understand some of the instructions. In any case, I was able to follow the examples in the text, and feel that they would be useful for students learning these new skills.



The book contained some tips that were new to me, so I definitely learned something, even not being a novice GIS user. There were a few topics that I felt could have benefited from some more explanation, such as projections, thematic maps or publishing maps (and some topics were never explained at all, such as vector vs. raster, even though the terms were used in the book). However, this could be because the author's goal was to keep the book simple and action focused. This goal is mirrored in the tone of the book, which might be jarring to some readers because it is very casual and jokey at times with no references or additional resources provided, but this may strike the right tone for a student beginning to work with GIS.

Despite the criticisms described above, I feel that the book could be helpful for beginners who want to start learning GIS basics fast, and could complement workshops that the library delivers. But for readers who want to learn more about why they are doing something or more theory and in-depth explanations, I suggest turning elsewhere.

*Atlas of Empires*  
Martin Chandler  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Davidson, Peter. *Atlas of Empires*. Pennsylvania: Fox Chapel Publishing, 2018. 240p. \$19.99 US. ISBN 978-1504800891.

*Atlas of Empires* by Peter Davidson has a title with intrigue and splendour. Sadly, it does not live up to this. What it has in glitz, it misses in rigour.

The book holds some value for the beginning historian, with general sketches of some 32 "empires" - a term only nebulously sketched in the introduction - and bolstered by 60 maps showing approximate geographical considerations as well as images of cultural artifacts, including roads and works of art. The scope of this book is broad, spanning from the ancient (Sumer) to the modern (European Union), and is organized into 9 themes, presented in chronological order. The concept and philosophies of "empire" have shifted over time, and this forms the book's thesis.

In the publisher's release, Davidson is noted as a freelance writer and a restorer of antiquities, as well as a tutor on the Politics, Philosophy and History degree at Birkbeck College, University of London. He has written and directed documentaries on World War II "and related subjects" for the History Channel, a background that explains the fine styling of the text.

*Atlas of Empires* is very much an introductory text; it may serve the young student well as an inspiration for further study. However, in outlining so many empires, and so many themes, the history presented becomes a light gloss. As a piece historical prose, it fits firmly between popular non-fiction and coffee table reading. It is engaging, but hardly academic, an opinion bolstered by a dearth of sources. The images used are offered scant credits on the final page; the informational sources for the text and maps do not exist. There is a "further reading" section, which offers more in-depth explorations of each of the empires discussed, however sources for the arguments made are left to the best guess of the reader.

The maps, too, offer a popular non-fiction/coffee table book style, and the visual aesthetic would be as apt in a video or board game as it is in a textbook. The use of projections is well-executed, relative to the scope of each particular map, however the symbols are generic and the maps offer only a bare reinforcement of the information in the surrounding text. The maps seem incidental to the writing.

Ultimately, I found that *Atlas of Empires* would be best suited to a public library's collection, where the amateur historian might find it a good introductory text to further explore the field. An academic collection would not find it as useful, however, as the text did not have the rigour one would hope for, and the maps offered little to the field. It is an intriguing idea, but I was left wanting.

### ***The Red Atlas; How the Soviet Union Secretly Mapped the World***

*Andrew Nicholson*

*Head, Research Scholarship and Data Services*

*University of Toronto Mississauga Library*

Davies, John and Kent, Alexander J. ***The Red Atlas; How the Soviet Union Secretly Mapped the World***. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017. 272 p. \$35.00 US. ISBN 9780226389578.

Opening the *Red Atlas* for the first time, one will notice that this is not really an “atlas” in the way that map librarians or even the general public would think of a reference atlas in a library collection. The *Red Atlas* is really a history and guidebook on Soviet topographic mapping especially during the time of the Cold War.

Believed to have been the world’s largest mapping project, the Soviet Union after World War II undertook to map in high resolution detail not only their own country but also all areas of the globe for military purposes. The *Red Atlas* provides a brief history of this mapping using aerial photos, satellites, copying maps from non-Soviet countries, and even using spies on the ground.

As the book makes clear, the Soviets took their mapping very seriously, devising different series for civilian and military use, and a very advanced and detailed nomenclature of symbols and colours to indicate maps features, landmarks, and prominent buildings. In many ways, Soviet mapping was far more detailed and richer than what was being produced in non-Soviet countries. Especially fascinating are the maps which were classified as “secret” and are still considered sensitive today in Russia. For example, out of the seven scales of topographic maps produced, maps of 1:200,000 scale or larger such as city plans of Soviet and World cities were marked as “Secret” or “For Official Use”, while smaller scale maps up to 1:1,000,000 were unclassified and available for general use.

Perhaps the most tantalizing aspect of the book is the section where it is speculated that Soviet spies obtained data used in maps of western countries. Precision details such as bridge clearance heights, and spaces between trees, among others, are listed in some city plans for American and

British cities. As the authors point out, only an “on the ground” observer would have been able to document this information as it was not found in any published maps of the time.

Although it is not an atlas in a classic sense of the term, the *Red Atlas* does include many illustrations showing examples of Soviet mapping, including snippets of cities most familiar to North American readers, such as New York City and San Francisco. These are included to show examples of classified information as these were restricted for “Official Use” to Soviet eyes. Comparisons of Soviet and American topographical maps are also a special highlight of the book where information is clearly copied from one to another, or information has been gathered by Soviet sources, and errors appear due to inaccurate, out of date, or incomplete information.

The authors point out early in the book that the maps described in the book come from rarely displayed private collections and that their creators have been largely silent on how they were made. More map series and details may still be tucked away in Russia and await further discovery.

For someone interested in maps and cold war history, the *Red Atlas* provides an interesting perspective on Soviet mapping and data collection practices. This reviewer highly recommends it for those libraries with Soviet maps in their collections or where there is research and teaching taking place on Soviet History and the Cold War.

***The First Mapping of America: The General Survey of British North America***

Erika Reinhardt

*Cartography Archivist*

*Government Archives Division, Library and Archives Canada*

Johnson, Alexander. *The First Mapping of America: The General Survey of British North America*. New York: I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd., 2017. 320 p. \$110 US (hardcover). ISBN 978-1-806-442-9.

*The First Mapping of America* is a monographic study of the General Survey of British North America from 1764 to 1775. The book’s author, Alexander Johnson, who is an authority on historical cartography and an antiquarian book dealer, states that the General Survey “was by far the most extensive cartographic enterprise ever undertaken to date in the British Empire, and one of the greatest scientific endeavors of the Enlightenment era.” Drawing mostly from archival sources, the author examines the operations of the General Survey set in the broader administrative and cartographic context. Johnson’s focus is on understanding the objectives of the General Survey, how it was conducted, the consequent maps and reports that it produced, and the maps’ reception and use by colonial administrators.

The central narrative follows the story of Samuel Holland and William Gerard De Brahm, who were the Surveyor Generals assigned to the Northern and Southern Districts. Johnson recounts the natural and political obstacles both men had to endure to produce their maps as well as the administrative reality under which they had to operate. The book shows that the success and progress of the General Survey was often at the mercy of key-policy makers whose political

agendas and personal interests were not always in accord with the survey's mandate, making the achievements of these two men "all the more remarkable".

The book is organized into five sections arranged chronologically. The first section looks at the development of state-sponsored mapping programs in North America, breaks down the socio-political events and figures that led to the establishment of the General Survey, and introduces the reader to Holland and De Brahm. The following three sections look at the operational years of the General Survey, dividing this period into three phases: the first three operational years of the Survey and the years during the administration of both the Earl of Hillsborough and the Earl of Dartmouth. The chapters devoted to the mapping activities of Samuel Holland and his deputies are the most relevant to those interested in the mapping of Canada. Chapter 5 in particular focuses on the surveying of the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec. The final section of the book looks at the militarization of the maps by the British during the American Revolution and their use as important strategic and operational aids to military commanders. In the conclusion, the author discusses the lasting legacy of the General Survey as laying the foundation for subsequent centralized government mapping programs including the establishment of the Ordnance Surveys in 1791 and the Admiralty's Hydrographic Office in 1795.

The book contains 41 black and white illustrations and maps integrated into the main text and 16 colour maps printed on high gloss paper in 8pp plates. The colour maps are quite stunning, but details on maps, particularly those printed in black and white, are diminished and not easily discernible. The book provides bibliographic descriptions for each map, including the originating repository and reference number.

I would recommend this as a good resource to humanities and social science research libraries. As a monograph, the book is geared mostly towards scholars of history and cartography and will appeal to colonial and pre-confederation historians, geographic historians and rare map enthusiasts. Readers will appreciate the historical and administrative context the book provides to many of Canada's and the United States' foundational maps and gain a better understanding of their influence on the long-term administrative planning and strategic policy decisions that shaped two great nations.

***A History of Canada in Ten Maps, Epic Stories of Charting a Mysterious Land***

*Larry Laliberté*

*GIS Librarian*

*University of Alberta*

Shoalts, Adam. **A History of Canada in Ten Maps, Epic Stories of Charting a Mysterious Land**. Canada: Allen Lane, 2017. 344p. \$36 CND. ISBN 978-0-670-06946-0.

*Jacques Cartier, right this way... (Hip, 1992)*

Many of us have looked upon these maps and the events surrounding their creation in many journal articles, and numerous historical atlases, but it is interesting to see them as a “Top-Ten-List” that Shoalts pulled together. Having said that, upon opening the book, and scanning the Table of Contents with sections relating to Vikings, Champlain, Bellin, Pond, Hearne, and Mackenzie, Chapter Eight jumped straight out at me: “David Thompson’s Demons”. I had no choice but to immediately start there.

Like many, I have always been fascinated by the story of the rise and fall of David Thompson, who described himself as “a solitary traveler”, yet others like J.B. Tyrell judged him the “greatest practical land geographer that the world produced” and the Ktunaxa (Kootenay) people gave him the name Koo-Koo-Stint, meaning “The Stargazer”.

In this wonderfully engaging chapter, Thompson’s travels through the Rockies are recounted, with mentions of the discovery of what were thought to be mammoth tracks or those of a monster bear. Thompson wrote about this in his journal - a note that would later be used by 20<sup>th</sup> century believers as early proof of Sasquatch. Following this with stories involving wendigo and cannibalistic madness, one comes away from this chapter with not only an understanding of the physical hardships of the land but the immeasurable physiological strain of the overpowering presence of these landscape-inducing demons. Not to mention Thompson’s own demons of being forgotten for the mapping he did, pawning his survey instruments, and dying in poverty.

The other chapters follow similar story arcs as that of Thompson’s Demons, an underlying emphasis of the harsh and unforgiving conditions in the “New World” for mapmakers and the parties that served their expeditions. The lines etched on these maps keep circling back to blunders, misfortune, madness, and providing the pathways and geographical knowledge that would allow for the colonization and genocide of indigenous communities.

I would not classify this work as an academic tome, but rather a work that is accessible to a wide range and levels of the population. Shoalts’ book is a great read and clips along while delivering a balanced readable view of the interaction of the old and new world. If you are so inclined to further study the cartographers and the maps that resulted in their push westward, there are effective footnotes facilitating that. I am personally knee-deep in David Thompson’s Narrative (1784 – 1812). Finally, this would make a great addition to an early undergraduate course on Canadian History as there are parts of every chapter that which serve as places for discussions related to reconciliation and the decolonization of the spatially expressed history of Kanata.

Recommended

### **From the Book Reviews Editor:**

Thanks to those who submitted book reviews and to all who have expressed interest in reviewing! I’ll continue to request review copies from publishers - but please let me know if you have read a book of interest to the ACMLA and would like to submit a review, and if you have any suggestions for titles/sources. Here are the review guidelines:

## **Review Format**

### **1. Bibliographic Citation**

This should include: author, title, edition, place of publication, publisher, date, number of pages, price (if known) and ISBN. Example:

Bussey, Ben and Paul D Spudis. *The Clementine Atlas of the Moon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. 316p. \$80.00 US. ISBN 0-521-81528-2.

### **2. Content**

The review should describe and critically evaluate the work. Typical review elements include: scope, purpose and content of the work; intended audience; writing style; background and authority of the author; how the work compares with other titles on the same subject; its usefulness as a research tool; any unique features; and its suitability for library collections.

The length of the review is at the reviewer's discretion, but should normally reflect the importance of the work. A typical review is about 500 words.

### **3. Your name, title, institutional affiliation, city and province/state**

## **Editorial Policy**

Opinions expressed in reviews are those of the reviewer, not of the ACMLA. The Reviews Editor may make minor edits, without communicating with the reviewer. Should the Editor determine that a major revision is required, she will contact the reviewer for discussion.

*Sarah Simpkin*  
*Book Reviews Editor*

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES  
**BULLETIN**

**New Cartographic Resources**

Compiled by Cheryl Woods

**MAPS**

Middle East Telecommunications map  
TeleGeography  
2018

Western Balkans  
National Geographic Maps  
2018  
ISBN: 9781566957335

Provence & French Riviera Touring Map  
AA Publishing  
2018  
ISBN: 9780749579029

Road Map Western Europe  
AA Publishing  
2018  
ISBN: 9780749579135

Japan  
Michelin  
2018  
ISBN: 9782067229259

Sri Lanka  
Michelin  
2018  
ISBN: 9782067229297

Costa Rica  
Michelin  
2018  
ISBN: 9782067229433

Colombia, Ecuador  
Nelles Verlag  
2018  
ISBN: 9783865745347

Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea  
Reise-Know How  
2018  
ISBN: 9783831773268

Korea – North & South  
Nelles Verlag  
2018  
ISBN: 9783865742902

Uganda  
Nelles Verlag  
2018  
ISBN: 9783865745101

Taiwan  
Nelles Verlag  
2018  
ISBN: 9783865744500

Chile - Patagonia  
Nelles Verlag  
2018  
ISBN: 9783865746139

Baseball Travel Map  
Hedberg Maps, Inc.  
2018  
ISBN: 9781593530785

Rogers Pass: Uptracks, Bootpacks &  
Bushwhacks  
GoTrekking  
2018

### ATLASES

*Atlas of the 2016 Elections*  
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers  
2018  
ISBN: 9781538104224

*Atlas of the Maldives*  
Atoll Editions  
2018  
ISBN: 9781876410032

*National Atlas of Armenia*  
Center of Geodesy and Cartography  
“Geocart” SNCO  
Volume I, 2015; Volume II, 2017

*A Gender Atlas of India: With Scorecard*  
Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd.  
2018  
ISBN: 9789352805037

*Australia Road & 4WD Touring Atlas*  
Hema Maps  
2018  
ISBN: 9781876413712

*Atlas of environmental risks facing China  
under climate change*  
Springer  
2018  
ISBN: 9789811041983

*Carving up the globe: an atlas of diplomacy*  
Harvard University Press  
2018  
ISBN: 9780674976245

*Atlas de la Chine, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.*  
Flammarion  
2018  
ISBN: 9782746747180

### BOOKS

*Cartographies of Disease: Maps, Mapping,  
and Medicine*  
Tom Koch  
2017  
ISBN: 9781589484672

*Space Technology and GIS for Disaster  
Monitoring and Mitigation*  
T. S. Chouhan  
2018  
ISBN: 9789386102850

*Thermal and Optical Remote Sensing:  
Urban Environmental Studies*  
Javed Mallick  
2018  
ISBN: 9788178806877

*How to Lie with Maps, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.*  
Mark Monmonier  
2018  
ISBN: 9780226435923

*GIS Tutorial for Crime Analysis, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*  
L. Wilpen  
2018  
ISBN: 9781589485167  
eISBN: 9781589485174

*World War II at Sea: A Global History*  
Craig Symonds  
2018  
ISBN: 9780190243678

*A Research Guide to Cartographic  
Resources*  
Eva H. Dodsworth  
2018  
ISBN: 9781538100837  
eBook: 9781538100844



ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES  
**BULLETIN**

**Regional News**

Edited by Marilyn Andrews

**Alberta**

**Edmonton Map Society**

**David Jones**

*Double Duty for Dan Duda | Lots of Learning Opportunities for Edmontonians*



David accurately reports that May was a busy time for Edmonton cartophiles.

The Edmonton Map Society held its Spring Meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Dan Duda, Map Librarian at Memorial University, St John's, NFLD. Dan's subject:

***Maps of Newfoundland: A National Topic?***

*Early maps of Newfoundland often show the island in relation to Canada, North America and/or the North Atlantic. And often, the focus is not the island, but what the island is near – the Grand Banks. Thus, what's eye-catching are*

*those maps that only show the island. Besides this context, J. B. Harley's 1989 article "Deconstructing the Map" argues that all maps have an underlying political, or power, message. Four maps of Newfoundland that only show the island – Mason's map (c1620), Cook's map (1775), Cormack's map (1824), and Howley's map (1907) – were discussed in the light of Harley's argument.*

The **Spring Session of the Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association**, a three week semester 'for adults 50+ who want to keep learning and stay connected' was also held in May. A very popular course was the one instructed by the very same Daniel Duda -- ***And where are we? The Story of Maps***. Please read on for the course description.

Maps are powerful and can ignite the imagination to run wild! In my career as a Map Librarian, people tell me how they look at maps and atlases and imagine travelling to enticing and exotic locales. This course will introduce you to the world of maps from many different perspectives: studying cultural viewpoints of European, Muslim, and Indigenous mapmakers, to name a few; examining historical documents from ancient times to the present day; using maps as political tools

and propaganda; and seeing maps as knowledge repositories. We will also discuss the fundamental cartographic elements of scale, projection, and symbology. Maps, atlases, and digital images will be used to showcase this influential medium of communication through a combination of lectures and seminars. But map readers take note: as Monmonier writes in the introduction to his book: *How to Lie with Maps*, “Not only is it easy to lie with maps, it’s essential.”

Several of the students in the course subsequently joined the Edmonton Map Society and it is entirely possible that Dan was the main reason for their decisions.

Dan Duda is no stranger to the University of Alberta. Dan began his map career at the University of Alberta in the Wonders Map Library in 1992. Upon completion of his library degree in 1999 at the University of Alberta, his career moved him eastwards where he arrived at Memorial University in 2001. In 2005, Dan was appointed Map Librarian. Since that time, he has become well-known and well-received guest lecturer sharing his knowledge and love of maps, cartography, and cartographic history for numerous courses and professional organizations.

### **Coming attractions**

The next meeting of the Edmonton Map Society will be held in the fall. Tentatively the speakers will be John Horrigan and Charlene Nielsen and it promises to be a most interesting meeting.

The Society welcomes volunteers (and nominations) for guest speakers for filling out the 2018/2019 program. All who have some (or lots) of interest in sharing their research and/or cartopassion with ever keen fellow cartophiles are asked to contact David.

**University of Lethbridge**  
**Lethbridge, Alberta**  
**Rhys Stevens**

*5... 4... 3... 2... 1 ACTION!*

Rhys Stevens, screenwriter, director and producer stars in the YouTube video “[Finding Alberta Air Photo Locations Using the Aerial Photo Record System \(APRS\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqOVFqLaFlg).”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqOVFqLaFlg>

In this video Rhys demonstrates how to 1) find available aerial photographs for locations throughout the Province of Alberta using the Aerial Photo Record System (APRS) database from Alberta Environment and Parks; 2) locate an Alberta Legal Land Survey Description using the LSD (Legal Subdivision) Finder web site; and 3) view flight line index maps to identify air photo print numbers necessary for obtaining aerial imagery.

Watch the video – 6 minutes 12 seconds well spent.

### **Ontario**

**Carleton University**

**Ottawa, Ontario***Nerd Spotting!*

Rebecca Bartlett (and partner) completed their journey across Canada (intermittently over approximately a year and half) of visiting the locations connected to the Government of Canada's *Heritage Minutes*, which are part of our national history. Such fun! Read about all about it here and view the video:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/lifestyle/heritage-minute-nerds-travel-across-canada-visiting-historic-landmarks-1.4002135>

Watch the video – 2 minutes 2 seconds well spent.

**McMaster University  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Jason Brodeur***Gentleman, Soldier, Scholar & Spy = Intriguing*

For anyone who will be in the Hamilton area this summer (or would like a good excuse to visit), you are invited to check out the exhibit in the McMaster Museum of Art:

*Gentleman, Soldier, Scholar & Spy: The Napoleonic era maps of Robert Clifford.*

Gord Beck, McMaster Library's Map Specialist, has curated an exhibit of visually rich and historically significant maps from the time of the Napoleonic Wars. Included in the exhibit is a 3 x 4 metre map, which will be shown publicly for the first time since its acquisition in 1969.

A special public lecture was held on June 13<sup>th</sup> at which time Gord and Professor Frederick C. Schneid of High Point University joined forces in an exploration of Napoleon's Maps and the Conduct of War.

For those not be able to find your way to Hamilton this summer, watch for the soon to be released digital exhibits and other content which will be made available to the public. This will include a [6 Gigapixel zoomable image](http://perec.mcmaster.ca/maps/robertclifford/pays-bas/) (<http://perec.mcmaster.ca/maps/robertclifford/pays-bas/>) of the 3 x 4 metre map. Wow!

For more information on this fascinating collection, see this article in the *Hamilton Spectator*: <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/8726287-on-the-path-of-napoleon-maps-at-mcmaster-university-likely-contributed-to-his-fall/>

**University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, Ontario  
Eva Dodsworth**

*Story Map provides access to previously unpublished research! | ICC GIS conference in Bulgaria!*

Eva reports that the Winter 2018 semester was a great term which is great to hear.

“It’s been a great term. After spending a couple of years organizing and digitizing a rather large collection of donated historical [vegetation maps](#), the Geospatial Centre staff created an interactive ArcGIS Story Map with the 1973 surveys that covered the Region of Waterloo. This [Story Map](#) is the result of unpublished Masters (MES) research by Karrow, Thomas (2013), a published article by Thomas Karrow and Roger Suffling (2015) along with expertise from the staff at the University of Waterloo, Geospatial Centre. This project highlights the forests of Waterloo region. We continue to enjoy using ArcGIS Online Story Map templates and are currently finishing up a major Fire Insurance Plan project where we have created shapefiles along with super detailed metadata for every building in the Region of Waterloo as drawn in the earlier FIP. The results will be shown in ArcGIS Online hopefully by the end of this summer.

Eva regretted missing the ACMLA conference in Montreal but she had an acceptable excuse. She attended the International Association of Cartography and GIS (IACG) conference in Bulgaria. “I presented my paper which discusses the evolution of GIS Centres in libraries, and the history of and changes in map libraries over time. The paper discusses in great detail the different names of map collections, their service points, type of material housed, and the types of data and software they use. If interested, please read my paper [https://iccgis2018.cartography-gis.com/7ICCGIS\\_Proceedings/7\\_ICCGIS\\_2018%20\(20\).pdf](https://iccgis2018.cartography-gis.com/7ICCGIS_Proceedings/7_ICCGIS_2018%20(20).pdf). Due to copyright, I am not able to reprint it in the Bulletin, however the abstract is included below.”

### **Abstract**

*The development of map libraries in academic institutions has a long history, and one that isn’t complete yet, as libraries embrace technological changes to adapt to millennial’s technology driven needs. From purchasing map cabinets, and acquiring a separate room in a library, to replacing the map cabinets with GIS stations, both collections and skills have evolved, number of staff and expenditure has increased, therefore transitioning the traditional map library to a more data-centered entity. Even though GIS services have been offered in many university libraries since the early 1990s, it hasn’t been until only recently that libraries have been shifting their attention away from print maps to focus almost entirely on geospatial data collections and software. This paper examines 340 university libraries in Canada and the U.S. that offer maps and/or GIS services, and reviews their service points (part of a collection vs standalone room), their collection names (map room vs GIS Center), the type of material they house, and the kinds of software they use, concluding that the shift from paper to digital is evident as seen through organizational developments, and name changes. As geospatial data continues to be more readily accessible, and open, the future of GIS services in libraries will continue to evolve.*

The IACG conference covered a wide variety of topics with interesting keynote speakers discussing the importance of not grouping cartography strictly into fields of geography, and how GIS is not cartography, nor a modern continuation of map making. The papers presented shared interesting projects, mainly using GIS to understand the history of Europe (i.e. recreating virtual buildings before WWII damage, or recreating locations of tramlines using historical maps). Remote sensing was used quite a bit in studies that were interested in minimizing natural disaster

risks, as well as in finding ideal locations for agriculture. Some of the more technical papers discussed C++ programming for cartographers, as well as creating new map projections and proving old ones wrong. Several papers examined the accuracy of Open Street Map datasets and shared their own geoportals. With hundreds of presentations, the week in Sozopol, Bulgaria was definitely filled with pensiveness, lively conversations, and super memories!

**Western University  
London, Ontario  
Cheryl Woods**

*Organizational change and integrated service model – just around the corner!*

Western Libraries is implementing a new organization structure and integrated services model which will be built around the five core functional areas:

- 1) The User Experience and Student Engagement team will provide a seamless experience of library collections and services across our physical and virtual spaces. The team will foster student engagement through the provision of innovative events and services as a result of collaboration and partnership.
- 2) The Teaching and Learning team will advance the integration of information literacy and other digital literacy skills into course curriculum, provide instruction, and develop a variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular information literacy experiences.
- 3) The Research and Scholarly Communication team will support and contribute to research on campus throughout the research cycle, including the creation, management, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge and research data.
- 4) The Content Management, Discovery and Access team will provide ongoing access to high quality research collections across Western's disciplines.
- 5) The Archives and Special Collections team will acquire, preserve and provide access to key unique research collections, including digital content.

So how does this affect the Map and Data Centre?

- 1) The Map and Data Centre is now under the Archives and Special Collections team.
- 2) The data and geospatial service is within the Research and Scholarly Communication team.

Thanks go out to Vince Gray, data librarian, who retired April 30, as do well wishes for a happy and long retirement.

## **Saskatchewan**

**University of Saskatchewan**

**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

**Sarah Rutley**

*Sarah Rutley -- Привет и добро пожаловать (Hello and Welcome)*

Sarah writes “On July 1<sup>st</sup> I began a two-year term as Data, GIS, & Government Publications Librarian at the University of Saskatchewan. I come to the University of Saskatchewan via a BA in Slavic Studies from the University of Victoria, an MA in European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies from the University of Toronto, and several years working in both public and research library contexts; in June I wrapped up an MLIS through the University of Alberta, where I developed and pursued an interest in the areas that now make up my job title. I’m very happy to be getting started in this corner of librarianship, and I hope to meet many of you in the coming months and years!”

**ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES  
BULLETIN**

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