

BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION DES CARTOTHÈQUES ET ARCHIVES
CARTOGRAPHIQUES DU CANADA



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Cover image: "Novvelle France" Map (ca. 1641)

Also known as *The Huron Map*. While the cartographer is unknown, the [National Archives catalogue](#) suggests it was likely drawn by a French cartographer.

"It is the oldest surviving map that attempts to depict all five of the Great Lakes and to represent the location of a significant number of the Great Lakes tribes prior to the dispersals of the late 1640s and the 1650s." Most inscriptions are in the Huron language, which is the subject of analysis in [John Steckley's 1990 linguistic study](#) (*Ontario Archaeology*, Vol. OA51, pp. 31-52)

Thanks to Renna Truong for submitting our cover map.

Sphering the Square

*Author: Martin Chandler
Cape Breton University*

The world is flat! You may have heard,
From some suspect blue-checked ex-bird.
But before you raise vociferous objection,
Pray bend an ear to this: Projection!

Start with Mercator, adored, maligned,
Set course for truth in one straight line.
"But how can it be," the neophyte cries,
"That Greenland is such a marvelous size?"

Cylindrical, then, tis not so fair,
Let's conform it conically, à la Lambert.
Of course the problem we then decant:
No parallels can line with the secant.

But can we not make all else equal?
Preserve the relative area per Wiechal?
Pseudoazimuth, all bets to hedges,
The only concern comes at the edges.

Perhaps you'll dare to take a Stab,
A pseudoconic equal jab
Right through the heart for a map learner
And leap into the world of Werner!

Well, think of an orange, pull off the peel,
Press it flat, 2D, wholemeal.
You'll see the problem; Monmonier's thesis,
To flat the sphere is always specious.

So when need be for a spatial caper,
Some formula to put the world to paper,
Tell all your friends, "The world is round!
At least for those of us earthbound!"

Keywords: Poetry, Creative Works, Carto, Projections, Map

Author's note:

Two years ago, I was perusing the archives of the bulletin and stumbled upon a poem¹ that was read aloud at the 1973 conference. I re-read it for the 2023 conference, and was inspired to craft a new one for 2025. The subject of map projections is perennial and rife with possibility for lively turns of phrase.

¹Daniels, R. (1973). "Come one and all who show with pride" [poem]. *Bulletin - Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA)*, (13), 7-8. <https://doi.org/10.15353/acmla.n3>

State of the Bulletin

Authors: 2025 Bulletin Team

Keywords: Bulletin, Publishing, Journal

Author's note

For those who were able to attend CARTO 2025 in Kingston, Ontario, you'll have an idea of some of the work being done for the Bulletin at present. This is a recap and expansion of that work for those who couldn't attend, and to add to the record. The discussion covered the past, present, and future considerations for the journal of our association, as well as its status as the preeminent journal of geospatial librarianship in Canada.

The Present

Sections

We have a full slate of staff with two new sections (in bold):

- *General Research Articles & News:* Meg Miller, University of Manitoba
- *French Submissions:* Anne Hakier (on leave)
- *Book & Map Reviews Editor:* Rachel Arseneau, University of Brandon (Many thanks to Paul Pival for his service!)
- *GIS Trends Editor:* Martin Chandler, Cape Breton University
- **Map Spotlight:** Renna Truong, University of Calgary
- *Student Voices Editor:* Saman Goudarzi, McMaster University
- **writes through passage:** Larry Laliberté, University of Alberta

Submissions

Concern about submissions is (almost) an ever-present issue. Issue #2 mentioned the response being "disheartening" (De-Vreeze, 1969), and further discussion at the AGM was needed. Issue 19, despite being 68 pages, includes the comment that "Participation is greatly needed to develop the A.C.M.L./A.C.C. Bulletin" (Malinksi, 1975).

In the 1980s, there seemed to be a healthy number of submissions. For example, issue 48 from 1983 includes 95 pages of material. However, there was difficulty in getting an editor for a period (Nagy and Kidd, 1985), and there was a certain amount of material reprinted from elsewhere. This makes sense, given the benefits of information dissemination that would bring, but which are less of a concern now.

That concern about submissions, then, prompts discussion and consideration for what the journal itself will look like. A Menti poll was held during the conference, and another was sent out in July, with the results shared on the following page.

The Past

A project is underway to elucidate the historical Bulletins, marking a second phase of the scanning project that was previously conducted. Saman, Meg, and Martin, along with McMaster student assistants Annela Kennedy-Williams, Dharav Shah, and Diogo Vilas, are splitting the historical Bulletins into individual articles and enriching each with metadata. This will help with finding historical articles, the history of the association as a whole, and inspire discussion about the work we do. It will also inform one of the new sections, headed by Larry Laliberté.

The Future

When we were approached by EBSCO to be added to one of their open-access databases as part of their Natural Partner Agreement program, it sparked conversation—some tentative, some excited. This was then extended to exploring the possibility of being indexed by DOAJ. Digging into this revealed that to be indexed here, we would need to have a more rigorous peer-review process than what we currently have (ie. It's a conflict of interest for Meg to be Editor-in-Chief and review. Also, only ¼ of a year's submissions can come from individuals on the editorial board, which includes most of our authors.

We already have a hard time getting submissions for two issues a year (and this isn't a new challenge). When we polled you last year, many of you indicated a lack of time, that the *Bulletin* isn't given full weight in your promotion packages, and that some of you don't have a research component in your role. Would adding trying to recruit folks as reviewers be too much?

Perhaps it would be beneficial to change direction as well. We represent map library and archive workers at a national level, and we mainly use our publication to share and celebrate the work done. Rather than formalizing and giving the *Bulletin* institutional weight, we might consider adopting a trade journal-style publication.

Some discussion from the conference session:

- Don't think ACMLA Bulletin should become a peer-reviewed journal
- The Association has had these conversations before (e.g., when Deena Yanosky was editor-in-chief).
- CAG requires five research articles per year to maintain peer-reviewed status.
- The Journal of Map & Geography Libraries is an alternative if someone wants to publish peer-reviewed work.

- We should avoid setting an expected standard tied to the ACMLA Bulletin—it adds an extra process. Right now, it's less onerous and still valuable as a space for community engagement; it's a launchpad.
- Bulletin should be a place for knowledge mobilization
- Contributors can share what's current in their workspace. A seed planting medium.

If we want to have a fully academic journal, we would need more and consistent submissions. If we want to abandon that academic side and make the *Bulletin* more of a trade journal, would we then be losing the only place for publication about Canada-specific geospatial librarianship, and is that something to be concerned about? Or, should we have a loose structure for the journal, allowing it to be fluid depending on the content, recognizing that this may put a strain on the editors to obtain content?

When polled about the direction membership thought we should take, 35 people responded (out of 162 members). 54% of members voted against pursuing a change in our structure via indexing (which would imply editorial changes).

L'État du bulletin

Pour ceux qui ont pu assister à CARTO 2025 à Kingston, en Ontario, vous aurez une idée du travail actuellement réalisé pour le *Bulletin*. Ceci est un résumé et un complément de ce travail pour ceux qui n'ont pas pu y assister, ainsi que pour compléter le compte rendu. La discussion a porté sur le passé, le présent et les considérations pour l'avenir prévu de la revue de notre association, qui est la revue de référence en matière de bibliothéconomie géospatiale au Canada.

Le Présent

Sections

Nous avons une équipe complète avec deux nouvelles sections (en bold) :

- Articles de recherche générale et nouvelles: Meg Miller, Université du Manitoba
- *Soumissions en français*: Anne Hakier (en congé)
- *Revue de livres et de cartes* Rédactrice: Rachel Arseneau, Université de Brandon
- *Tendances SIG* Rédacteur: Martin Chandler, Université du Cap-Breton
- **Spot cartographiques**: Renna Truong, Université de Calgary
- *Rédacteur de Voix des étudiants*: Saman Goudarzi, Université McMaster
- **écrire à travers passage**: Larry Laliberté, Université de l'Alberta

Submissions

La question des soumissions est (presque) toujours d'actualité. Le numéro 2 mentionne que la réponse est « décourageante » (De-Vreeze, 1969) et qu'une discussion plus approfondie est nécessaire lors de l'AGA ; le numéro 19, malgré ses 68 pages, contient le commentaire suivant : « La participation est grandement nécessaire pour développer le Bulletin de l'A.C.M.L./A.C.C. » (Malinski, 1975), et une certaine quantité de matériel a été réimprimée à partir d'autres sources. Cela se justifie, compte tenu des avantages que la diffusion de l'information apporterait, mais qui sont moins préoccupants aujourd'hui.

Dans les années 1980, il semble y avoir un nombre important de soumissions ; le numéro 48, datant de 1983, contient 95 pages de matériel ! Toutefois, il a été difficile de trouver un rédacteur en chef pendant un certain temps (Nagy et Kidd, 1985).

Cette préoccupation concernant les soumissions suscite donc des discussions et des réflexions sur ce à quoi ressemblera la journal elle-même. Un sondage Menti a été réalisé pendant la conférence, et un autre a été envoyé en juillet. Si nous voulons avoir une revue entièrement académique, nous aurions besoin de soumissions plus nombreuses et plus régulières. Si nous voulons abandonner cet aspect académique et en faire davantage une revue spécialisée, perdriions-nous alors le seul lieu de publication consacré à la bibliothéconomie géospatiale spécifique au Canada, et est-ce quelque chose dont il faut s'inquiéter? Ou devrions-nous avoir une structure souple pour la revue, fluide en fonction de ce dont nous disposons, tout en reconnaissant que cela peut mettre à rude épreuve les rédacteurs pour obtenir du contenu?

Le Passé

Un projet est en cours pour élucider les Bulletins historiques, en une sorte de deuxième phase du projet de numérisation qui a eu lieu précédemment. Saman, Meg et Martin, aidés par Annela Kennedy-Williams, Dharav Shah et Diogo Vilas, étudiants assistants à l'Université McMaster, divisent les bulletins historiques en articles individuels et enrichissent chacun d'entre eux avec des métadonnées. Cela facilitera la recherche d'articles historiques, permettra de mieux connaître l'histoire de l'association dans son ensemble et suscitera des discussions inspirantes sur le travail que nous accomplissons. Cela alimentera également l'une des nouvelles sections, dirigée par Larry Laliberté.

Le Futur

Lorsque EBSCO nous a contactés pour nous proposer d'ajouter notre publication à l'une de leurs bases de données en libre accès dans le cadre de leur programme Natural Partner

Agreement, cela a suscité des réactions diverses, certaines hésitantes, d'autres enthousiastes. Nous avons ensuite envisagé la possibilité d'être référencés par DOAJ. En examinant cette question, nous avons découvert que pour être indexés, nous devrions mettre en place un processus de critiques des pairs plus rigoureux que celui que nous avons actuellement (par exemple, il y a un conflit d'intérêts entre le fait que Meg soit rédactrice en chef et évaluatrice. De plus, seulement ¼ des soumissions annuelles peuvent provenir de membres du comité de rédaction, qui comprend la plupart de nos auteurs).

Nous avons déjà du mal à obtenir des soumissions pour deux numéros par an (et ce n'est pas un défi nouveau). Lorsque nous vous avons consultés l'année dernière, beaucoup d'entre vous ont indiqué un manque de temps, que le Bulletin n'était pas pris en compte dans vos dossiers de promotion et que certains d'entre vous n'avaient pas de composante recherche dans leur rôle. Est-ce que le fait d'essayer de recruter des personnes comme évaluateurs serait trop demander?

Peut-être serait-il également judicieux de changer d'orientation. Nous représentons les employés des bibliothèques cartographiques et des archives au niveau national, et nous utilisons principalement notre publication pour partager et célébrer le travail accompli. Plutôt que d'essayer de formaliser et de donner un poids institutionnel au Bulletin, nous nous orientons peut-être vers une publication de type revue spécialisée.

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donner un poids institutionnel au Bulletin, nous nous orientons peut-être vers une publication de type revue spécialisée.

Quelques commentaires de la session de la conférence:

- Ne pense pas que le Bulletin ACACC devrait devenir un journal révisé par des pairs
- L'association a déjà eu ces discussions auparavant (par exemple, lorsque Deena Yanosky était rédactrice en chef).
- Le CAG exige cinq articles de recherche par an pour conserver son statut de revue évaluée par des pairs.
- Le Journal of Map & Geography Libraries est une alternative si quelqu'un souhaite publier un article évalué par des pairs.
- Nous devrions éviter de fixer une norme liée au Bulletin de l'ACACC, car cela ajoute une étape supplémentaire. À l'heure actuelle, il est moins contraignant et reste précieux en tant qu'espace d'engagement communautaire ; c'est un point de départ.
- Le Bulletin devrait être un lieu de mobilisation des connaissances
- Les contributeurs peuvent partager l'actualité de leur domaine de travail. Un moyen de planter des idées.

Lors d'un sondage sur la direction que les membres pensaient que nous devrions prendre, 35 personnes ont répondu (sur 162 membres). 54 % des membres ont voté contre la poursuite d'un changement de notre structure par l'indexation (ce qui impliquerait des modifications éditoriales).

Volume I, number 1

NEWSLETTER

[1968]

writes through passage/ écrire à travers passage

Section Editor: Larry Laliberté, University of Alberta

Mac Mapping in the Map Library by Colleen Beard

Originally published ACMLA Bulletin Number 76, 1990

Keywords: Mapping, GIS History, Experiential Learning, Information Retrieval, Object Oriented Base Maps, Pedagogy

Note from the Editor:

Welcome/Bienvenue to the inaugural *writes through passage/écrire à travers passage*.

Fifty seven years in the making, this spatial, in the vaulted Bulletin, is a play on that "rite of passage" of ACMLA members contributing an article during the early (nudged gently) stages of their professional career. Articles evoked in this section will draw upon from 175 seasonal issues marking the *passage* of time. These written *passages* (and graphics) are not only reintroduced but their contents virtually refurbished with associated links and OJS indexing, and thus resurrected from the banal static of a pdf file. Bringing back articles, that etched the profession's transitional temporals, while shining a light on a community of authors that stitched a continuous corpus of material comprising the association's unfolding epitaph.

The geometrics of this column are open ended, and community driven. Everyone is encouraged to contribute. If there is an article from the past that you found fascinating and feel it needs a dusting-off, let us know. Still in contact with an author whose work you found inspiring? Reach out and inquire if they would personally like to reacquaint a new generation to their work?

At other times, as curator of this liminal slice of the Bulletin, there may be a mosaic of papers that are thematically linked, or composed to represent some of the more prolific contributors, especially during those early stretches as Newsletter gave way to Bulletin.

So enough from me (my own professional lectern drawing to dim) and pass(age) this over to Colleen Beard who in 1990, five years before ArcView 3.x made it second nature, was scribing about GIS layers as "object oriented base maps," and a year before grunge broke, was breaking new ground in the map library through a DIY approach. All captured in an article that exemplifies experiential learning. Learning that is still ongoing. When the map/gis curator chords institutional time to

investigate software and code, increasing the tonals of one's professional knowledge, and during the process, fine-tunes accessibility, discovery and engagement with our collective map collections.

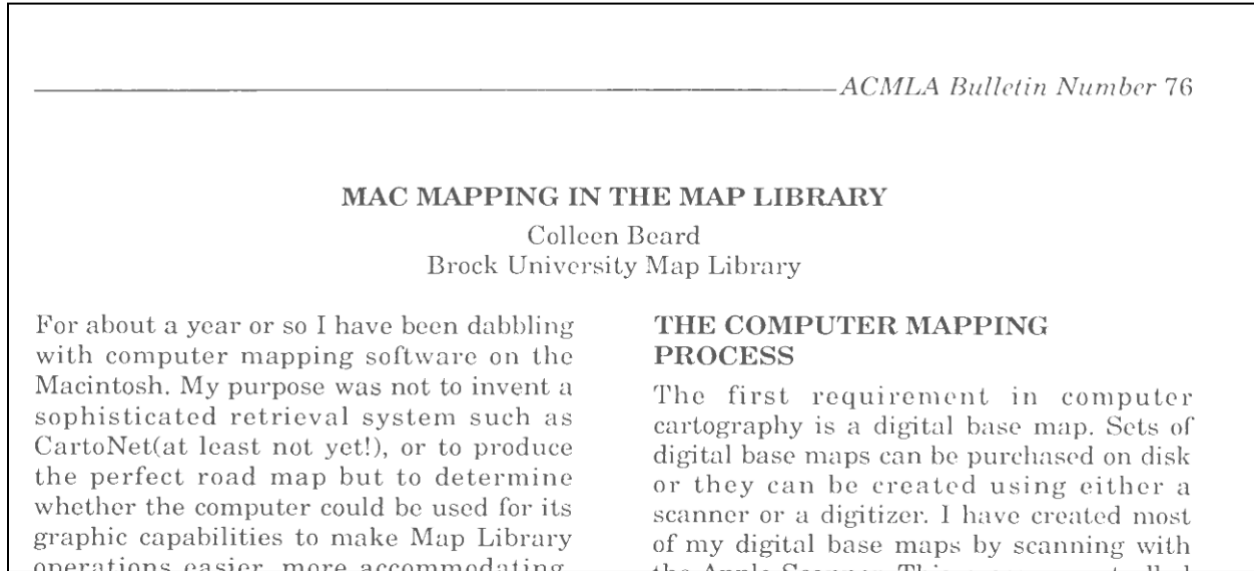


Figure 1: Beard, C. (1990). *Mac Mapping in the Library*. Bulletin - Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA), (76). <https://doi.org/10.15353/acmla.n76.6745>

Author Reflection

It was a day in 1988 that changed our Map Library forever – we acquired a Macintosh SE computer! The typewriter was finally archived. Needless to say, I embraced this new technology with enthusiasm – especially the part about no more white-out. What a revolution! I was already taking advantage of the Geography Department's computer for emailing (another revolution), although there were very few of us who had jumped on that bandwagon. Yes, I am from the ACMLA generation who transformed from paper to digital. After months of indexing maps and air photos with pencil and paper, I replaced the procedure with index maps created in SuperPaint and Superbits. I thought this was all very innovative at the time and didn't hesitate to "show and tell" to my colleagues. The result landed me an ACMLA Paper Award in 1991. In the Library profession, I was on the map – and never looked back.

Although I was relatively new to the library world at the time, one thing I did well as an undergrad at Brock was making maps, the old way. Soon after I became acquainted with the new Macintosh I was introduced to computer mapping software by the Cartography Professor, Alun Hughes. I was convinced this could be a good thing for two reasons: one, I just found my dream job!; and two, it could make map library tasks much easier. The second was key! The much fun in dabbling with this "on-the-cutting-edge" mapping technology, I had to justify time well spent. Sure enough, the applications where computer maps assisted with the management of map library collections and

information retrieval are essential tools still used today. This is the underlying pedagogy, if you will, that hopefully resonates in *Mac Mapping in the Map Library* (1990).

It is extremely important, in our profession, to take the time and experiment with technology that interests you. The outcomes can be beneficial in many ways. As we know, and some may have initially argued this fact, that providing computer instruction as a "service" is now accepted as a major part of our job. The more familiar we are with the technology that our patrons use, the more useful we become.

Fast forward 35 years – same mindset! I continue to do the same thing today that I was so passionate about – computer mapping. In my case, reconstructing history of the Welland Canals. The [Historic Welland Canals Mapping Project](#) has been hailed by the community as the most comprehensive visual account of the canals to date. Although I have graduated from Mac to Dell and from SuperPaint to ArcGIS, the underlying philosophy for its creation is the same – have fun with a cause. The only difference is... my maps are a whole lot prettier!

-Colleen Beard

Cartography, Ephemera, and Colonialism

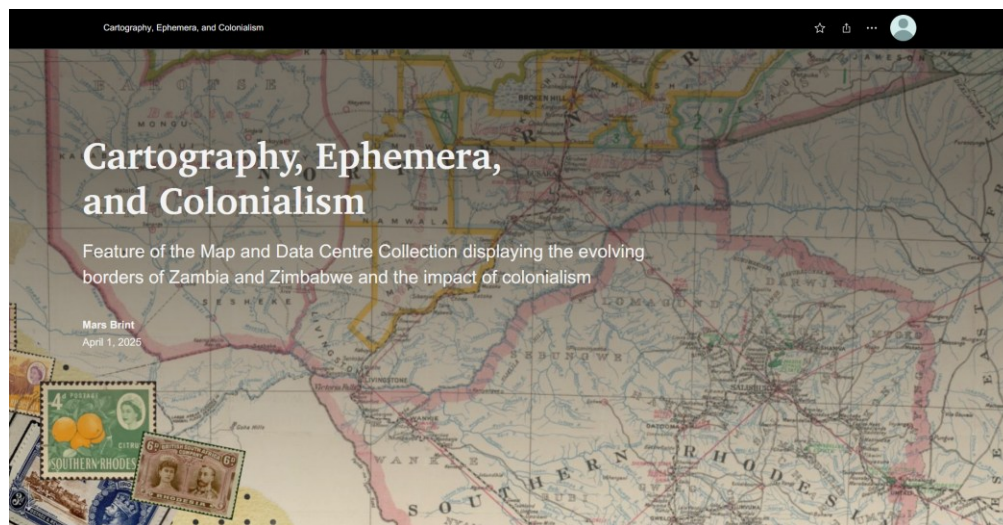
*Author: Marina (Mars) Brint
Student Library Assistant, Western University*

Keywords: ArcGIS StoryMaps, Historical Maps, Colonialism, Central Africa, Mapping

Abstract

This digital exhibit features historical cartographic material and ephemera from the Map and Data Centre of Western Libraries and exemplifies how these materials can be used to discuss, examine, and explore issues or events in history such as the effects of colonialism and the evolution of borders, land designations, and industries through the use of primary source material. It also serves to exemplify the various tools and layouts of StoryMaps, a beneficial ArcGIS tool for showcasing collections, exhibits, and information.

Rhodesia was a landlocked region located in Central Africa, named after the British Colonial administrator Cecil Rhodes, a mining magnate and politician, by the British South Africa Company in the 19th century. Before colonization, this land was loosely known as Northern and Southern Zambezia, after the Zambezi River that ran through the two regions. With colonization the river's natural divide created Northern Rhodesia which eventually became Zambia in 1964 and Southern Rhodesia which later became Zimbabwe in 1980. Postage stamps and maps from these eras of colonization capture the British ownership over the region and exemplify the developments in the region as it gained independence from British occupation.



[Access at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/99aacdb9b578405ea1daa852206c12ef>]

Beware the Jabberwock, or, Let's All Do the Techno-Oligarchic Slide

*Author: Martin Chandler,
Cape Breton University*

Keywords: Maps, Google Maps, technology, oligarch, enshittification, squidgy

Review

The Mutant, in this case, is capitalism. Isn't it always? But to be more specific: capitalism qua capitalism is not necessarily bad. Nor is it good. It's like a gun – guns alone rarely kill people. Unfettered access amid a culture of violence, however, does. Ultimately, then, it is legislation that brings the necessary restrictions on money trumping Good. Anarchy can do so temporarily, as was the case in the early days of the internet. But the lack of a central system of organization or control eventually leads to the centralization of capital, and those with more begin to impose their will in order to further benefit themselves – essentially creating the missing rules in their own interest. The current state of what we generally refer to as neoliberal capitalism has meant a void filled with brologarchs (Cadwalladr, 2024).

I recognize that this is a strange opening to a GIS trends article. What I'm leading to, though, is the now ubiquitous (in acceptance as an idea, and as a corporate ethos) notion coined by Cory Doctorow (2023), of enshittification. As Doctorow lays out in his Podcast Series Understood: Who Broke the

Internet (2025), in Google terms, this has been the gradual degradation of their platform for the purposes of keeping individuals engaged with it longer, in order to reap more advertising money. Many had noticed the internet broadly, and Google Search specifically, had been steadily getting worse, and we could now explain it.

Google Maps has been a long-standing tool for wayfinding, and a revolutionary one. Many – myself included – remember looking up directions in a map or city atlas, and either writing down the directions or later ruing that you didn't write down the directions because memories are occasionally fallible. Now, we just put it into Google Maps and get directions.

Google Maps began in 2005, after Google's 2004 acquisition of the company where2 (Crunchbase, n.d.). Map Maker was later added, allowing users to edit and make new maps, though this was then shut down in 2017 with "many of its features...integrated into Google Maps" (Google, n.d.a). Some of this was moved into the Local Guides program, where users volunteer to contribute to improving information for the multi-trillion dollar company, with the possibility of occasional "perks", by earning points, badges, and levels (Google, n.d.b.). In short, they have gamified a process in order to acquire free labour, to improve their own income.

But where does the enshittification come in? Well, if you spend much time poking around Google Maps, you may have noticed that it's starting to slip, mostly, in what gets recommended when you search for businesses nearby. For some time that has been less "what I'm looking for" and more "here's who has paid us more". But in this case I'm more talking about the layers within, specifically the roads.

To give you a sense of what I'm referring to, I offer some examples. The first, in North Rustico, PEI, is relatively minor:



Figure 2 (Google, n.d.c.)

Though a bit difficult to see, if you look between the upper row of houses and the field north of them, the road layer is slightly offset from the small dirt track, and it ends long before the track. A tiny thing, perhaps of little consequence. But there are adjustments as well on the Trans Canada:



Figure 3 (Google, n.d.d.)

Here we see the highway near McMunn, Manitoba, mostly fine but ever so slightly off, drifting a little bit on the turn (never mind Birch River Rd taking a little trip to try to join the highway). Not big, and easily explained as

difficulties in aligning satellite data with a road layer. Though one would think a multi-trillion-dollar company could iron out such issues after 20 years.



Figure 4 (Google, n.d.e.)

In case you thought this was a rural issue, I offer this area near a school in Regina, Saskatchewan. Cities are generally much better aligned than rural areas, but still that first curved road is ever so slightly off from the rest, and you may notice a couple of other details that are best described as "squidgy".

But the pièce de résistance, and the one the first alerted me to this lackadaisical drift, comes from an exploration of Grand Narrows, in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia:

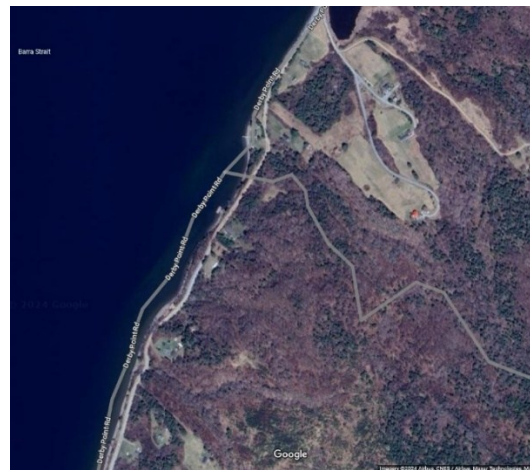


Figure 5 (Google, n.d.f.).

According to Google, the drive goes right into the Bras d'Or Lake, with an intersection that zigzags off to what can only be described as a suspect route into the woods, perhaps to grandmother's house. I've not driven past there myself, but the satellite imagery certainly doesn't give me much confidence in the reality of a road. If you try to follow Derby Point Rd south and east, you find more imaginative fun with roads layers, as well. Go even a little farther to find the curious case of Gordies Road(s), in Benacadie.

One might be inclined to point to how such details are so minute, so extreme to focus on. Look at the wonder that this technology is! And truly it is, having given a tool to many that allows great exploration and wayfinding. But whether that was done for the Good or not is the question we're starting to meet, and the answers are less than satisfactory. The slide will continue in a hundred little ways, not solely in layer alignment. And you'll be left to work a little more to get a little less, for this thing that purports to be free but profits deeply from manipulation.

Meanwhile, enshittification is catching on throughout the technosphere, from Software as a Service (SaaS) to attention addiction as profit margin to religious fervour for the little toys and the boys who promote them. Has it infected our mostly beloved GIS provider (beyond the aforementioned SaaS)? Not in many ways we've noticed, but then it's usually not so noticeable at first. Perhaps the recent shifting in StoryMaps was the canary, or perhaps it was just a short term pain for greater gain. Either way, as in anything in the technosphere: beware the Jabberwock.

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Stampede Story Map

Section Editor: Renna Truong, University of Calgary

Keywords: Decolonization, Colonialism, Calgary Stampede, Cartography, Map, Story Map, Collections, Visual Art, Siksika Nation, Bison Robe

Map:



Figure 1: "Bison Robe Painting", 02/27/2020, (CU11031492) by Brown, David H. Courtesy of University Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary.

Stampede Story Map by Adrian Stimson

Adrian Stimson, a member of the Siksika Nation, was invited by the Calgary Institute for the Humanities at the University of Calgary to create a story map that highlights lesser-known and sometimes controversial histories of the Calgary Stampede. The first Calgary Stampede was held in 1912, evolving from the Calgary Exhibition, which began in 1886.

In the artist statement, Stimson explains that part of the project's goal was to "indigenize the map" and decolonize it by using Blackfoot ways of knowing, specifically the Bison Robe winter count and pictographic style.

"The Bison Robe winter counts were created to record events in time; battles, warrior exploits, visions and specific events, they could be arranged in spiral, linear or snake-like patterns. Single pictographs could hold an entire year's worth of stories."

The robes were "stylized, abstracted depictions that depicted geographic features and places." Their intent was to play with notions of time, space, and stories in Mohkinstsis—the Blackfoot name for Calgary.

If you would like to know more, please visit [First Nations Stampede: A guide to First Nations history at the Calgary Stampede.](#)

Acknowledgment of collaborative contributions by Julia Guy, for "Historic Maps of Calgary", part of the 35th annual Historic Calgary Week event with University of Calgary Library.

Mapping Archival Architecture Records: Interdisciplinary Research and Approach with GIS Technologies

*Section Editor: Saman Goudarzi, McMaster
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Keywords: ArcGIS Dashboards, Archival Research, Architecture, Research Methods, Mapping, Historic Records

Abstract

The Murphy Moore Collection comprises over 2000 architectural plans, drawings, and correspondence with individuals involved in John M. Moore's work and the firm's various iterations, as well as material from other London-based architects. The plans are primarily focused in London, Ontario, but expand across Southern Ontario and include illustrations of residential, industrial, commercial, and ecclesiastical buildings—some of which are still present. Traditionally kept as text-based metadata records, this catalogue was transformed using ArcGIS program Dashboards to create an interactive user interface that encourages active discovery. However, to connect these records to their geographical location, various archival research methods such as the use of city directories, fire insurance plans, maps,

and historical photography were used to accurately display these records.

Introduction to the Murphy Moore Collection

The Murphy Moore Collection is a series of architectural drawings, plans, and correspondence by various London-based architects beginning from the 1840s, showcasing the firm's multiple incarnations and evolution of those involved (Western Archives, 2013). The collection focuses on the work produced by John M. Moore but also features architects such as George F. Durand, John V. Munro, and Frederick Henry, with minor additions from Thomas H. Tracy, Hubert C. McBride, and William Robinson. The collection was donated in phases to Western University by Ronald E. Murphy on January 15, 1988, and David R. Murphy on October 25, 1999; Phase I, and partially Phase II, of the donation, is the focus of this project and contains approximately 2000 individual records (Murphy, D.R. et al, 1922-2009). These illustrations include various plans for commercial, ecclesiastical, and residential buildings, some of which remain significant structures in London and Southern Ontario. The architectural records provide insight into the design, construction, approaches, and trends in buildings and the development of styles through Georgian, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Beaux Arts, to Ontario Cottages. John M. Moore contributed to the development of London and designed many of the churches, schools, public buildings, and factories within the evolving city—eventually becoming a short-lived but successful mayor by popular demand before passing away in 1930 (Tausky, N. & DiStefano, L., 1986, p. 359). Within her acquisition report, Nancy Z. Tausky (1999) emphasizes the comprehensiveness of the collection and how the records supply the opportunity to interact and engage with

structures of regional and national importance (Murphy, D.R. et al, 1922-2009, p. 3). The collection allows researchers, students, and the public to explore architectural plans of archival buildings through invaluable primary source material.

Considerations and Purpose

Due to the size of the collection, there are minimal finding aids that accurately and effectively reflect the contents of the architectural records, and so locating individual records for patrons can be laborious, relying on archivists to navigate the collection. However, as part of the Western Libraries Strategic Plan of 2022 to 2028, the goal is to build and enhance the ability of others to access materials and empower users to find information as contributors to their research (Western Libraries, 2022). Therefore, to increase the accessibility, visibility, and usability of the collection, this project introduces an access point into the architectural drawings and provides users with greater agency when navigating this specific collection. This project utilizes ArcGIS' Dashboards to offer an interactive map and user interface that can help users locate information on particular drawings and allow exploration of other nearby building sites and structures. It is hoped that users can explore the contents of the collection and contact the archivists at Western to submit requests that can then be fulfilled efficiently and effectively. Tatomir and Durrance (2010) note the issues within academic libraries and accessibility to collections, especially online available collections, and propose the Tatomir Accessibility Checklist (TAC) to counteract inaccessibility (p. 581). Within this checklist, it was suggested that alternative text is available for screen-reading technologies, navigational links are provided, page elements are clearly labelled, and captions are provided for tables, charts, and

graphs. Western University also supplies resources on creating accessible web pages and interfaces, and suggests that creators follow AODA guidelines to ensure all users can have equitable access (Western University, 2021). As such, when creating the user interface through ArcGIS' Dashboards and providing instructions through StoryMaps, TAC and the AODA Guidelines were considered to ensure the user interface and discovery layer would be accessible for guests, researchers, and patrons when combining mapping with archival material. This is demonstrated through the conscious decisions to use high contrast, legible font, alternative text, and a colour legend to distinguish the types of buildings within the collection.

Methodologies

Extracting metadata from each unique drawing was necessary to provide a user interface and discovery layer for the archival architecture records. Initially, this involved a visual analysis of each illustration to determine the architect, collaborative or independent firm, type of building, patron, and location of the proposed building site. However, many of the drawings did not include a written address and only provided associated street names, areas, neighbourhoods, or, in most cases, no indications of location. In other instances, certain plans did not contain exterior side elevations, and only contained pieces of detailed plans, electrical layouts, or heating, preventing certain methods from being useful in application. Therefore, a combination of archival research methodologies were implemented to determine the proposed, existing, or previous location of these structures, including references to city directories, fire insurance plan maps, or other archival documentation in the form of newspapers and photographs. Through a

brief analysis and discussion of these approaches, it can be determined that using multiple methods was beneficial, imperative, and necessary when attempting to determine accurate geographic location on these archival materials.

The dashboard (depicted in figure below) can be viewed at:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5acbbb94482d4340b102a4329305e815>

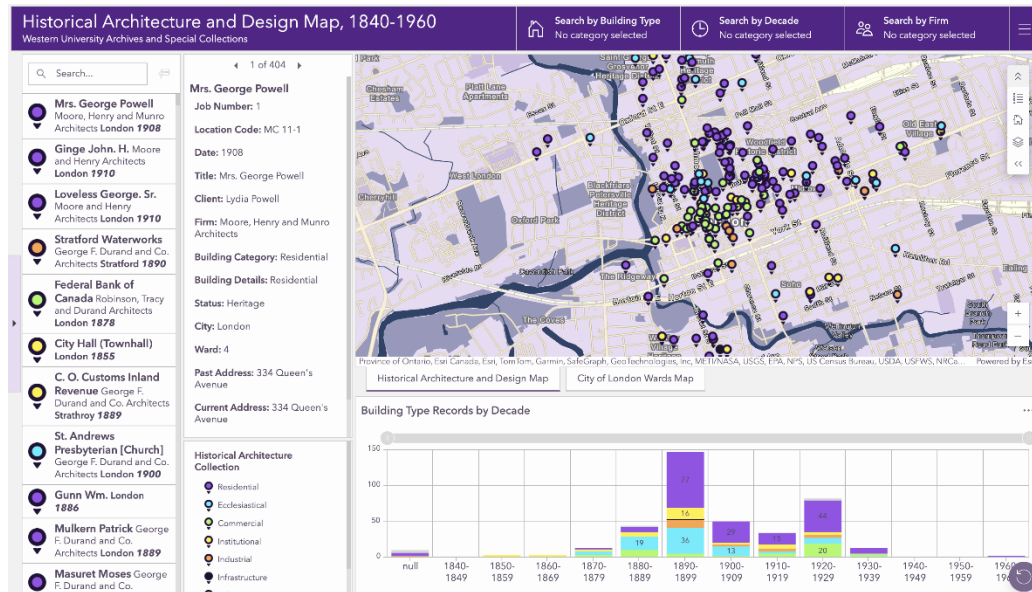


Figure: Screenshot of Western Libraries Historical Architecture Map Dashboard

City Directories

City directories, such as Vernon's City Directories, produced comprehensive books that list information about residences, businesses, street addresses, and miscellaneous organizations to aid in locating and finding places and people within a defined location. These directories are often divided into sections, including street names, numerical addresses, surnames, businesses and advertisers, and miscellaneous locations, including churches, schools, legal, and integral service buildings. As discussed by Rayfield (1991), city directories were initially intended for business use but offer tangible examples of population growth and mobility, occupational distribution, and the rise and fall of industries. Upon examination of the physical architectural plans, the name of the

client or business was, in most cases, present on the record, which allowed an opportunity to use city directories to find potential addresses related to the structure or individual.

While these directories are helpful, the development of the city and growing population resulted in an increasing number of houses or buildings, streets, and neighbourhoods. Due to both the development of the city, and the movement of people, several directories would need to be consulted to determine the address of the architectural record. Using multiple approaches, these directories provided preliminary addresses that could be confirmed using Google Maps and Street View if the house was present or had been demolished, and the Register of Cultural

Heritage Resources could verify the structure's authenticity. For instance, the *Residence of John Weld*, does not provide many indicators of the structure, such as address or architect, but it does provide the client John Weld's name (Figure 2). Using *The London City and Middlesex County Directory of 1895*, his name can be located, his job position is listed, and the address of 1 The Ridgeway, London is documented as his home address (Figure 1). When finding this address, it is determined that the home is still standing; however, when using Google Maps and Street View, it can be seen that the address has slightly shifted, making the current address 2 The Ridgeway. Knowing the past and current address is beneficial, as this information can help users acknowledge the changes in street names and numbers and allow multiple ways of searching for these locations. The use of city directories for archival research presents an opportunity to recognize that the information within these directories is unstable, flexible, and strictly dependent on the time of publication—they should be used as a starting point and foundation, but not an end-all determinant.

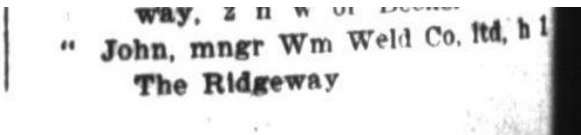


Figure 1. Image of John Weld's address in the city directory. From "London City and Middlesex County Directory," 1895, https://www.canadiana.ca/view/ocicm.8_00135_10/34
1

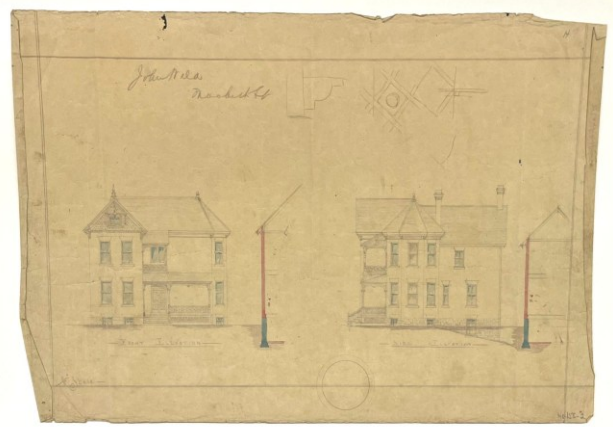


Figure 2: Image of architectural plan for John Weld's residence, 1890. From "Murphy Moore Collection," Western University, Archives and Special Collections, Job Number 158.



Figure 3: Image of 2 The Ridgeway, London, Ontario. From "Google Street View", 2021, Google.

Fire Insurance Plans and Maps

In some instances, city directories can be vague in their addresses, or in certain locations, such as at crossroads or unofficial roads, they do not provide fixed or numerical addresses. Fire insurance plans (FIPs) and maps can be beneficial when attempting to locate approximate residential addresses and larger businesses that are not included in

directories. FIPs are an urban map and provide a physical snapshot into the status and development of the city at the time of creation demonstrating both the subtle or dramatic changes as the population grows. Gilliland and Novak (2006) discuss London FIPs, positioning these historic items as "reliable sources of evidence on natural and built environments" which can allow reconstructions of the city as they often include detailed dimensions, capacities, and material information on the structures (p. 137). While not updated as frequently as the city directories, they offer similar value in understanding the changes in new construction, demolitions, and environmental influences on city development. *St. Peter's Parish House* was designed by Moore, Henry, and Munro Architects in 1920, but the record does not supply a numerical street address (Figure 4). Although the plan indicates the

location was near St. Peter's Cathedral at the corner of Princess Avenue and Richmond, the presence of Victoria Park complicates this, leading to uncertainty about whether the parish house was a built structure or a proposed plan that did not materialize. Upon investigation of the FIPs available at Western University in the Map and Data Centre's digitized collection, the parish house can be seen on the 1912, revised 1922 edition *Fire Insurance Plan of London*, on Sheet 9. There, in the upper left-hand corner of the sheet, is the St. Peter's Parish Hall, located behind the cathedral on the corner of Richmond Street. An exact location on this structure provides a broader context to the surrounding buildings, as well as the history of St. Peter's, and is greatly beneficial to understanding the city's layout in the late 19th and early 20th century, especially for community-focused buildings.

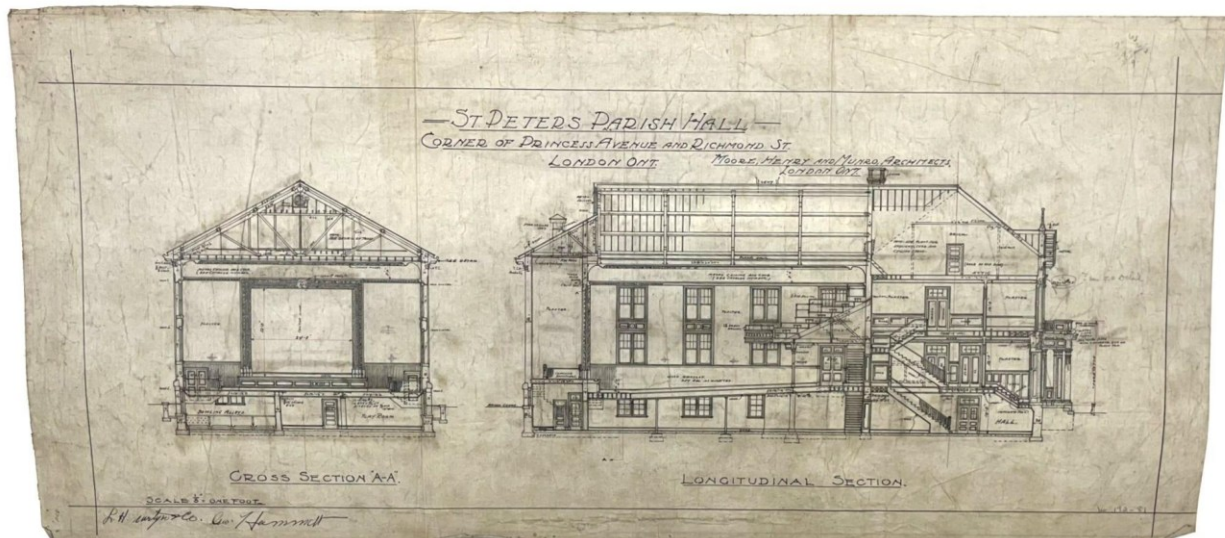


Figure 4: Image of architectural plans of St. Peter's Parish House by Moore, Henry, and Munro Architects, 1920. From "Murphy Moore Collection," Western University, Archives and Special Collections, Job Number 192.

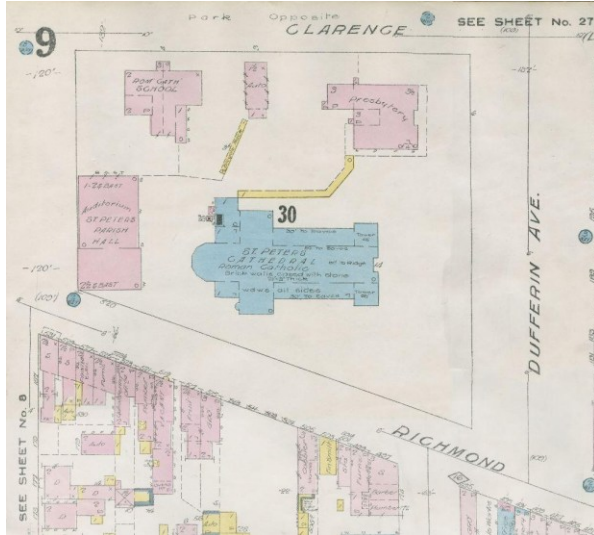


Figure 5. Image of Fire Insurance Plan of London, Sheet 9, Ontario, 1922. From Western University, https://www.lib.uwo.ca/madgic/projects/fips/london_fip_1922/index.html

Newspapers and Photographs

Photographs and newspapers offer visual insight and evidence of buildings that are no longer present or have been altered to accommodate structural integrity or modern tastes. An extensive collection of photographs of London taken by the London Free Press has been assembled into a repository of images and information. Jennifer Grainger's book, *London Free Press: From The Vault*, has proven incredibly useful during this project as it draws from the photography collection held in Western University's Archive and Special Collections. This collection is "one of only a few large photographic collections from major Canadian newspapers available in publicly accessible archives" and captures the architectural, cultural, industrial, technological, and everyday changes that occurred (2017, p. 9). The Customs House, located at the corner of Richmond Street and Queens Avenue, was a prominent yet no longer present building. Although this

address could be confirmed through FIPs and city directories, demolition prevented a direct comparison of the architectural plans with the building to determine its use; however, photo documentation provided an opportunity to establish validity. Through these images, it can be confirmed that the plans reflect the ones created by William Robinson and the additions by George F. Durand, which would not be possible without photographic evidence (Figure 6 and Figure 7). Combining multiple approaches and archival research practices is beneficial to defining a clear image of the possibilities and information, and helps when determining if a structure existed, or was simply a proposal.



Figure 6: Image of Customs House, alterations designed by George F. Durand, 1910. From "Murphy Moore Collection," Western University, Archives and Special Collections, Job Number 18.



Figure 7: Image from Grainger's book, *From the Vault*, of the Customs House in London, Ontario. Originally published in the *Free Press Newspaper* in 1875. From "London Free Press: *From the Vault*", Jennifer Grainger, 2017.

Cross-disciplinary Technologies to Communicate Information

ArcGIS and its comprehensive geospatial applications allow users to visualize and access metadata from archival collections in a more interactive approach. Using ArcGIS to create a geospatial rendition of the metadata will enable users to search the records by various methods that can help account for the flexibility and changes of the city, including streets, addresses, and wards, as it developed rapidly over the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Tom Belton (2019) notes how, while users can benefit from interdisciplinary methods of research, archives and libraries continue to rely on text-based approaches (p. 22). While text-based methods may be the traditional and straightforward approach, especially for large collections, GIS applications such as Dashboards, supply a system to adapt and map archival records interconnected to time and location and present them in a way that is tangible, accessible, and adaptable to user needs. A survey conducted by Belton documented that many users generally agree that mapping

interfaces enhance their ability to search information. The survey also suggested that searching and browsing using map interfaces are a significant feature, inviting the opportunity to acknowledge gaps or patterns in the collection (pp. 31-35). Developing the user interface for the archival architecture discovery layer emphasizes and upholds the concept of discovery for users. It transforms metadata into a visual representation, enabling users to find records based on year, architecture firm, or building type, and explore other records with greater ease. Combining GIS applications and archival material is beneficial for collection management, user discovery, and accessibility of the collection; however, when determining the location associated with the records, multiple approaches should be considered to ensure the provided contextual information is accurate. GIS technology marries the concepts of location, record, and metadata, which is especially useful for geographically dependent structures such as the Blackfriars Mill and helps users and researchers understand the developments of architecture within the city and the region's physical geography. This is evident in the examination of a bridge designed for The Waverly in 1890, a prominent and historical retirement home and institute within London (Figure 8). Upon initial investigation of this item, it was unclear as to where this bridge resided on the property, however with consultation of other historic records such as the Geodetic Survey of 1926, a river and bridge can be visible (Figure 9). Understanding the contexts and previous histories of the landscape is important to researchers and academics, including those involved in city planning, architectural development, and environmental consultants.

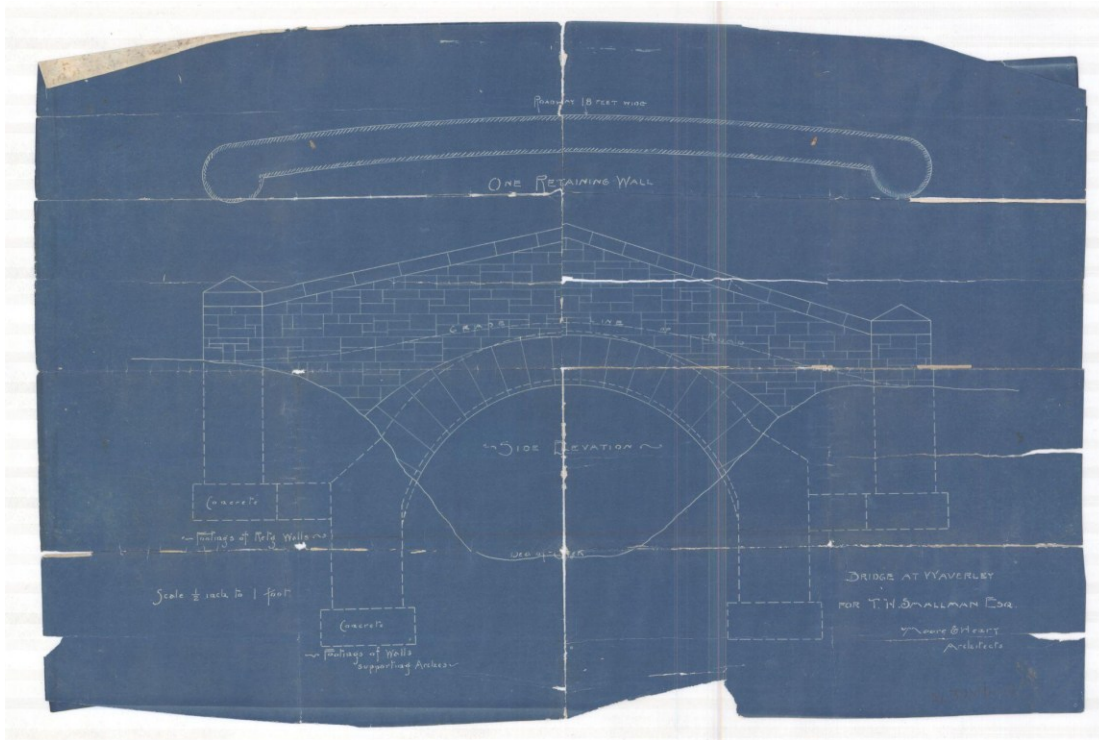


Figure 8: Image of Bridge for T.H. Smallman for The Waverly designed by Moore and Henry Architects, 1890. From "Murphy Moore Collection," Western University, Archives and Special Collections, Job Number 325b.

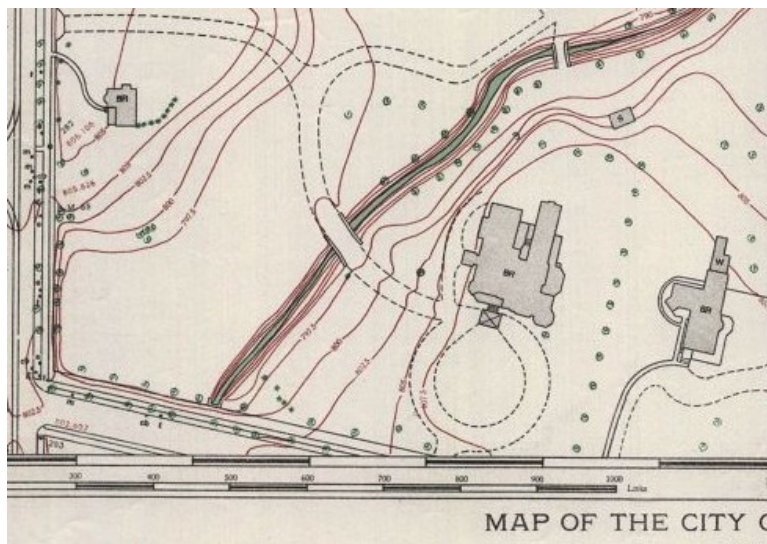


Figure 9: Image from the 1926 Geodetic Survey of London, Department of the Interior. From Western University, Map and Data Centre.

Conclusion

The "Archival Architecture Mapping Project" is intended to provide users with a new method and approach to accessing archival architecture records. Through an interdisciplinary approach to visualizing and creating this user interface for research purposes and greater access, applying GIS technologies such as Dashboards, harmonizes the connection between geospatial location and archival materials. Implementing archival research methods and tools such as referencing city directories, fire insurance plans, and photographs or newspaper articles, allowed the locations to be determined. Each method proved useful in unique ways and allowed greater opportunities for confirmation. These records within the Murphy Moore collection offer a rich insight into the history and development of London, Ontario, and other towns or cities across Southern Ontario. Creating a user interface that supports research initiatives allows these records to be shared and discovered, encouraging meaningful interaction with a unique primary source material.

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Book Reviews

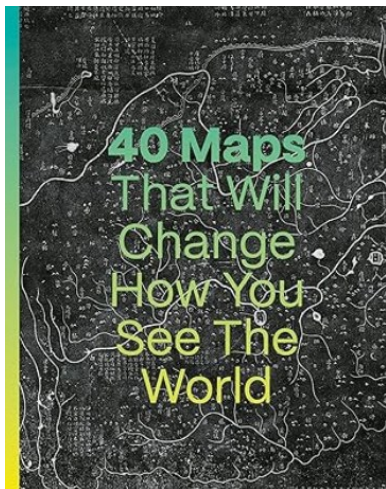
Compiled by: Paul Pival
Research Librarian, University of Calgary

Books reviewed in this issue:

- *40 Maps That Will Change How You See the World*, By Alastair Bonnett, Reviewed by Julia Guy, University of Calgary
- *All Mapped Out: How Maps Shape Us*, By Mike Duggan, Reviewed by Martin Chandler, Cape Breton University Libraries
- *Great Lakes in 50 Maps*, By Alex B. Hill, Reviewed by Brendan Whyte, University of Chicago
- *Iconic Transit Maps: The World's Best Designs*, By Mark Ovenden, Reviewed by Kyla Jemison, University of Toronto

Reviews:

40 Maps That Will Change How You See the World, By Alastair Bonnett



Bonnett, Alastair. *40 Maps That Will Change How You See the World*. London: Ivy Press, 2024. 192p. \$30 CAN. ISBN 978-0-7112-9355-7

Published in 2024, Alastair Bonnett's book, *40 Maps That Will Change How You See the World*, introduces the reader to 40 maps chosen for their ability to give Bonnett an "electric jolt" (p. 8). The author describes the selected maps as 'disruptive.' These are the kind of maps that challenge your world view, or at the very least, what the average person thinks of when they hear the word 'map'. A Professor of Social Geography at the University of Newcastle in the UK, Bonnett has written dozens of scholarly works, but also several books, like this one, that are aimed at a more general audience.

Bonnett states that this book is for "anyone with a curious mind." The broadness of the target audience means that this book serves as more of a brief overview rather than an in-depth research resource. The tone of the book is friendly, casual, and accessible for non-experts. Given that this is not an academic text, the citation of sources for the historical information is not especially specific (although references are included).

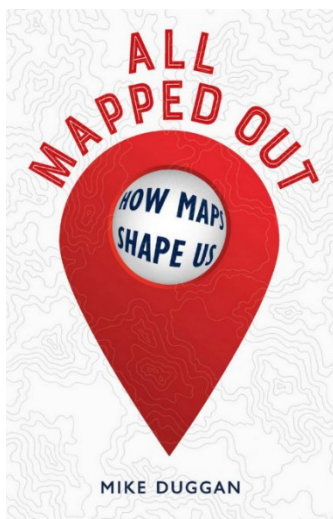
The book contains images of 40 maps with an accompanying description by Bonnett, which generally includes some background on the map, and its historical, scientific, or social context. Bonnett also often provides an argument for why that map is insightful, interesting, or valuable. For example, Bonnett suggests that a wall painting of the neolithic settlement of Çatalhöyük (in present day Turkey) prompts us to recognize ourselves in the humans who resided there 9,000 years ago. A sailor's map, composed of sticks and stones from the Marshall Islands, speaks to a "relationship to the sea that is now gone which was as intimate as the touch of skin" (p. 43). I think it is fair to say that Bonnett really loves maps.

One small downside to the book is its diminutive size. It is 7"x 9.25."

appear in a two-page spread layout, which interrupts the image. This means that the details are not always easy to see. Although the author occasionally includes additional extracts of the map to highlight details, a reader may need to seek out another version to see all the details.

Given the casual tone of the book, it feels like a great gift for the person in your life who has mentioned a fondness for maps. Readers of the Bulletin may appreciate this book as a love letter to mapping. The maps cover everything from dancing bees to neurons in the human brain, to Aztec symbolism. Several even extend beyond the limits of our planet. Although not an academic text, this book could be a valuable starting place for those interested in cartography, data visualization, or western biases in mapping. If you want to spark discussions about what a map is, or can be, this book offers many interesting examples. For these reasons, this book could make a useful contribution to an academic library collection.

**All Mapped Out: How Maps Shape Us,
By Mike Duggan**



Duggan, Mike. *All Mapped Out: How Maps Shape Us*. London: Reaktion Books. 2024. 230p. \$29.50 CAD.

Mike Duggan's *All Mapped Out: How Maps Shape Us* offers something a little outside the usual fare for a text about maps. Rather than making an argument about the history of cartography, or a spatial argument about a place itself, this text follows a discussion about why maps are made and used, and how their use is changing or adapting over time and medium. Duggan is looking at maps not solely as a mode of data, but as a mode of culture and society.

The primary thesis of the book is that maps are deeply ingrained in all that we do in our daily lives. We, individually and societally, shape and are shaped by maps in a variety of ways. They help us in our wayfinding and are happily abandoned mid-journey for something of interest, perhaps rejoined or rejigged when the time comes. They are used to shape power and influence, from land claims to gerrymandering. They are used to show people, routes, and waypoints of culture, such as museums, shops or landmarks. And they are expanding in scope and definition, as new technologies use and create maps to their particular means, including self-driving cars, geo-visualization for urban planning, or maps intersecting with machine learning, creating further abstractions from reality. There is no moral judgment on these topics; they are simply discussed, as they are, and have been, and may be.

This book appears to be intended as a crossover for both popular and academic audiences. The writing style is clear and engaging, and offers a healthy scope of research, while not descending into the esoteric linguistic chicanery employed by more foppishly obtuse authors. It is indeed eminently readable, and Duggan's own surveys of map users brings several points of interest to the subject. In discussing the use of maps as navigational tools, for instance,

Duggan points to how they were not an answer to finding users' ways, but instead a conversation between place and person, participants would go "out of their way to get coffee or a snack, run an errand, take a photo...or simply 'because it's nicer'...", and that "...people *know as they go* [sic], rather than follow a predetermined route to get there" (Duggan, 2024, p. 43).

Duggan is a cultural geographer in London, UK where he received his PhD from Royal Holloway University, writing an ethnography on daily digital mapping practices (Duggan, 2023). He now works at King's College London (Duggan, 2024). He has co-written other texts on *Sharing Mobilities* and *Radical Cartography*, as well as a number of articles on these and other topics. With this background, he is well-suited as a researcher and thinker on maps and how they engage with people and culture.

One of the main drawbacks of the book is how the maps are reproduced. The size of the pages is 13.5cm by 21.5 cm, which is fine for text but can be small for a map – more of a squinting than a useful size. This is exacerbated by the fact that they are reproduced on the horizontal (i.e. the same plane as the text), when they could have been rotated and made slightly larger. They are not as integral to the text as they might be in other books, serving as examples rather than arguments. However, some – such as the Silk Road/Belt and Road maps on pages 53 and 54 – are difficult to really see, given the size at which they are printed (see figure 1), losing the example to the pixels of time. Perhaps this is an intentional, or even punny, irony – we're all mapped out. Still, this aspect was disappointing.

While the maps of old could vaguely show the pathways of trade and indicate which places were the sources of what resources, today's maps can show the precise location of individual items, their current status and, much like a home delivery, their estimated time of arrival.² As a result, great economic value is now placed on knowing exactly where things are. This has created a billion-dollar segment of the logistics market, its primary role to keep track of items in real time as they are moved from place to place.³ This relatively new phenomenon has quickly become normalized, and both businesses and customers now expect to be able to keep track of the things they buy and sell in real time. A wide range of technology – algorithms, barcodes, scanners, pens, paper, transportation



Ferdinand von Richthofen's 1877 map of Central Asia, with different lines showing the routes of trade coming from China and the other Eurasian trade routes in operation between 128 BC and AD 150.

53

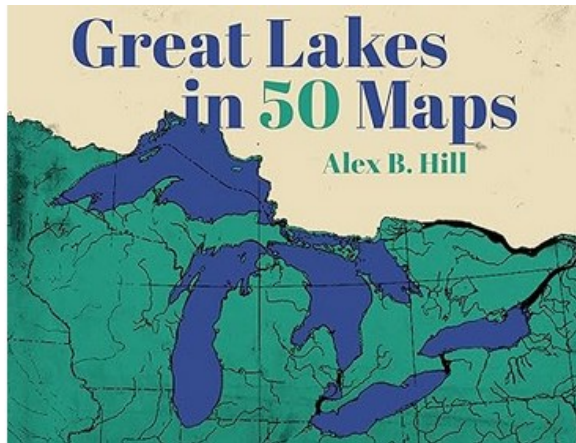
Figure 1: Snapshot of map sample.

All Mapped Out offers the reader a thoughtful engagement with maps and their use in modern life. It can be best viewed as a descendant of Monmonier's, *How to Lie With Maps*, adding more to the discussion of maps in our daily life and the ways in which we think about them. It leans more to the philosophical than Monmonier's classic, providing further thinking in areas (so far) less trod. In these times of existential threat, readers may find some comfort to bolster their spirits, if not their collections.

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Great Lakes in 50 Maps, By Alex B. Hill

Hill, Alex B. *Great Lakes in 50 Maps*. Cleveland: Belt Publishing, 2025. 127 p. \$30 US. ISBN 978-1-5402-7000-9

This hardback, landscape-format, letter-paper-sized book presents maps of the Great Lakes region, nearly all drawn by Hill, covering a variety of geographical topics, both human and physical. Each topic occupies a two-page spread, with a map and textual discussion on opposite pages. The book is divided into four sections: History & Culture, Ecology, Infrastructure, and Physical – the last being more of a catch-all – and ends with a list of data sources.

Almost all the maps feature the same base: the entirety of the eight US states bordering the Great Lakes in a medium grey fill, the adjoining portions (only) of Ontario and Quebec in a light grey, an overlaid dense light-grey hatching for the “Rust Belt/Megalopolis” (unexplained until p.35), and a black dashed line indicating the boundary of the Great Lakes watershed.

On this base, Hill overlays various digital datasets – point, line and/or polygon, to cover the almost fifty topics he discusses (several topics have more than one map, to make up the fifty maps of the book’s title).

Many of the topics mapped are what one would expect: indigenous names, territorial evolution, population density (both as a county-wise choropleth, and as a dot map), wetlands, bathymetry (titled “Lake depths”), flood risk, lighthouses, pipelines and oil spills, islands, bird migrations. Others seem included for their quiriness rather than for any true educational value: major-league football stadia, start-ups, U-Haul locations, lake monsters. Some are inexplicably limited to only part of the watershed (Lake Huron water supply), while many omit data for Canada entirely, even where this would be easy to include: primary roads, passenger rail, commercial airports,...). But many topics I was expecting to see stand out by their complete omission: Geology, soils, Indian languages/tribes, routes of the explorers, War of 1812, commodity flows and processing/refinery sites, international border crossings and ports of entry, passenger/vehicle ferries, land use and tenure, crops (only pumpkins are included), January/July surface or air temperatures, average rainfall (admittedly there are four “Climate change” maps, showing “projected change ...based on a twenty year average”, but no baseline climate data).

Hill is described as a cartographer on the rear cover, and a “data director” in the “About the author” note and has previously published a similar book “Detroit in 50 maps” (Belt Publishing, 2021). But the maps in his new book exhibit many basic cartographic flaws. Apart from the lack of Canadian data in many of the maps, the choice of class values for the various choropleth maps are confused or unexplained (“count of drownings” classes overlap: 1-2, 2-7, 7-17... (p.98)), as are some data; (“Count of Sugar Maple [trees]” is measured to one decimal place (p.70); “Invasive fish risk score” (p.65) is undefined). The map of sub-watersheds is completely misaligned with the “Great Lakes watershed”

base. The solid green splodges representing wine regions (p.106) extend far beyond the base map, making the map look like its color separations are grossly misaligned. The several maps of bathymetry lack any contour values (pp. 57 & 115-123).

This is not an academic or scientific text, but a coffee-table book, aimed explicitly at “anyone who appreciates the history, nature and future of the ...lakes”. But as both a cartographer, and someone new to the Great Lakes region eager to learn more about the geography of my new home, I found the book disappointing in content, and sloppy in execution. I can only recommend it as a case-study in poor cartographic technique.

Iconic Transit Maps: The World's Best Designs, By Mark Ovenden



Ovenden, Mark. *Iconic Transit Maps: The World's Best Designs*. London: Prestel Publishing, 2024. 200p. ISBN: 978-3-79138-025-4

Iconic Transit Maps by Mark Ovenden takes a tour through cities around the world via the maps and graphic design of their transit systems. It emphasizes the importance of

understandable graphic design for transit systems; as Erik Spiekermann writes in the foreword, "If a transit map looks inviting and legible, the city itself becomes accessible." While the ebook provides the images and text adequately, the print version of this book is beautiful. The oversized format allows for large, high-quality images of the transit systems and historical photographs, allowing the reader to see more details.

Ovenden is an author, lecturer and television/radio presenter in the U.K. He primarily focuses on design, architecture, cartography, signage and typefaces in the world of transport. He has published several previous books on metropolitan transit map design, including two looking specifically at the metro maps of Paris and London.

The volume looks at fifty-three transit systems from around the world, organized by continent. Each profile provides a brief history of the transit service and the development of its infrastructure and design, including historic and contemporary maps, designs, diagrams, plans, and photographs. The profiles discuss map design characteristics such as fonts, lines, images, alignment, and colours. There is some Canadian content in this book; Ovenden praises Montreal's Metro for its dark background and 35-degree angles, and the Toronto Transit Commission for its inclusion of streetcar routes.

Given their longer histories and significant sizes, several of the European and North American cities get more detailed entries than those of smaller, newer systems. There are extensive sections on the systems of New York, London, Paris, and Berlin. Berlin's profile is especially interesting, given its history of division and reunification, which also applies to its transit systems and their design, as well as the actual city. Most of the

profiles of African and Asian transit systems note their recent rapid development. Shanghai, for example, had one line in 1995 and over the past thirty years, has grown to be the world's largest system, with a stylish, orthogonal transit map.

The final section of the book features perspectives from graphic designers commenting on how graphic design affects passengers' use, understanding, and usability, as well as their dreams for transit systems, and how that impacts the way people navigate the cities they belong to.

This book is designed for a general audience interested in transit systems and graphic design. Those looking for a more comprehensive atlas of transit maps would be better served by Ovenden's *Transit Maps of the World*, which provides maps and a brief history of almost one thousand systems, while those looking for more specific information should be referred to books about individual transit systems.

Awards

ACMLA Honours Award: Sherri Sunstrum



Nomination for the ACMLA Honours Award – The Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA) recognizes individuals who have made significant

contributions to map librarianship at the local, regional, national, and international levels through their granting of the Honours Award for outstanding achievement.

It is our honour to nominate Sherri Sunstrum, Cartographic Specialist and subject specialist for Earth Sciences and Geomatics at Carleton University's MacOdrum Library, for the ACMLA Honours Award.

Sherri has made exceptional and sustained contributions to the field of geographic information and cartography, both through professional practice and active engagement within the academic and research communities. In her role supporting disciplines such as Earth Sciences, Geography, Geomatics, Urban Studies, and Environmental Studies, she has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the advancement of geospatial knowledge and a passion for facilitating access to cartographic information.

Sherri's work has bridged multiple fields, enabling researchers and students alike to apply geomatics and cartographic principles to a wide range of interdisciplinary studies. She creates and delivers hands-on map labs

for various courses, regularly consults with researchers to locate cartographic materials on wide-ranging contemporary and historical topics, and has laid her hands on every single map currently in the Carleton Library's collection. Beyond the technical and intellectual excellence of her work, Sherri is known for being a collaborative and generous colleague—someone who brings people together, mentors emerging professionals, and strengthens institutional partnerships through service and expertise.

Searching Sherri's name in the Bulletin, yields many results, demonstrating her long and involved history with the ACMLA. She has stepped up for countless committees, working groups, and executive roles. Back in 2002, she served on the bibliographic control committee. In recent years she's served as the Vice President Communications & Outreach, and has played an invaluable role in conference planning for several years. She has also managed the payment of all our dues through Membee for over a decade. She's someone who has impacted each and everyone's experience as a member, and quite literally the reason we are all here today.

In keeping with the spirit of the ACMLA Honours Award, Sherri exemplifies the qualities this recognition seeks to highlight: outstanding achievement, leadership, and lasting impact on the geographic information field in Canada. We believe her nomination is both timely and well-deserved.

Nominators: Francine Berish & René Duplain,
 Second: Rebecca Bartlett

Cathy Moulder Paper Award: Larry Laliberté

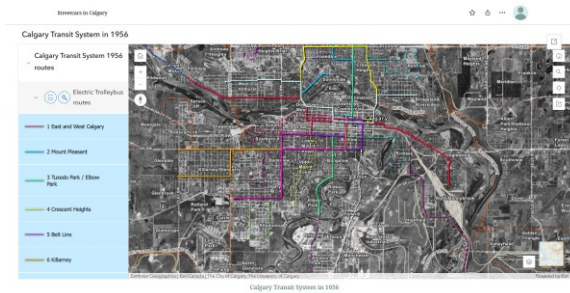


Ghosting Glaciers, Parks Canada (1981). Columbia Icefield: British Columbia-Alberta, Banff-Jasper National Parks. <https://archive.org/details/NP04108>

Also included were University of Alberta campus maps, a spatial extent where most of the participants spend a large portion of their time. As a result, historical maps of the University of Alberta were included, showing "River Lot 5" as it was in 1874¹⁴, alongside a selection of official campus maps produced from 1910 to 2015¹⁵. Entitled *Campus Corpus as Carivas*, participants were encouraged to trace, and overlay their own mental maps representing their day-to-day interactions with the campus. Zooming out from the campus, the workshop also had maps of the Edmonton Region that captured Indigenous communities like Papaschase that were later removed, and erased from the map, alongside wooded areas long since fractured by exurban

Awarded to Larry Laliberté for his hauntingly good paper [Will-o'-the-wisp, map collection tours, hauntology and deep time spectres](#). The topic of this paper is very relevant to the membership of the ACMLA and the audience of the *Bulletin*. Larry Laliberté invites the reader to reflect on map collections through the lens of hauntology, while also describing a novel approach to map library programming that could inspire future experiential learning opportunities at other institutions. For these reasons, we believe this paper makes a valuable and unique contribution to the literature of our field and recommend that it is awarded the 2025 Cathy Moulder Paper Award.

Student Paper Award: Jay Maudsley



Awarded to Jay Maudsley for his story map entitled "[Streetcars in Calgary: A short history of Calgary's early transit system](#)". The Awards Committee were impressed to see this independent project utilize ACMLA resources, make unique contributions with georeferenced maps and digitization, and package it in an intriguing story map showcasing this small but compelling piece of Calgary history.

AGM Minutes

2025 AGM Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2025

Attendance: (35 members, 1 non-member)

Attendees: Sharon Janzen- Brock University, Meg Miller- University of Manitoba, Zack MacDonald- Western University, Dan Jakubek- Toronto Metropolitan University, Rosa Orlandini- York University, Rebecca Bartlett- Carleton University, Alex Guindon- Concordia University, Marcel Fortin- University of Toronto, Kate Hodge- Trent University, Tracy Sallaway- Trent University, Larry Laliberté- University of Alberta, Leanne Trimble- University of Toronto, Martin Chandler- Cape Breton University, René Duplain- University of Ottawa, Francine Berish- Queen's University, Liz Sutherland, Western University, Maia Somers, Western University, Kara Handren, University of Toronto, Hugo Crites, Université d'Ottawa, Mars Brint, Western University, Julia Guy, University of Calgary, Rachel Arseneau, Brandon University, Tanya Solomon, University of Toronto Mississauga, Sonia Dhaliwal, Brock University, Alicia Urquidi Diaz, Scholars Portal @ University of Toronto, Marie-Andree Drouin, Laval University, Sarah Zhang, Simon Fraser University, Nick Field, University of Toronto, Colleen Beard, Brock University, Greg Duff, Queens, daniel Brendle-Moczuk, Barb Znaimiowski, Trent, Sarah Monnier, Library and Archives Canada, Christine Homuth, McMaster, Rhys Stevens, University of Lethbridge, Sherri Sunstrum, Carleton University, Noel Damba (non-member)

Minutes taken by Sherri Sunstrum

Agenda:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of 2024 AGM minutes
- Reports (15 Mins)
 - President
 - Past Presidents
 - Treasurer
 - Bulletin Editor
- LAM-G Update
- Records Management WG
 - Documents attached
- Website indexing and preservation
- Travel Funding Policy Working Group
- GIS Days Update
- Carto 2025 Announcement
- Other Business?
- Adjourn

Nick Field and Sharon Janzen
Martin Chandler

Tracy Sallaway
Francine Berish
Liz Sutherland

Minutes

1. Motion to approve the agenda (Quorum established)

- Moved: Rene Duplain
- Seconded: Francine Berish
- Carried

2. Motion to approve the minutes from 2024 AGM minutes, taken May 30, 2024

- Moved: Sherri Sunstrum
- Seconded: Rebecca Bartlett
- Carried

3. Reports

- President ([link to report](#))
- Past Presidents ([link to report](#))
 - Five applications to travel – they were all partially funded
 - Reviewed documentation to our Travel Policy
 - Awards Committee included Francine, Rene, Julia and Sherri
 - Updated language in the document – everything changed except Honorary Award
 - The Cathy Moulder award now officially allows for articles, exhibitions, digital presentations (i.e. StoryMaps)
 - **Award Winners:**
 - Larry Laliberte– Cathy Moulder Paper Award
 - Jay Maudsley, Student Paper Award, University of Calgary
 - Sherri Sunstrum, Honours Award
- Treasurer
 - 2024 Report was presented ([link to report](#))
 - No CARTO financing last year – IASSIST Paid for it all
 - Membee's fees have increased to \$1500 a year
 - Investments doing well
 - 2025 Interim Report ([link to report](#))
 - We spent \$11,000 on Carto
 - Ghost walk
 - Speaker gifts
 - Conference funding
 - Banquet \$5700
 - Awards
 - Cash back – ESRI sponsored \$2000

- **Bulletin Editor**
 - Anne Hakier is the new French editor
 - Larry Laliberte is starting a new section entitled 'writes through passage'
 - Renna Truong is starting a new section entitled 'Map Spotlight'
 - Paul wants to step down as Book Review editor (Rachel Arseneau to step in)

4. LAM-G Update

- Consists of non-librarians
 - Mailing list – contact Nick Field
 - Meeting next year at Brock – hopefully
 - It has been revived due to mentorship program

5. Records Management Working Group

- Goal is to discover where everything is
 - LAC/ACMLA website/2 Google Drives
- Our first meeting was August 2024
- Sarah Monnier has volunteered for the ACMLA Archivist Role (not yet confirmed)
 - New Agreement with LAC
 - Digital archiving
- Indexing and Preservation
 - Library of Congress wants to archive us
 - If yes, can we make it public?
 - How does this play with LAC?
 - Crawl over web content and connected content like social media
 - Right now, we are just sharing this and will be working with WG
 - What about PDFs?
 - LAC will also be crawling to preserve
 - Sure go ahead – suggestion from the floor
 - Recommendation:
 - To add Consensus agreement to the Records Management WG

6. Travel Funding Policy Working Group

- Our policy had a lot of language to provide funding to our members
- Looking at policy, modernizing language
- Fiscal year reasons for taking a look at the timeline
- Call out to members to join WG
- **Motion to strike a working group to review travel policy**
 - Moved: Francine
 - Seconded: Martin, Carried

7. GIS Days Update

- GIS Days is back
- Looking for volunteers
- Waiting for funding
- Map gallery, People's choice awards

8. CARTO 2026 Announcement

- Carto 2026 will be held at the end of May in Victoria
- Co-conference with CAG

9. Other business

- Rosa is the Mentorship coordinator
- Overview of program, ACMLA website form, member can chat with Rosa
- One-on-one mentorship

10. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn**
 - Moved: Zack
 - Seconded: Tracy
 - Carried

Procès-verbal de l'assemblée générale annuelle de 2025, 12 juin 2025

Participation : (35 membres, 1 non-membre)

Participant(e)s: Sharon Janzen – Université Brock, Meg Miller – Université du Manitoba, Zack MacDonald – Université Western, Dan Jakubek – Université métropolitaine de Toronto, Rosa Orlandini – Université York, Rebecca Bartlett – Université Carleton, Alex Guindon – Université Concordia, Marcel Fortin – Université de Toronto, Kate Hodge – Université Trent, Tracy Sallaway – Université Trent, Larry Laliberté – Université de l'Alberta, Leanne Trimble – Université de Toronto, Martin Chandler – Université du Cap-Breton, René Duplain – Université d'Ottawa, Francine Berish – Université Queen's, Liz Sutherland, Université Western, Maia Somers, Université Western, Kara Handren, Université de Toronto, Hugo Crites, Université d'Ottawa, Mars Brint, Université Western, Julia Guy, Université de Calgary, Rachel Arseneau, Université Brandon, Tanya Solomon, Université de Toronto Mississauga, Sonia Dhaliwal, Université Brock, Alicia Urquidi Diaz, Scholars Portal @ Université de Toronto, Marie-Andrée Drouin, Université Laval, Sarah Zhang, Université Simon Fraser, Nick Field, Université de Toronto, Colleen Beard, Université Brock, Greg Duff, Queens, Daniel Brendle-Moczuk, Barb Znaimirowski, Trent, Sarah Monnier, Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, Christine Homuth, McMaster, Rhys Stevens, Université de Lethbridge, Sherri Sunstrum, Université Carleton, Noel Damba (non-membre)

Procès-verbal rédigé par Sherri Sunstrum

Ordre du jour :

- Approbation de l'ordre du jour
- Approbation du procès-verbal de l'AGA 2024
- Rapports (15 minutes)
 - Président
 - Anciens présidents
 - Trésorier
 - Rédacteur en chef du bulletin
- LAM-G Mise à jour - Nick Field et Sharon Janzen
- Groupe de travail sur la gestion des documents - Martin Chandler
 - Documents joints
- Indexation et conservation du site web - Tracy Sallaway
- Groupe de travail sur la politique de financement des déplacements - Francine Berish
- Mise à jour sur les Journées SIG - Liz Sutherland
- Annonce de Carto 2025
- Autres affaires?
- Levée de la séance

Procès-verbal**1. Motion visant à approuver l'ordre du jour (quorum atteint)**

- Proposée par : René Duplain
- Appuyée par : Francine Berish
- Adoptée

2. Motion visant à approuver le procès-verbal de l'AGA 2024, tenu le 30 mai 2024

- Proposée par : Sherri Sunstrum
- Appuyée par : Rebecca Bartlett
- Adoptée

3. Rapports

- Président ([lien vers le rapport](#))
- Anciens présidents ([lien vers le rapport](#))
 - Cinq demandes de financement de déplacements – elles ont toutes été partiellement financées
 - Examen de la documentation relative à notre politique en matière de déplacements
 - Le comité des prix était composé de Francine, René, Julia et Sherri
 - Mise à jour du libellé du document – tout a changé sauf le prix honorifique

- Le prix Cathy Moulder autorise désormais officiellement les articles, les expositions et les présentations numériques (c'est-à-dire les StoryMaps)
 - **Gagnant(e)s :**
 - Larry Laliberte, Prix Cathy Moulder pour un article
 - Jay Maudsley, Prix du meilleur article étudiant, Université de Calgary
 - Sherri Sunstrum, Prix honorifique
- Trésorier
 - Le rapport 2024 a été présenté ([lien vers le rapport](#))
 - Pas de financement CARTO l'année dernière – IASSIST a tout pris en charge
 - Les frais d'adhésion ont augmenté pour atteindre 1 500 \$ par année
 - Les investissements se portent bien
 - Rapport intermédiaire 2025 ([lien vers le rapport](#))
 - Nous avons dépensé 11 000 \$ pour Carto
 - Visite fantôme
 - Cadeaux aux conférenciers
 - Financement de la conférence
 - Banquet 5 700 \$
 - Récompenses
 - Remboursement – ESF
- Rédactrice en chef du bulletin
 - Anne Hakier est la nouvelle rédactrice francophone
 - Larry Laliberté commence une nouvelle rubrique intitulée écrire à travers passage
 - Renna Truong est la nouvelle rédactrice de la nouvelle rubrique Map Spotlight
 - Paul Pival souhaite se retirer de son rôle de rédacteur des critiques de livres et de cartes (Rachel Arseneau prendra la relève)

4. Mise à jour LAM-G

- Composé de non-bibliothécaires
- Liste de diffusion – contacter Nick Field
- Réunion prévue l'année prochaine à Brock – on espère
- Il a été relancé grâce au programme de mentorat

5. Groupe de travail sur la gestion des documents

- L'objectif est de savoir où tout se trouve
 - Site Web de BAC/ACMLA/2 Google Drives
- Notre première réunion a eu lieu en août 2024

- Sarah Monnier s'est portée volontaire pour le poste d'archiviste de l'ACACC (pas encore confirmé)
 - Nouvel accord avec BAC
 - Archivage numérique
- Indexation et préservation
 - La Bibliothèque du Congrès souhaite nous archiver
 - Si oui, pouvons-nous le rendre public ?
 - Comment cela fonctionne-t-il avec BAC ?
 - Explorer le contenu Web et le contenu connecté, comme les médias sociaux
 - Pour l'instant, nous partageons simplement cette information et nous travaillerons avec le groupe de travail
 - Qu'en est-il des PDF ?
 - BAC va également explorer le Web à des fins de conservation. Bien sûr, allez-y – suggestion de l'assemblée.
 - Recommandation : Ajouter un accord consensuel au groupe de travail sur la gestion des documents.

6. Groupe de travail sur la politique de financement des déplacements

- Notre politique comportait de nombreuses dispositions visant à fournir un financement à nos membres.
- Examen de la politique, modernisation du langage
- Raisons liées à l'exercice financier pour examiner le calendrier
- Appel aux membres pour qu'ils se joignent au groupe de travail
- **Motion visant à créer un groupe de travail chargé d'examiner la politique en matière de déplacements**
 - Proposée par : Francine
 - Appuyée par : Martin
 - Adoptée

7. Actualités des Journées SIG

- Les Journées SIG sont de retour
- Recherche de bénévoles
- En attente de financement
- Galerie de cartes, prix du choix du public

8. Annonce CARTO 2026

- Carto 2026 se tiendra fin mai à Victoria.
- Conférence conjointe avec CAG.

9. Autres affaires

- Rosa est la coordinatrice du programme de mentorat.
- Présentation du programme, formulaire sur le site web de l'ACACC, les membres peuvent discuter avec Rosa
- Mentorat individuel

10. Ajournement

- Motion d'ajournement
 - Proposée par : Zack
 - Appuyée par : Tracy
 - Adoptée

Membership List

Regular Member

Alexandra Alisauskas	Saman Goudarzi	Andrew Nicholson
Jeff Allen	Alex Guindon	Rosa Orlandini
Rodrigo Amado	Julia Guy	Paul Pival
Mehdi Amengay	Kara Handren	Sarah Reeser
Rachel Arseneau	Siobhan Hanratty	Erika Reinhardt
Rebecca Bartlett	Kate Hodge	Leon Robichaud
Gordon Beck	Christine Homuth	Artemisia Robins
Francine Berish	Dan Jakubek	Sarah Rutley
Stéfano Biondo	Sharon Janzen	Tracy Sallaway
Joë Bouchard	Kyla Jemison	Sandra Sawchuk
daniel Brendle-Moczuk	Karen Jensen	Rhys Stevens
Juliette Bricker	David Jones	Liz Sutherland
Jason Brodeur	Meaghan Kenny	Rudolf Traichel
Martin Chandler	Larry Laliberte	Leanne Trimble
Isabelle Charron	Pierre Leblanc	Simon Trottier
Edward Dahl	Megan MacCall	Renna Truong
Marie-Andrée Drouin	Zack MacDonald	Bibliothèque générale Université de Sherbrooke
Greg Duff	David Malaher	Alicia Urquidi Diaz
Rene Duplain	Rosemary Malaher	Wenonah van Heyst
Marcel Fortin	Meg Miller	Roger Wheate
Bonnie Gallinger	Sarah Monnier	Sarah Zhang

Unaffiliated Member

Nicholas Field

Peter Genzinger

Anne Hakier

Courtney Lundrigan

Reg Nelson

Sue Oldenburg

Emilie Rabeau

Tanya Solomon

Maia Somers

Sylvie St-Pierre

Sherri Sunstrum

Student Member

Motasem Alkayid

Mars Brint

Hugo Crites

Justiina Devries

Sonia Dhaliwal

Ayomide Fatogun

Christine Malcomson

Graeme Watson

Ben Woodward

Associate Member

Pascal Leblond

Honorary Member

Colleen Beard

Lorraine Dubreuil

Cathy Moulder

Richard Hugh Pinnell

Serge Sauer

Yves Tessier

Grace Welch

Joan Winearls

Cheryl Woods

Barbara Znamirovski