

cartographic perspectives

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President's remarks

When the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) was founded in 1980, one of its main objectives was to promote communication, coordination and cooperation among the producers, disseminators, curators and users of cartographic information. Since our founding, *Map Gap* and the more recent *Cartographic Information* quarterly newsletters have served as an effective link in disseminating information among the Society's members.

With greater recognition of NACIS in the cartographic community and an increasing membership of diverse backgrounds, a newsletter format can no longer represent the Society or keep our readers properly informed of new developments in North, Central, and South America.

This new publication, *Cartographic Perspectives*, Bulletin of the North American Cartographic Information Society, is intended to expand on its successful predecessors by publishing more original contributions about cartographic activities in the Americas. In particular, each quarterly bulletin will feature a solicited original article chosen by the NACIS

Publications Committee. As with the newsletters, this bulletin can serve as an effective link between NACIS's various constituencies if it is used as a "bulletin board" to which a range of members contribute regularly.

We hope the combined efforts of our contributors, through this bulletin, provide you with new cartographic perspectives.

Juan José Valdés
President

Cuando la Sociedad de Información Cartográfica Norte Americana (NACIS) fue fundada en 1980, uno de sus primeros objetivos fue el desarrollo de mejorar la comunicación, la coordinación y la cooperación entre los productores, diseminadores, curadores y aquellos que utilizan la información cartográfica. Desde nuestra fundación las gacetas trimestral *Map Gap* y la mas reciente *Cartographic Information* han diseminado información eficientemente entre los miembros de la Sociedad.

El reconocimiento de NACIS por la mayor comunidad cartográfica y el acrecentamiento de miembros de variadas calificaciones ha causado un cambio en el formato de nuestra publicación. El formato de gaceta actualmente no esta al servicio de informar sobre nuevos desarrollos cartográficos en las Americas.

Esta nueva publicación, *Perspectivas Cartográfica*, Boletín de la Sociedad de Información Cartográfica Norte Americana (NACIS), proponerse ha ensanchar las exitosas gacetas publicando contribuciones mas originales sobre actividades cartográficas en las Americas. En particular, cada boletín trimestral va incluir un artículo original solicitado y seleccionado por el comité de publicación de NACIS. Como las gacetas, este boletín puede servir como un enlace entre los varios constituyentes de la sociedad si es

usado como un tablero para noticias donde nuestros miembros pueden contribuir regularmente.

Esperamos que con los esfuerzos de nuestros contribuidores este boletín, *Perspectivas Cartográficas* enriquece su carrera profesional.

Juan Jose Valdés
Presidente

message from the Editors

Welcome to the first CP.

As a rookie editor, I am fortunate and grateful to have the assistance of Karl Proehl, who edited twenty-three issues of the original NACIS publication, *Map Gap*. We now face the unenviable task of taking over for Ruth Anderson Rowles, skillful editor of eight issues of *Cartographic Information*. This is a case in which two men are required to replace one competent woman.

CP's purpose seems clear. As Marsha Selmer (a NACIS Publications Committee member) put it so succinctly, "CP's purpose should be to publish papers and information that support the stated objectives of the Society and to serve as a record of the Society's activities." This is a good statement of what ought to be done, but something remains to be said about how we ought to do it.

It seems to me that some of the most rewarding cartographic information exchanges occur in person, between old friends and new acquaintances at the annual meetings. These exchanges are rich because everyone involved feels comfortable expressing themselves in their own way. My goal for CP is that it be a forum every member feels comfortable contributing to, and that each issue contain a variety of contributions from several members. All are encouraged to submit reviews,

reports, abstracts of "fugitive cartographic literature," notices, open letters, comments or complaints. There is a place in this Bulletin for a range of prose forms, from the formal solicited article to the informal notice posted on the "Cart Lab Bulletin Board." Graphical submissions are also welcome (see Instructions for Contributors elsewhere in this issue).

Please don't hesitate to let Karl and me know what you think of CP. We aim to make it a publication that NACIS members will find useful, be proud of, and most important, be part of.

David DiBiase
Co-Editor

P.S. Thanks to Alan MacEachren, whose patience and help has made the transition to CP easier than it otherwise would have been.

cartographic perspectives on the news

LANDSAT SHUTDOWN AVERTED?

Vice President Dan Quayle announced March 6 that he had gained a commitment of funds to keep Landsat -- the United States civil earth observation system -- operational. The announcement was termed "premature," however, by a spokesperson of the Earth Observation Satellite Company (EOSAT), the company that operates Landsat archives and data processing equipment.

Quayle's announcement notwithstanding, the Landsat archives at the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota are slated to cease accepting orders for Landsat data as of March 15. CP contacted Debby Williams of the EOSAT Public Affairs office March 9. Williams stated that EOSAT "requires an assurance