

## The Oregon School Atlas Project

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An experimental multimedia atlas designed to help Oregon school teachers is under construction at the University of Oregon. Funded by a \$100,000 legislative appropriation, the project will be completed in June, 1995—the end of the biennium. The school atlas staff includes Joe Searl and Bill Loy, directors; George Wuerthner, editor and writer; Nancy Unruh, educational consultant and researcher; Nancy Leeper, book designer; and Jim Meacham and Jane Sinclair, cartographers.

The content of the atlas was determined by having a forum of twenty-two teachers in January 1994. We told them that our goals were: (1) to design the optimal set of maps and materials to aid in teaching in Oregon, and (2) to incorporate ongoing curriculum changes while being true to our geographic heritage. They told us what they wanted.

We are organizing our materials around the National Geographic Society's "Five Themes in Geography" while addressing the issues raised by the *Federal Goals 2000: Educate America Act* and the new geography standards in *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards 1994*. We are also studying the new curricula called ARGUS (Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States) and, to a lesser degree, GIGI (Geographic Inquiry Into Global Issues). We will use ARGUS ideas in an Oregon context.

The new *Oregon School Atlas* will come in a box not a binding. A suite of materials will be included. Equal attention is being

given to primary, middle, and high school students. There will be grade-specific magazine-format atlases; teacher workbooks in loose-leaf binders holding base maps, data sheets, and teaching activities; CD-ROM disks; and a video cassette.

Our InfoGraphics lab is now preparing several dozen page-sized, black-and-white base maps that are suitable for photocopying or making into overhead transparencies. The maps include state maps and maps of other regions, which serve to compare Oregon to other regions such as the Middle East. The magazine-style atlases are to be 128 pages long, 8.5 by 11 inches in size, and produced with QUARKXPRESS on a Power Mac for full-color printing.

The CD-ROM project will focus on the physical and cultural landscapes of Oregon. It will feature aerial photographs and maps in an interactive format using the multimedia authoring software DIGITAL CHISEL. The CD-ROM is a joint project between Geography and our Fine and Applied Arts Department.

A second CD-ROM will be called *Oregon Connections* and feature comparative images of Oregon cities and their sister cities overseas. Eugene, for example, will be compared to its sister city of Kakegawa, Japan.

Our video project is aimed at primary school children. We are experimenting with creating short videos of interest locally on topics such as "The Geography of a Glass of Water." The video will trace our water supply from original intake through filtration, distribution, consumption, and disposal. Other video topics may include a loaf of bread, a letter, a piece of lumber, and the like. □

## reviews

### BOOK REVIEW

#### *SOME Truth with Maps: A Primer on Symbolization and Design*

Alan M. MacEachren. Association of American Geographers, Washington D.C., 1994, 129pp., 8.5 x 5.5 in., maps, illustrations, bibliography, paper. \$10.00. (ISBN 0-89291-214-6)

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As the use of GIS and computer mapping software becomes more common in private and public agencies, an increasing number of individuals with little or no training in cartographic principles have become responsible for creating an ever growing number of maps. Some of the uses of these maps may be trivial or affect only a few people. However, other maps are employed for more serious endeavors such as locating hazardous materials storage facilities, tracking global circulation patterns, establishing new congressional districts, determining the distribution of federal dollars for health care, or deciding which elementary school an eight year old will attend. Such uses are of vital interest to everyone. In the preface to his book, Alan MacEachren writes: "*SOME Truth with Maps* details a process for systematically considering cartographic symbolization and design issues so that scientists and/or policy analysts will be equipped to deal with the inevitably unique mapping problems with which they are faced in the course of their activities." This is both an ambi-