

map library bulletin board

MAPS AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

*by Margaret Brill
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The mission of the Map Collection in the Perkins Library is to support the programs and research at Duke, a private research university. The Map Collection is part of the Public Documents and Maps Department. As such, it is open most evenings and weekends—something which would not be possible if the maps were housed separately. The entire staff of the Public Documents and Maps team has been trained to provide map reference service, and when unable to answer a question, they refer it to the map specialists. Staff who work primarily with maps include a Librarian (currently a vacant position), a half-time Library Assistant, and two student assistants. Most of the maps, such as the United States Geological Survey series, are acquired through the Depository Library Program, however, there is also an annual budget of over \$3,000 to purchase maps and reference books. An Area Studies funds is also used to purchase maps.

The Collection houses 126,000 paper maps. Space is at a premium—a medium-sized collection has been fitted into a room more appropriate for a small-sized one. However, due to a careful arrangement of the map cases and no wasted space, the Collection is not cramped. The major constraint caused by lack of space is that there is no room for the piles of maps waiting to be put away and/or processed. As a result, all new maps are cataloged immediately (the depository maps are included

on the Marcive tapes which are loaded in the on-line catalog). A project to catalog the older maps is about halfway complete. The cataloging project also involves checking and updating the shelf-list (previously the only way to find maps which are not in major series) and the card catalog includes shelf-list and subject cards. All maps not in major series are assigned Library of Congress call numbers despite the fact that Duke is a Dewey library.

The Collection's strengths are in DMA maps from World War II, North Carolina, and the Canadian depository map collection. Rare and antique maps are housed in the Special Collections Library. Map purchase priorities are given to the research and instructional focus of the Duke faculty. Since there is no other map collection on campus, the Collection is heavily used by the Geology Department and School of the Environment. With no geography department, the map collection has been described as the "geographical presence at Duke" and the map librarian regularly teaches class sessions on the use of maps at the invitation of faculty.

The Collection's computer mapping dates back several years to the distribution of the TIGER Files on CD-ROM and it provides patrons with the ability to combine the Census maps with the data from the 1990 Census CD-ROMs to produce demographic maps. This project has been very successful and uses MapInfo software to produce the maps and a conversion program to convert the TIGER Files to MapInfo format. The terminal is accessible to the public, and training is available by appointment. The menu provides access to some ready-to-use local maps. Over the years, more products have been added to the system, notably ArcView, thanks to the ARL GIS Literacy Project (Association of Research Librar-

ies). Easy-to-use, popular mapping programs available to patrons from two terminals include StreetAtlas with MapExpert, Global Explorer, and Centennia. Users come from a wide range of Duke departments, as well as from the general public. The librarian also acts as a liaison with departments who maintain GISs. You are invited to visit the Maps Homepage (part of the Perkins Library web pages) at <http://www.lib.duke.edu/pdmt/maps.html>.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER: THE FIRST YEAR

*by Denise Stephens
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The Geographic Information Center at the University of Virginia seeks to encourage greater awareness and broader utilization of GIS and related spatial tools among the Library's clientele. The Center (GIC) was created in the spring of 1995 by merging of the Library's GIS Laboratory and its Maps Collection. GIC has begun an ambitious program of service integration, resource-building, and outreach to facilitate its objective: To make spatially-driven technology and information as accessible and as useful as possible, regardless of format. In its initial year, the Center has already begun to see the positive results of its 'holistic' approach to service. While the environmental sciences once dominated the GIS laboratory's user group profile, the new GIC has experienced growing interest and use generally from the social sciences, as well as from the