

1950s and 1960s and the current Government Printing Office Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The current FDLP material is located in the CIC as provided in the Separate Housing Agreement with the Regional Depository Library located in the LSU main library. The combination of the Army Mapping Service maps and the current FDLP arrivals provides world wide medium scale topographic map coverage as well as small to large scale map coverage of the United States.

The Cartographic Information Center operates as a closed-stacks library. The staff consists of one full time professional assisted by a 1 Full Time Equivalent student staff who retrieve materials in response to patron requests. In calendar year 1997 the staff served 723 walk-in patrons who requested the retrieval of a total of 1120 maps and 658 aerial photographs. Other patron services include locating and recommending digital data sources, geographic names research, and suggesting map vendors for private purchases. These service requests are received from walk-in patrons as well as via telephone, fax, mail, and e-mail.

In addition to providing daily patron service, the Cartographic Information Center staff is working to overcome problems common to many map libraries such as inadequate space, the need for retrospective cataloging, and preservation. As with other map libraries, the most pressing problem is inadequate space. The recently implemented weeding program designed to remove duplicate out-of-scope materials has barely kept pace with normal acquisitions. Naturally, once the weeding is completed, normal acquisitions will soon fill the recently available space. Additionally, the acquisition of several large research collections is pending until additional space is available. It is hoped that additional space will be acquired in the next three years.

In general, access to collection materials is primarily provided through index maps for series, while other local finding aides are consulted for individual maps. In addition, the FDLP materials are piece-level cataloged in the LSU Libraries LOLA online catalog available at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/databases/lola.html>. The Department of Geography & Anthropology collection materials are classified and filed using a locally developed system. An effort is underway to create electronic databases to improve access to the departmental material. Completed databases are available locally for the Dr. Robert C. West Latin American Photograph Collection, as well as for the map holdings depicting Louisiana, Mexico, and the West Indies. The work on databases for the Dr. Robert C. West Slide Collection, and for maps depicting the United States is underway. The pre-1940 U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map indexes were completed in 1997.

Because the material in the Department of Geography & Anthropology collection results from the long history of LSU geoscience teaching and research, these materials are often old, fragile, and require preservation. In the past, original maps as well as copies of historic maps were acquired. As a result, map materials in the collection range from acetate-based film negatives to fragile newsprint. Additionally, the bulk of the collection is housed in acidic containers. A recently completed major preservation project involved the transfer of historic U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey chart images from decomposing acetate film negatives to stable mylar. Currently, an ongoing preservation effort is underway to prevent daily wear on fragile maps by removing the maps from the general collection, rehousing them in pH-buffered containers, and placing them in less trafficked drawers.

In addition to the daily map library duties of patron service and processing acquisitions, and the long term rehousing, retrospective cataloging, and preservation efforts, the CIC staff is promoting awareness of the Cartographic Information Center's collection through tours, class presentations, and the World Wide Web. The Center's web site, [www.cadgis.lsu.edu/cic/](http://www.cadgis.lsu.edu/cic/), was established in November 1995 to provide an overview of the holdings. Although the majority of the CIC holdings are not in an online catalog, the web site does list the CIC's significant special collections and map series. When the map database for a specific area is completed, a paragraph describing the map holdings is added to the web site. In addition to the descriptive paragraphs and map series listings, a complete list of Louisiana historic aerial photographic coverage by parish and year is provided. A companion list of the CIC's holdings of aerial photomosaics by county and year depicting states other than Louisiana is also available. Finally, in order to illustrate the aerial photograph collection's scope, six representative aerial photos taken of the LSU campus from the 1930s to the 1980s are on the web site.

The Cartographic Information Center is located in room 313 Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex, LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 and is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays except University holidays.

### **The University of Iowa's Map Collection**

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The University of Iowa's Map Collection is the largest map collection in Iowa, with more than 176,000 sheet maps, as well as: copies of Sanborn fire insurance maps for more than 1,000 Iowa cities from the 1870's through the 1930's, either on paper or microfiche; Iowa county atlases for the period from the 1870's to the 1930's on microfilm; over 600 Iowa plat books; and more than 100,000 aerial photos of Iowa counties, for various years since the 1940's. Although strongest in Iowa and Midwestern materials, the collection is international in scope and subject coverage is broad, excluding only geologic maps, which are collected at the Geology Library.

Until approximately three years ago, there were no electronic cartographic products in the Map Collection. When I joined the collection in 1995 as half-time Map Librarian, I brought with me an interest in desk-top mapping capabilities. I had worked with federal documents for many years and knew of the wealth of numeric data in the documents department. I had also received training in 1992 on ArcView as part of the ARL / GIS Literacy Project, and had been using a stand-alone copy of ArcView in the Government Publications Department. Thus, the Map Collection began acquiring cast-off CD-ROM drives from other library departments and some fairly simple CD-ROM mapping products (e.g., MapExpert, Proximity). The Map Collection still did not have any hardware to run higher end mapping programs, until a series of events changed our situation for the better.

First, the library was "wired" in the spring of 1997, enabling Map Collection machines to access the outside world. Then with the assistance of supportive library administrators, we utilized library development funds, money from the library-92s collection development general fund, some of my own map collection funds, plus a donated CPU

from another library on campus, and were able to purchase very adequate hardware to run ArcView 3.

At that point, ArcView was relocated from documents to the Map Collection to run on the new machine. Lastly, the Map Collection obtained funding in late 1997 for two more desktop mapping workstations through funds designated by the University's Office of the Provost for instructional technology enhancements. Thus, by the end of 1998, the Map Collection will be running desktop mapping software on three networked machines in the Map Collection-92s reading room. Because of the networked environment, the machines will be linked to each other and to a color laser printer also purchased with the technology enhancement funding. We can also explore additional library access for ArcView, since we have a library site license for ArcView.

I have consciously used the phrase "desktop mapping," rather than GIS in this article. At this point, the goal of placing these machines and software in the Map Collection is to give patrons access to higher-end mapping tools to which they otherwise would not have had access. The University of Iowa has several true GIS laboratories on campus, located in academic departments, where students enrolled in general education / introductory classes can utilize various GIS software products. When many of these students finish taking these types of courses in geography, etc., they will not have access to the departmental labs and to electronic mapping capabilities in general. After speaking with professors, students, and other librarians at ALA and elsewhere, it seemed more useful to focus this beginning service in the Map Collection toward those students (and faculty) whose main needs can be met by mapping programs such as ArcView and Maptitude.

As you can see, the path to getting the three machines was not clear-cut, the results came to us in phases, but the focus audience was always the same. The administrators at the University Libraries are very supportive of having desktop mapping capabilities in the Map Collection. We had earlier made larger requests to university offices for machinery and software for this service and had always been rejected. Thus, the piece-meal approach was begun, and it paid off. Now time must be devoted to writing policies, creating templates and pre-designed maps, hunting for tutorials, grappling with levels of service, finding staff time for this new service, and even figuring out how these large machines will fit into the space available. But had we not been willing to pre-define our audience and to advance our cause gradually, I believe we would still be waiting for our first desktop mapping station in the Map Collection.

## NACIS news

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