



cartographic perspectives

Number 39, Spring 2001

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of NACIS

Issue #38 of *Cartographic Perspectives* (CP) that was distributed at the end of 2001 proved to inspire some lively discussion that included some fairly diverse opinions. In particular was the column *The Map Library's Future* by Peter Keller that put forth some ideas on the future role of map libraries as they move increasing toward managing digital holdings. We had so many requests from non-NACIS members for a copy of the column, that we posted Dr. Keller's paper on the NACIS web site! A response to this article is in the works, and I hope to have this response, as well as additional thoughts from Dr. Keller, in a future issue of CP. It is a goal of this editorial board to seek and publish articles and columns that foster these sorts of discussions of diverse ideas. It is rewarding as an editor to bring about elevated heart rates in a group of typically tranquil cartographers!

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www.nacis.org

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Issue # 39 of CP has come to fruition. I am happy to report that issue #40, which will be our color issue for this series, is right on the heels of 39. The editorial board of CP has been quite busy the past 8 months. CP has experienced an increase in article submissions that will ultimately place the Journal on track for publication in 2002 and the beginning of 2003. I have relied heavily upon the editorial board for many timely reviews, and have worked closely with authors to facilitate editing of manuscripts for publication.

The current issue of CP has three fairly diverse papers. The first is a manuscript titled *The Map Library's Emerging Role in the Dissemination of Cartographic Information on the Internet*. This paper lays out for the reader the many issues surrounding the management and dissemination of digital data by map libraries, and provides a real-world model of how a library might approach this task. The second paper is very much a theoretical piece titled *Feeling it Out: The Use of Haptic Visualization for Exploratory Geographical Analysis*. This manuscript adds to the graphic, dynamic and sonic map design elements currently available for map design, a number of haptic or tactile elements that might be used to facilitate the communication of both spatial and non-spatial

information. The author provides a framework for how haptic design elements fit into the scheme of map design, and leads us through some possible examples of where these design elements can benefit the map user. Last is a piece titled *Visualizing Change: Using Cartographic Animation to Explore Remotely Sensed Data*. This paper demonstrates how animation can facilitate the visualization of spatial change. All three papers ultimately focus on the end user of spatial information, and discuss how the needs of the map user can be met more effectively.

The next three issues of CP have taken shape rapidly over the past few months. Issue # 40, which will round out the three issues for 2001, will be a color issue that will include two lengthy articles of a more subjective nature. One of the manuscripts delves into the historical use/misuse of color in ethnic mapping. The other manuscript offers us a trip through the poetic maps of Verona. This issue will also include a column from the president of NACIS, and the usual columns included in all issues of CP.

Issue #41 will be the first in the next series for 2002, and will be a guest edited piece by Martin von Wyss and Alex Tate on Practical Cartography. This issue, of course, will be published in color. Issue

#42 will include manuscripts on thinking critically in cartography, on participatory mapping for the disabled, and the unique symbolism of railway mail service maps of the late 1800's. Issue #42 is shaping up to be a volume on critical issues surrounding the production of modern atlases. This will be a co-edited piece with Scott Bell and myself. As you can see, the editorial board has much work to do by the end of 2002.

What direction will CP go after this year? As always, the editorial board is encouraging the submission of any and all articles in which cartography is the focus. It is important to create a journal that is representative of its readership, and at the same time challenges the readership's comfort level and goes that one step further. I suspect that we will see more papers that focus on the map user, and that employ human subject testing as a means to assess the efficacy of various map designs and mapping technologies. The cartographic literature is sorely lacking in this type of empirical work, and CP can play a significant role in addressing this void. CP can also play a more significant role in leading the discussion of ethics, power and maps. In other words, cause the membership of NACIS to think critically about cartography, and all the ways that maps influence people. The final thought I want to put forward to all of you is that CP can become a multidisciplinary journal, publishing papers by researchers who don't necessarily call themselves cartographers, or even geographers, but whose research has as its central focus maps and spatial information. Care to share your thoughts?

With warmest regards,

Scott Friendschuh, Editor