eral, state, and local agencies are cataloged according to the FGDC metadata standard and stored in our Center’s server. Since we are one of the nodes in the Federal Geographic Data Committee Clearinghouse, a patron can search that part of the data through the FGDC Clearinghouse.

Our Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:45am to 5:00pm. We are closed on Saturday and Sunday. For information visit our web site http://www.princeton.edu/~geolib/gis/

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Map and Geographic Information Center
Centennial Science and Engineering Library
University of New Mexico

The Map and Geographic Information Center, more fondly known as The Map Room, is the largest map repository in the state of New Mexico. It serves the needs of the students, faculty and staff of the University of New Mexico, as well as the citizens of Albuquerque and beyond.

We are part of the regional depository program, receiving maps from the usual cartographic sources: USGS, BLM, CIA, Forest Service, NOAA and NIMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers. We have a small budget to purchase privately published maps and atlases, often supplemented by allocated funds from the general library budget for special projects. Most recently such funding was used to augment our holdings of topographic maps of various Central and South American countries.

Our collection is worldwide in scope, with an emphasis on New Mexico, the Southwestern United States, Mexico, and the aforementioned Central and South America. We currently have about 200,000 sheet maps, and more than 1,000 atlases and other cartographic related books. We actively collect aerial photography of Albuquerque and have a less extensive collection of air photos for other places in New Mexico. Because of these limitations in aerial photography outside of the city, we work in close collaboration with the Earth Data Analysis Center, a service organization of the University of New Mexico that provides geospatial technologies.

Areas of special interest include: the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps in three formats (the original maps, microfiche, and online); numerous historical maps of New Mexico, the Southwest and beyond; and a popular collection of NM road maps, ranging from 1908 (still territorial days for us) to the present. Globes attract a lot of attention, especially our moon globe, celestial globes, Braille globe, a 30” high Dymaxion globe, and our most recent addition for kids of all ages, a talking, interactive game globe.

Most of our collection is uncataloged, although we are slowly making headway in getting records for maps into our OPAC. We have for some years now been able to attach item records to GPO Marcive records, and to records cataloged by our sister institution, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, New Mexico. Now, finally, within the last six months, maps are being cataloged here at UNM, some by map room staff (the less labor-intensive DLC items) and the rest by one of the cataloging staff.

Like most map libraries we are trying to juggle the traditional cartographic formats with the newer electronic formats. Digital topographic maps, both USGS DRGs and commercial products, are in demand as well as climate data and city street level data with route mapping and other custom mapping features.

Most of our electronic data can be used in a GIS. Programs in geography, earth and planetary sciences, and biology, to name a few, rely on a GIS-based approach to correlate data in ways that were difficult until recently. We have a growing collection of city- and state-level data available in-house, as well as access to a veritable explosion of data available on-line.

Many of our paper maps circulate for a one-week period and can be renewed for one additional week. However, copying maps is a more popular option for our customers. We provide a range of options for them to choose from:

- 8½” x 11” black and white copies
- 36” wide black and white copies
- 12” by 17” scanner
- up to 13” by 19” color printouts

Costs for these printouts range from $.75/ft² to $3.00/copy. Most of our scanner clientele bring in their own zip disks or compact disks and we save scans free of charge.

The Map Room is staffed by one full time librarian, one part-time GIS specialist, and three wonderful, indispensable work study/student assistant staff. We are housed in Centennial Science & Engineering Library, a branch of the UNM General Library system.

Our hours are usually 10a.m.-6p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10a.m.-5p.m. Friday, and 11a.m.-5p.m. Saturday during regular semester sessions. Shorter hours are necessary during intersessions and the summer and occasionally we are closed when illness or other
obligations prevent staff from being present. If any readers of Cartographic Perspectives are ever in the Albuquerque area, please drop by and visit. Our web page can be found at http://eLibrary.unm.edu/maproom and a map of the UNM campus at http://www.unm.edu/campusmap.html.

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