

Cartographic Collections

The University of Georgia Libraries Map Library

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My introduction to the University of Georgia Libraries Map Library came in September, 2006 via the MAPS-L listserv, where it had been reported that early one morning an underage drunken driver had crashed his car through the wall and wound up inside the building (Figure 1). Fortunately no one was hurt, including the driver; he was found wandering a mile or so down the road, no doubt wondering where he had just parked his car. Aside from the sheer fascination of seeing a car in the library, having recently applied for the map librarian position at UGA I was much more interested in getting a look at the Map Library itself. I spent quite a bit of time looking beyond the crumpled car and the bricks, road signs and shrubbery that came in with it and focused instead on the rows of map cases and atlas shelves in the background. Despite the damage to the building, it looked like a pretty impressive place.

When I arrived in Athens in February, 2007 as UGA's new map librarian, I discovered that the Map Library is indeed a very impressive place. Comprised of approximately 630,000 items including maps, air photos, atlases and cartographic reference materials it is one of the largest academic map libraries in the country. The collection focuses on cartographic resources from the late 19th century to present day with a particular emphasis on the State of Georgia (Figure 2). An equally impressive but considerably smaller collection of historic maps dating back to the 16th century resides in the UGA Libraries Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library (<http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/maps.html>). Like many large academic map libraries



the core of the UGA Map Library's collection includes a substantial number of World War II surplus maps including captured maps from both Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. These maps were donated to the Geography Department in the 1950s; the collection was transferred to the Libraries in the late 1960s. The Map Library was originally housed on the second floor of the Science Library; when load-bearing issues became a concern it was moved to the basement of that building where it remained until 2005 when the space it occupied was converted into a server room for the University's Computer Center. It is currently located in an off-campus warehouse that adjoins the UGA Instrument Shop and sits across the street from the Repository, the Libraries' off-site storage facility.



Over the 40-plus years since the Map Library became part of the UGA Libraries the collection has grown enormously. In addition to the World War II maps, the collection includes a wide variety of thematic maps, map sets and atlases from around the world, with an emphasis on the U.S. and the State of Georgia. As UGA is a regional depository library for U.S. government documents, the Map Library holds current and historic U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps for the entire U.S. and its territories as well as other thematic maps published by USGS. It maintains the largest collection of aerial photography of the State of Georgia outside of the National Archives with approximately 230,000 photos from the late 1930s through the late 1980s; approximately 50,000 of these photos are available online through the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) (<http://dbs.galib.uga.edu/gaph/html/>). Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Georgia cities and towns from 1884-1922 scanned from the collection are also available online through the DLG (<http://dlg>).

galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/); the Map Library holds the original paper and microfilm versions of the Sanborn maps through 1985. It was also one of the first map libraries to acquire Soviet military topographic map sets after the fall of the Soviet Union, with holdings for most countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East as well as parts of Eastern Europe. One of the more unusual items in the collection is a Denoyer-Geppert moon globe, ca. 1970, which was borrowed from the Map Library for the 1995 movie "Apollo 13" and used as a prop in an early scene where the astronauts have their official pre-flight portrait taken in their space suits (Figure 3).



Although we see fewer UGA-affiliated users now than when we were on campus, the Map Library still attracts many non-affiliated users who are mostly interested in our Georgia air photos and USGS topographic maps. Because the collection does not circulate, we offer a wide variety of color copying, scanning and printing options,

including large-format scanning and printing, which allows our users to reproduce almost any item from the collection in either paper or digital format. Our current off-campus location compels us to find different ways to make cartographic resources available to our users, particularly those who may not be able to visit the Map Library in person. We maintain an extensive Web site that includes links to a wide variety of online cartographic resources (<http://www.libs.uga.edu/maproom/>). UGA students, staff and faculty can request that atlases in good condition be sent to an on-campus library for in-house use. Several scanning projects are underway to make our historic 15- and 30-minute USGS topographic maps of Georgia and historic USDA soil survey maps of Georgia available online through the DLG; these maps will start appearing there by fall of 2009. Many of our historic Georgia highway maps dating back to the 1920s have also been scanned and are available through the Georgia Government Publications database (<http://www.galileo.usg.edu/express?link=ggpd>). Also, in the interest of publicizing the Map Library on campus over the past two years we have mounted several well-received displays of World War II maps and Sanborn maps and air photos of the UGA campus in various libraries; plans are in the works for a larger display of maps of

Georgia in the coming year that will involve all of our on-campus libraries.

With the completion of the Libraries' new Special Collections building in 2011 the Map Library will move back to campus, taking over space in the sub-basement of the Main Library currently occupied by the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies. Upon its return to campus, plans call for the Map Library to be combined with the government documents collection to form a new map and government documents library. This combination promises to be an exciting new chapter in the Libraries that will allow us to provide new and enhanced services such as GIS that take advantage of resources from both collections. In preparation for this move, Map Library staff members are working to purge duplicates from the collection and eliminate the map cataloging backlog that has accumulated in recent years. Souvenirs of the 2006 car intrusion – including a battered supply cabinet, some scratched and dented map cases and a large yellow road sign – will accompany the collection and serve as mementos of its time off campus. But for now we continue to conduct business as usual, safe behind the new guard rail that was installed a year ago after another car driven by a different underage drunken driver sideswiped the building and almost hit the gas main. After more than two busy and rewarding years here I can safely say there is never a dull moment in the UGA Map Library.

The Maps Collection of the National Library of Australia

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Introduction/brief history

The National Library of Australia was established at Federation in 1901, when the British colonies merged as a nation with their own constitution. In those days the parliament was located in Melbourne, the nation's interim capital. The Library commenced with a clear national purpose in mind, its primary function to provide politicians with material for speeches. With deliberate intent, the collection grew to record national progress, thus beginning a process of interpreting the nation's particular place in history. National libraries may be distinguished by their maps collections, which encapsulate internal geographic limits and define a nation's relationship with nearby countries and the rest of the world. While map curators have their eyes set