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Cartographiti

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAP CURATORS GROUP

MCG
Workshop 2021
part 1



www.cartography.org.uk

The visualiser in action - see 'Learning from Lockdown' by Donna Sherman

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cartographiti is available free-of-charge to members of the British Cartographic Society. It is not necessary to be a professional map curator or map librarian to join the Map Curators Group. *Cartographiti* is available through the BCS website:

<https://www.cartography.org.uk/publication>

Convener's Corner

It was lovely to see some of you at our online workshop in September. 'Learning from lockdown' was positively inspirational with so many good, useful, and practical projects undertaken whilst working from home, or in hybrid situations, and often with little more than a laptop. What a resourceful and resilient group you are!

With the coronavirus pandemic situation continually changing, it looks like we will all need to stay resilient for a while longer. It is difficult to make plans and it is tempting to retrench. However, we are already working towards next year's workshop. We have reluctantly decided that it will be virtual again, alongside the main British Cartographic Society conference, and GeoViz. Our workshop will be on the theme of 'Finding Maps'. That we will not all meet in person for another year is disappointing. Look out for the BCS's smaller face-to-face and virtual social events coming through the year, as a chance to catch up with map friends.

Do please continue to use lis-maps to showcase your projects, help with map enquiries and stay connected with each other. There is a lot of fascinating work going on, it is good to hear about it!

Stay safe

Paula Williams

Editorial Effusion

This issue of *Cartographiti* is the first to be published solely online. For this issue I have retained the paper format, but this may be something that needs to be revisited in an online publication. Any suggestions would be gratefully received!

The 2021 Map Curator's Workshop took place online, taking as its theme 'Learning from Lockdown: positive developments in our map collections'. A summary of the day and several papers can be found in this issue. The remainder will be published in the next issue, which I aim to produce in the early summer.

Sad news is the death of Peter Clark, a founding member of the BCS and formerly in charge of the Map Room at the Royal Geographical Society. An obituary will appear in *Maplines* in due course.

Judith Fox

Around the Libraries

National Library of Scotland

Covid-19

All reading rooms and public areas in the Library's Edinburgh buildings returned to their pre-Covid opening hours from Monday 1 November. The Maps Reading Room has been open for the usual four days per week from April, with some revised safety and distancing arrangements, and the need to book an appointment in advance.

Staff

John Scally, the National Librarian, stepped down in October and was replaced by Amina Shah.

Through external funding, we were pleased to be able to appoint Katie Haffie to our new Community Data Harvester post. The aim of the post is to gather and create spatial data relating to the Library's digital map collections, by working with various communities. The data will be gathered through (primarily online) events including map workshops, providing advice to community projects, researching and harvesting existing spatial datasets, and providing advice and support in related GIS software. The post is part time and will run to July 2022..

Digitisation

From May-July, our main sheet-feed scanning work focused on completing our long-term objective of scanning all single-sheet maps of Scotland (ca. 4,000 maps scanned over three months, to reach a total of 131,000 single-sheet maps of Scotland). Most of these maps have now gone online and the remainder will be put online before the end of 2021. We then moved on to a more active focus on

scanning maps of England and Wales. From July–September, we scanned 10,400 Ordnance Survey large-scale town plans, and hope to put these online before the end of 2021.

Outreach

We have continued to deliver public talks and workshops online via Zoom, including our regular Discover Maps Online and Maps for Family and Local History, and added a new Maps for Researching House History workshop. In August we went on A voyage around the Scottish Islands. Recorded events can be watched on the National Library of Scotland YouTube channel. Details of forthcoming events are at: <https://www.nls.uk/events>.

We have recently purchased a Wolfson VZ-C6 visualizer for the Maps Reading Room. We hope that this may be useful for external group workshop events, as well as for showing items which have not been scanned – particularly maps in volumes and overseas mapping. We hope that this may be installed within the next couple of months.

Chris Fleet, NLS

National Library of Wales

Covid-19

The map teams are back in the Library full time. There is still a one-way system and we are still wearing masks around the building, but things are gradually getting back to a bit closer to normal.

Staff

NLW is currently implementing a reorganisation. The changes to our area are not major. The main thing is that we will now be providing staff to work in the reading room, but to make up for this we are having an extra member of staff to join us, who will be starting in the New Year.

Acquisitions

We are continuing to add more railway plans to our collection as part of Warrington's South Wales Railway Records. This sizable donation is arriving in parts as the owner lists and prepares them.

Outreach

This year's Carto-Cymru symposium took place online between 12 and 14 May. The theme this year was 'Surveying the Streets' and looked at town plans. As usual, it was an event held jointly with RCAHMW and this year in association with the Historic Towns Trust. In addition to the six main talks, we also held a workshop session. The event was very successful given the circumstances.

Next year we are hoping to return to a physical format and to welcome the Charles Close Society to the Library for their AGM, with the theme based around the Ordnance Survey. If a physical event is not possible, we will hold another online event on a different topic.

Huw Thomas, NLW

Cambridge University Library Covid-19

Cambridge University Library has been reopening slowly – there is no date yet for a full reopening

Pre-booked Map Department (and other Special Collection) material can be viewed in the Special Collections Reading Room. See www.lib.cam.ac.uk/using-library/book-a-visit for details and www.lib.cam.ac.uk/using-library for information on all other Library services.

In addition, the Map Room is opening on a pre-booked basis for those who need to consult the card catalogue and graphic indexes, though readers will

usually need to come back to look at maps themselves (in the Special Collections Reading Room using the booking link mentioned above).

The restricted opening is mainly because of a shortage of staff across Special Collections and Reader Services. To help out with this, two of my Map Department colleagues are currently working elsewhere in the Library for most or all of their time. I am still working a few days each week from home.

Digitisation

Amongst the Map Department collections are three large, leather-bound volumes containing over 350 charming watercolour views of Cambridgeshire buildings, landscapes and antiquities. These are the work of amateur artist Richard Anthony Relhan (1782-1844) a Cambridge apothecary. After Relhan's death the volumes were given to Cambridge Antiquarian Society (CAS) and were subsequently passed to the University Library. CAS used a generous bequest from their past President, Professor Mary Hesse, to digitise these drawings. We are delighted to say that these, along with extensive text and modern photographs, all the work of CAS members, are now freely available on Cambridge Digital Library at <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/relhan/4>. See also the Richard Relhan Revealed blog post <https://specialcollections-blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=22157%C2%A0> and the Drawing Cambridgeshire news story <https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/relhan-collection>

An article about some of the manuscript maps that can be seen on Cambridge Digital Library (<https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/>

[maps/1](https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/maps)) can be seen at <https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/maps>.

Outreach

Cambridge Seminars on the History of Cartography continue online for 2021-22. Details and downloadable poster available at:

www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem

Anne Taylor, CUL

Bodleian Library, Oxford

Covid-19

We are now pretty much back to normal in terms of working patterns and opening hours..

Staff

The Deputy Map Librarian / Geospatial Data Specialist post is still unfilled. It has now been rebranded to 'Digital Map Curator', and is likely to be offered as a 0.8FTE position.

Research

Our three-year Leverhulme Trust-funded project 'Understanding the medieval Gough Map through Physics, Chemistry and History' is now in its final year. We have signed a contract with Brill to publish a hefty volume in their Mapping the Past series which will outline the findings of the project's endeavours.

Outreach

The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA) has strangely benefitted from the pandemic. We have increased the number of seminars, and ambitiously targeted overseas speakers to deliver online talks. The number of attendees for each event is currently around five times the size of our usual live audiences. We were also able to host a one-day Women and Maps conference, and again going online

allowed us to bring in speakers from six different time zones.

TOSCA will remain a fully virtual experience for 2021/22. We were, however, able to stage our annual field trip on 21 October, visiting the Oxford Museum of Natural History, where we were treated to a display of rare geological maps of the British Isles. The programme is available at <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps/tosca>

We have resumed in-person 'show and tell' sessions in the Weston Library, our first group of visitors being Oxford's School of Geography alumni who were treated to an offering of new cartographic acquisitions which arrived in the Library during lockdown.

Debbie Hall has been able to showcase her 'Treasures from the Map Room: a journey through the Bodleian collections' book in an hour-long interview for Viking TV

Nick Millea, Bodleian

British Library

Covid-19

From September 7 2021 reading rooms, public desks, members' room and exhibition galleries were once again open to visitors without the need to pre-book. Wearing of masks and observation of social distancing protocols remain strongly recommended

Staff

In July 2021 Tony Rosser and Jonathan Schofield left the Maps processing team, with Jonathan taking up another role in the Library. In October 2021 Huw Rowlands re-joined the Maps processing team.

Research

The 2021 Helen Wallis Fellowship was awarded to Karen Rann (Queens University, Belfast) for her research topic 'The Art of Contouring: Towards a Creative Historical Geography of Contour Lines in Britain and Ireland, 1778–1860'.

Digitisation

- Almost 2,000 Survey of India 1-inch sheets held in the India Office Records Map Collections are soon to be digitised and georeferenced by Mapping the Archaeological History of South Asia project (MAHSA) based at Cambridge University.
- Digitisation of 25,000 Ordnance Survey 25 inch 1st and 2nd edition map sheets was completed for Living with Machines, a UKRI-funded collaborative project between the Alan Turing Institute and the British Library.
- 1,300 War Office Archive map images of East Africa have been georeferenced through the BL Georeferencer platform.
- In July 2021 a further 39,000 digital images from George III's Topographical Collection were released onto Flickr Commons as public domain. This brings the total of images to 49,000 and completes the seven-year K.Top project. To date the Flickr collection has received over 25 million individual page clicks.

Outreach

A number of early maps from the British Library are currently on display in the touring exhibition Harry Potter: A History of Magic in Tokyo (various

venues, 5 September 2021–7 February 2022).

Key Tudor maps, including the Saxton-Burghley atlas, are on display in the current British Library exhibition 'Elizabeth and Mary: Royal Cousins, Rival Queens (5 October 2021–8 February 2022)

Tom Harper, BL

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) Covid-19

PRONI is operating a limited onsite service, by appointment only. Appointment slots are made available six weeks in advance. We have returned to an on-demand document ordering service.

Research

OS200: Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage Led by Keith Lilley (QUB) and Catherine Porter (UL), this project will gather historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and texts to form a digital platform that will help uncover otherwise hidden and forgotten aspects of the life and work of those employed by the OS as they mapped and recorded landscapes and localities in Ireland. PRONI will facilitate the public engagement strand of the project.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7cedc565e15e4ba58444f9eaf435d1de>

Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Records Treasury

30 June 2022, marks the centenary of an explosion and fire at the Four Courts, Dublin, which destroyed the Public Record Office of Ireland (PRO, I) and, with it, seven centuries of Ireland's collective memories. Led by Peter Crooks (TCD), Beyond 2022 is an ambitious project to create a virtual reconstruction of the Record Treasury

by identifying copies and surrogate material of what was lost, and making digitised images and searchable content freely available for researchers in a single online portal. Historic maps form a major part of this work, which will create a truly unique resource.

<https://beyond2022.ie/>

Mapping Irish Earth: using deep mapping to curate an historic landed estate as a three-dimensional educational and cultural resource
Annie Tindley (Newcastle University) and PRONI have secured a successful bid for a Collaborative Doctoral Award, which has been awarded to John Witchell at Newcastle University. PRONI is acting as the archival partner, providing access to the Dufferin and Ava Collection, supervising work on historic maps and GIS approaches, and facilitating a major public engagement element to the project.

Outreach

On 21 September, Micheál Ó Siochrú (TCD) delivered the 2021 D.A. Chart Seminar online with the topic 'The Down Survey of Ireland'. 148 individuals attended, with registrations from across the UK and Ireland, Europe, and the United States.

On 7 September, PRONI ran an online workshop on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, which attracted 300 bookings including seven archaeology interest groups.

Glynn Kelso, PRONI

The National Archives

Covid-19

Public services in all reading rooms are more or less back to pre-pandemic levels. Staff are gradually returning to work some days on site. Rose now does two-hour duty shifts on two days a week, and specialist enquiry and

remote editorial work has continued via home working.

Research

A team from Nottingham Trent University (who successfully worked on paintings at the V&A) spent two weeks in dark rooms in Collection Care, looking at a set of maps from the Kwangtung Provincial Archives captured during the Arrow War of 1857. Rose visited to catch up with the team and view the astonishing results from their kit, which digitally views all the map layers, exposing materials and how the maps were made. This work is part of the AHRC-funded Lima to Canton project using AI to aid study of globalisation through heritage material.

Outreach

Rose filmed a short 'Ask an Expert' video for Education & Outreach about a 1606 Wiltshire map, with horses, detailed tree portraits, and a fabulous embroidery-like border. This is currently being edited to go on our YouTube channel.

Rose Mitchell, NA

Manchester University Library

Staff

The map collection has a new collections assistant, Grant Collier, working two days a week

Digitisation

Our collection of digitised Japanese maps has been transferred to our Manchester Digital Collections platform: <https://www.digitalcollections.manchester.ac.uk/collections/japanesemaps/1>. John Rylands Research Institute and Library researcher, Sonia Favi, has written an introduction to the collection and enhanced the metadata for each

item. She has also written a blog to accompany the project.

A digital exhibition featuring maps from University of Manchester's Japanese collections has just been launched: 'Travels in Tokugawa Japan (1603–1868): a virtual journey'.
<https://www.digitalexhibitions.manchester.ac.uk/s/travels-in-japan>

Outreach

The Library was successful in obtaining funding from AHRC's Capability for Collections call. As a result, we have purchased a ceiling-mounted visualizer and a digital wall for the map room. The Wolfvision visualizer is proving popular with visitors and students. So far, we have only done a couple of virtual appointments using the visualizer and Zoom but these have been successful and highly valued.

Donna Sherman, Manchester University

University of Liverpool

Work on the reduction in size of the University of Liverpool map collection (housed in the Department of Geography and Planning) continues with increasing speed. The majority of the British material is to be retained as well as much of Europe particularly historic military mapping. Large amounts of Directorate of Overseas mapping will be disposed of, as well as mapping from the Americas. Deselection decisions are being made on the basis of usage in the past twenty-five years. The University's museum and art gallery is home to a Jamaican artist-in-residence next month who uses maps in her work a great deal. Some maps will be donated to her to create art works with the students.

For the last few months I have been trying to work two days a week, and hope to increase this to three shortly. It's astonishing how difficult it is to fit work in after being away for two years, especially when one has to so virtually as much as possible to avoid contact with colleagues and students. I realise that most of us are used to this by now, but I'm still finding it a struggle. I blame my lack of concentration on my chemotherapy, but it probably has more to do with increasing age.

Tinho da Cruz, University of Liverpool

MCG News

Map Curators' Group Business Meeting 2021

Chair: Paula Williams.

1. Apologies for absence

Jim Caruth, April Carlucci, Andrew Cook, Brian Garvan, Richard Oliver, Kirsteen Valenti.

2. Notes of the last meeting 2019

3. Map and Geographic Information Curator group (MAGIC)

The Map & Geoinformation Curator Group is a not-for-profit union of individuals dealing with Map Librarianship, Map Curatorship, and Map Archiving, representing Map Libraries, Map Archives, Map Collections and relevant entities dealing with cartographic material of analogue and digital type. MAGIC is associated with the ICA Commission on Cartographic Heritage into the Digital

<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/MAGIC/Aims.html>

The convener attended the 22nd MAGIC conference Challenges in modern map librarianship/15th ICA conference Digital approaches to Cartographic Heritage on 6 and 7 May.

This was held virtually but well attended by our colleagues across Europe. As always there were some fascinating papers – available online <http://terkeptar.elte.hu/ch/2021/>

The next meeting of the coordination group is overdue but no date decided.

4. lis-maps

The discussion list currently has 296 members and averages about ten posts per month.

5. Cartographiti

The pandemic has cemented the move to digital publication – issue 98 will be produced after the workshop and will appear on the BCS website with links sent out to all MCG members, and on lis-maps. We discussed last time how to make paper copies available to those who wanted them for institutional copies and have yet to trial this in practice. We will also need to alert the Legal Deposit Agency of the change.

We have missed one issue due to lack of content. Members are reminded to please submit articles, images and news. Some of the advantages of online publishing are fewer constraints on formatting, pages and images.

6. Training

Following discussions with Paige Andrew (Cartographic Resources Cataloging Librarian, Pennsylvania State University Libraries), we are planning a two-day workshop on map cataloguing using RDA. We are hoping for a face-to-face event, to be hosted perhaps in central England, late April/early May 2022. The workshop is made up of both taught and practical sessions. Paige has previously delivered the workshop virtually so we have a fall back if international travel remains difficult. You will be familiar with Paige from his books *Cataloging sheet maps: the basics* and *RDA and cartographic resources*. A new edition

of the RDA book is in preparation. It is more than five years since MCG ran a dedicated map cataloguing workshop so we are hopeful of a good response.

7. Online resources

There have been a couple of suggestions for possible online resources which we could create and add to our toolkit on the BCS website:

Maps for education

There is a new Education committee within BCS looking to see how the Society can better support teaching with and about maps at all levels of formal education. Independently we had also been having discussions about how map collections could help/encourage local schools to use maps.

Nick Millea reported that the Historic Towns Trust already has plans to promote its maps to KS2 children (upper primary age) combining geography and local history. They have engaged an educational consultant who will report to the Historical Association annual conference in May 2022. They are working with Peter Vujakovic of BCS.

Donna Sherman reported a recent meeting with education officers at University of Manchester; as it is currently harder for children to visit the libraries because of Covid restrictions. They are considering making videos to distribute around local schools.

Rose Mitchell reported that TNA has already put together a succession of 'Ask an expert' short videos on various aspects of archival research, including map use; these are available on their YouTube channel. The links can be easily shared.

There was a suggestion for an 'Educators Toolkit', like the Map Curators Toolkit, on the BCS website

to draw some of these planned / existing materials together. There is also the existing Restless Earth programme run by BCS.

Donna also pointed out that schools don't always know about Digimap for schools.

Guide to map research

There seems to be a small but steady stream of members of the public who seem to find the BCS website and ask questions which are then posted on to lis-maps. The proposal is that the MCG consider preparing some text to put on the website, preferably under the masthead of the MCG, to provide guidance for people doing map research.

This could include:

- What kind of information you can find on what kind of maps
- Who are the big collections, as well as specialist collections, what are they likely to have, and how do you get in touch with them
- Links to various sources, such as WorldCat, COPAC, online cats of the various collections
- FAQs, such as finding your property through time, looking for rights of ways, what's under my house, will my house flood, I want to buy an old map to frame, I have an old map--what's it worth, etc.

8. 2022 Map Curators' Group Workshop

Next year's workshop will again be part of BCS conference – preferring in person if possible, and somewhere we can 'do a visit'. BCS is in discussion with our corporate sponsors to see if any of them can offer to host – in the same way that BGS supported our 2021 events. We are also discussing

the possibility of a three-day event to avoid the clash between our workshop and GeoViz, as some of their sessions sound really interesting too. Suggested themes for our workshop include Finding maps; Celebrating the centenary of The Times World Atlas by having a theme of atlases; Decolonising our Collections; and Archiving digital and community mapping.

9. Any other business...

The convener Paula Williams is now a co-opted member of BCS council.

MCG has been added to the Subject Specialist Networks website-
<https://www.subjectspecialistnetworks.org.uk/>

[Updates since the business meeting:

- next year's workshop will again be virtual.
- the planned Map cataloguing training is still planned as a face-to-face event, but is postponed until autumn 2022].

Forum

The Map Curators' Group workshop took place online on Wednesday 8 September 2021. We start with a overview of the day written by Debbie Hall, followed by the text of some of the talks. The remaining papers and the discussion on 'Advocating for your map collection' will be included in the next issue of Cartographiti.

Map Curators' Group Workshop 2021: Learning from lockdown: positive developments for our map collections.

The Map Curators' Group met for the first time in two years, with an online business meeting and workshop

organised alongside the BCS annual conference. The meeting was organised on Google Meet, and before it began there was an opportunity to chat informally and catch up with old friends, which was appreciated by those present. The business meeting covered some exciting future plans on cataloguing training from Paige Andrew, and educational initiatives including getting maps into schools, school children into map libraries, and finding ways to educate the general public on how to use maps.

This was followed by a workshop and discussion on 'Advocating for our map collections.' As the University of Liverpool has recently joined the list of universities deciding to dispose of or greatly 'streamline' their map collections, we were invited to consider several questions that would help us advocate for the importance of our map collections and preserve them in the long term. We separated into breakout groups, to consider six questions, focusing on why our map collections are important, who knows about and values them, and the added value brought by specialist staff. The answers often related (appropriately enough) to geography; it is important for people to be able to access collections, to know what is available locally, and to find out about their own area. Additionally, physical separation of a map collection from the rest of the institution that holds it can lead to a culture of 'out of sight, out of mind', where front-of-house staff don't know how to facilitate access to the physical collection, even while maps are valued for their popularity with the public where exhibitions and web traffic are concerned. Map specialists can answer technical questions and keep information up to date, and they know how to search for resources and navigate the collection.

The discussions over, we reconvened in the afternoon and were welcomed by BCS President Seppe Cassettari before the main MCG workshop began. The title was 'Learning from lockdown', and it became clear over the course of the afternoon that there had been many positives to the Covid lockdown (to accompany the obvious negatives). These included acquiring new technology, using online activities to attract new audiences, improving services to readers, and simply catching up on jobs that we wouldn't usually have time to do.

First **Craig Statham** gave a fascinating description of the NLS's experience of lockdown: 'From onsite to online: reinventing National Library of Scotland talks and workshops in a pandemic'. As well as catching up on checking some scanned chapbooks, and writing blogs on the local area to encourage people who were confined to it, they also moved the library's many talks and interactive workshops from in-person sessions to online. Initially all online events were completely booked out. Some tweaking was necessary to reduce no shows (such as only allowing booking nearer to the time of the talk). Capacity was increased as it became evident that they were unlikely to be overwhelmed with questions. The audience went from being mostly local to having a substantial international element. (From a personal point of view, one of the good things about lockdown was having the opportunity to go to such a wide range of talks and lectures; both those for which it would have been hard to justify the time and expense of travelling, and those on other continents for which attendance was out of the question). For certain topics, such as workshops on using the NLS website, online teaching was very useful as readers could easily

break off to experiment before coming back for the next session. It is vital to have a moderator, rather than expecting one person to speak and also manage the session. The NLS is hoping to have a more blended approach in future with both online and in person talks. Some map-themed talks now have capacity of up to 1,000 and have booked out.

This was followed by an account of some impressive technological innovations at the library of the University of Manchester from **Donna Sherman**, in 'Responding to library lockdown'. She explained how, as it became clear that lockdown could be protracted and teaching would have to go online, new services and skills were developed which were invaluable at the time and could be useful in the future enabling blended learning in the longer term. The library started with using items that were already digitised in blogs and online stories (for which the platform selected was Medium).

Donna explained that the visualizers the library already owned were extremely popular and 175 remote sessions had been facilitated in the past year using them, of which about half were for local users from the University of Manchester. This has obvious potential for the future – people who don't want to travel a long distance to consult a single document are likely to make use of this service even as travel becomes easier in the future. One of the most impressive gains for maps was a ceiling-mounted visualizer, which was probably the envy of all those watching. It could be used in combination with a large display screen to enhance in-person teaching in future; it is much easier to show a detail from a map to a group on screen than expect everyone to cluster around the map. The kit was funded by the AHRC, but required a lot

of staff time and expertise to set up. The University remains committed to providing virtual appointments to consult collections alongside the return to physical access.

The next session was focused on history; **David Bate** talked about 'A brief history of geology and cartography at the British Geological Survey', reflecting on the history of the organisation that sponsored this year's conference. The man responsible for the beginning of the BGS was Henry de la Beche, described as an independently wealthy gentleman geologist. He began mapping the geology of parts of the UK using the OS maps as a base, starting with the area around Lyme Regis, where he lived and where there is much interesting geology. He proposed to the OS that geological information should be added to all the OS one inch maps, and was employed at the Ordnance Geological Survey from its establishment in 1835. The resulting maps were hand coloured and rather beautiful; de la Beche devised a colour scheme loosely based on the colour of the rocks. Early surveyors wore uniform, were issued with a map case (the uniform was soon dropped but the design of the case barely changed for over 100 years) and carried an impressive array of equipment. After de la Beche died in 1865, Murchison took over and the colour scheme became more scientific, with the same tone being used for rocks from the same geological period. De la Beche's desire for more detailed geological maps was eventually realised after his death, as we now have 1:50k scale maps which are surveyed at much larger scales.

During World War II the survey began employing women, and after the war began overseas geological surveys, eventually contributing to surveys in

169 countries, often in conjunction with local survey organisations. From the 1970s digital mapping was introduced; this and the colour printing from 1894 were the two biggest technical innovations.

This tied in nicely with the succeeding session, in which **Simon Harris** of BGS talked about 'Locating in lockdown: improving collections metadata at the British Geological Survey'. The collections in question were not maps but geological samples, picked up by surveyors since the earliest days of the survey in 1835 and still held now. However, information on where the samples were found is often sketchy. Most just have the name of a small place such as 'Ballard's quarry', with no further details such as county names to locate them geospatially; rectifying this requires human input.

The lockdown from March 2020 meant that many BGS employees were unable to carry out their regular work – they needed things like lab space, field access, or contact with other people, which were not available. About 20 of them worked on checking the locations of the samples, putting their time to use to carry out research that would not otherwise have been a priority. A website was created that generated random examples of locations to check, and staff used the description combined with the NLS's historic maps API (to which BGS paid for access) and other online sources to find precise coordinates. Around 35,000 points were checked, considerably improving the quality of access to the BGS collections.

Another take on identifying locations was provided in the next talk by **James January-McCann**, place names officer for the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, who spoke

about Collecting Welsh place names. The motivation behind this project is that many Welsh place names have been lost over time, especially when home owners change the name to something English which they find more intelligible or which, in the case of hotels and holiday cottages, they think will appeal to customers. The result is a sad loss of historical and local context, although the results are sometimes unintentionally amusing: for examples, 'Faerdre Fach' (the name indicates a farm and small manorial dwelling, and was over 500 years old) was changed to 'Happy Donkey Hill'. A farm name that referenced a local river name was changed to 'Mountain Sea View' to promote the glamping business located there, a name both unimaginative and inauthentic.

In 2016, legislation was passed to create a register of historical place names in Wales, so that even if a name is changed a record of the original survives. The list is freely available online in both Welsh and English, has over 670,000 names, and new ones are constantly added, from sources as diverse as tithe maps, deeds, monastic charters, and hand-drawn maps sent in by members of the public. The historical names include those in English, Latin and Norman French as well as Welsh, and includes those in specific local dialect of Pembrokeshire which often differs from the official Welsh name. Developers and councils can refer to the list when naming new roads, housing estates and so on.

The final talk of the afternoon was by **Stuart Ackland** of the Bodleian Map Room. He described how the lockdown followed immediately after a time of great activity and outreach for the Bodleian's map staff. The Talking Maps exhibition (which closed on schedule in March 2020) attracted

100,000 visitors, over 1,000 people attended lunchtime talks, and the associated outreach included many public library visits, some in conjunction with local history societies. So the sudden enforced lockdown and home working made a considerable contrast. The Bodleian's online chat service soon became very busy and its hours were extended, and staff made the most of the Map Room blog and Twitter to promote the collections.

The main project was to index around 16,000 map images; these had been scanned by a former colleague a few years ago, but there was only a brief index to the folders. All of these images were listed by staff working from home, and the full details of each map added to the list of image numbers. This has facilitated access to these images for staff and readers, and in the longer term will enable them to be uploaded to Digital Bodleian. Although the work was rather monotonous, it did enable staff to virtually flick through large chunks of the collection, encountering unexpected treasures along the way; there were many early printed maps including the lovely Gough collection for the British Isles, WWI trench maps, historical atlases and a range of twentieth-century material. Frequently staff stumbled across something that inspired a blog post.

This was similar to the experience at BGS locating the origins of rock samples; an important task, which required many hours of human input, had been sidelined for too long and the circumstances of lockdown and home working enabled staff to tackle it. This and the technical facilities for remote research and learning seen earlier made it clear that some substantial positives will come out of the lockdown.

Debbie Hall, Bodleian Library

Learning from Lockdown. New map room services at the University of Manchester Library

The University of Manchester Library closed on the 17th March 2020 in accordance with the University's decision to lockdown the campus in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. With just four hours' notice, we secured collections and grabbed what we could to enable us to work from home for what we thought would be just a few weeks.

However, it soon became clear that we were going to be closed for a lot longer and that we needed to prepare for all teaching to be delivered online in the following semester. A number of researchers were also working on collections with no access to the materials they were studying. These challenges ultimately led to three key outcomes, which we intend to develop further in the future:

- Face-to-face collections-based seminars were converted into online teaching resources, using existing digitised material
- A virtual reader service using Zoom technology and a visualizer was established, enabling readers to consult Special Collections items remotely
- A virtual classroom was established, expanding access to our Special Collections through blended and hybrid learning

These new resources and services utilised our map collections and provided an opportunity to expand our offer to students, academics, and members of the public. They are described in more detail below, along with some of the challenges and the

benefits which have been experienced along the way.

Online teaching resources

One of the services offered in the map room are collections-based seminars. These sessions are embedded into the

teaching programme and items from our special collections are used to prompt discussion and introduce students to working with primary source material.



Wolfvision Visualizer in use. Photo courtesy of Donna Sherman

It was essential that we continued to support students in their studies, so much of the content for upcoming and popular seminars were quickly converted into online resources. Content was created using the Medium blogging platform because it was free and simple to use. Short stories or blogs, are linked together by a key theme and usually include discussion points, suggested further reading and links to high-resolution images.

Some of the most popular seminars that include items from the map collections focus on the history and the urban development of Manchester. Therefore, a number of short stories or blogs were created about maps of the city, which contributed to a larger online resource called Made in Manchester.

Specific guides for taught courses were also generated, as well as introductions to various formats of material held within our collections (including maps). Further cartographic contributions will be made to resources, which explore themes such as colonialism and decolonisation and digital humanities.

As a result, teaching staff can access a set of curated material, which helps them to design and develop their modules. The resources have been particularly useful to new academics who are not yet familiar with our collections and have proved very popular with trainee teachers. They provide students with ideas and support for dissertation topics, and are freely available to members of the public. The full set of resources can be



Wolfvision visualizer and digital wall. Photo courtesy of Donna Sherman

viewed at <https://medium.com/special-collections>

Virtual reader service

By the end of July 2020, a very limited number of staff were able to access the building and its collections. They unearthed an abandoned desktop visualizer and established a virtual reader service, enabling readers to consult Special Collections items remotely using Zoom meeting software.

As a result, the University of Manchester Library was one of the first to establish a Virtual Reading Room in the UK. It utilised a Wolfvision desktop visualizer and was delivered via Zoom. One member of staff operates each session and up to four one-hour sessions can be delivered per day. 175 visualizer sessions were recorded in the 12-month period during July 2020 and June 2021 and it continues to be a popular service. Everyone who has used the service has said they found it either very useful or extremely useful and most users were extremely likely to use it again. However, one of the findings included in the evaluation of the service was that desktop visualizers are unsuitable for large items such as maps!

This realisation resulted in a quest to provide a similar service but for oversized objects. Initial trials using a GoPro camera and a pan, tilt and zoom (PTZ) conference camera had some success but were clunky to set up and use. Fortunately, some research funding for digital equipment became available from AHRC and this was used to purchase a Wolfvision ceiling-mounted visualizer. The visualizer can be connected to a laptop using a USB connection and live images can be transmitted to readers using video conferencing software such as Zoom. The colour and

resolution of image capture and the zoom range is very impressive. The smallest feature on a large Ordnance Survey sheet (75cm x 100 cm) is clearly visible to a virtual reader over Zoom.

The key benefits of the visualizer are listed below:

- Provides access to material when reader is not able to visit in person
- Provides access to material when digitisation is not possible
- Allows quick and accurate image capture which can be stored in device memory and then sent to the reader
- Curator/specialist staff can be present during Zoom presentations to provide advice and support (rather than supplying just the digitised image)
- Removes the time and expense involved in travel to the library
- Facilitates preliminary planning for in-person visits to the library
- High-resolution visualizers can sometimes 'see' better than the naked eye

There are also limitations, including:

- Expense
- Installation may require extra equipment or rearrangement of the room in which it is located.
- Technical support will be required from Media Services or IT departments
- Difficult to browse through large quantities of oversized material.
- May not be supported by some virtual meeting software
- Can feel a bit clumsy moving the object, rather than the camera – the whole object (if large) is not all in focus

- Frequently requested material would be better digitised

It remains to be seen how popular the service will be when readers fully return to campus but early signs indicate that it will continue to be highly valued.

Hybrid learning and virtual classrooms

Global crises drive technological change and whilst the terms blended and hybrid learning are not new, their development has accelerated radically since the beginning of the Covid pandemic in 2020. Both these approaches to learning require us to offer a flexible environment in which students and researchers can consult and use our collections.

During lockdown, our colleagues in Special Collections decided to take a DIY approach to creating a virtual classroom. A large part of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies MA usually takes place at the John Rylands Library, which houses most of our Special Collections. An important element of this course is the hands-on experience of consulting early printed materials but this was not possible whilst the building was inaccessible to visitors. Instead, the curator presented live demonstrations of objects via Zoom. She was able to join the students and the lecturer in real-time discussion and using multiple cameras, sound and lighting, could display and magnify a range of items as requested. Participants got a sense of the materiality and the size of the objects that is not always possible by consulting the digitised image alone.

The ceiling-mounted visualizer in the map room has enabled us to enhance our face-to-face teaching provision and to deliver seminars online. Two sessions were arranged for American Studies students, which focused upon

the history and urban development of Harlem and the surrounding areas.

The first session was delivered in person in the map room to ten students. The visualizer was connected to a large digital wall, which allowed the details of each map to be shared with the class simultaneously. The lecturer could zoom into different areas of the map as the discussion evolved.

The session was then repeated the next day by connecting the visualizer to a laptop and sharing the maps via Zoom during a live online seminar. In addition, the Zoom session was recorded, edited and made available to course members via YouTube.

There is still progress to be made. Delivery needs to be more polished and consideration needs to be given to whether duplication of sessions is worthwhile. Face-to-face sessions may also remain popular, particularly if time spent on campus is reserved for deeper discussion and in-person seminars.

However, the upscaling of teaching with Special Collections has been under review since before the pandemic. Perhaps virtual classrooms will give us an opportunity to reach a whole cohort of undergraduate students instead of a select few, whilst making sure that the value of face-to-face teaching is not lost or overlooked.

New services, new skills

The role of map curators and librarians is constantly evolving as we find new ways to make our collections accessible and relevant. Within the context of higher education, library services need to be aligned with the University's teaching and research activity and as such, adapt to changing pedagogies. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated online, hybrid and virtual

learning and in response, librarians have risen the challenge. New skills such as grappling with new digital equipment and conference software is yet another skill to add to our portfolios.

Current and future learning requires online resources and remote or virtual teaching to become more engaging, innovative, equitable and accessible. The same must also go for access to our collections and our related services. There will never be a substitute for encountering real maps, first hand but we can create experiences which can be enjoyed by more people, at any time and from across the globe.

So long as you have decent Wi-Fi...

Donna Sherman, University of Manchester

The List of Historic Place Names of Wales

Place names, and specifically the loss of historic Welsh language names, and their replacement by names in English, often coined by tourists, are a hot topic in Wales. This problem affects all types of names, from the topographical, such as the invention of the name 'Lake Australia' for Llyn Bochlywd in Gwynedd, on the supposed basis that the shape of the lake resembles that of Australia, to property names, such as when Faerdre Fach, a house name recorded as far back as the 15th century, was re-named 'Happy Donkey Hill' because the new owner had opened a donkey sanctuary there, and was unable to pronounce Faerdre Fach.

Quite apart from the unfortunate optics of a change from Welsh nomenclature to English, at a time when Welsh speakers are being priced out of their own communities by incomers and

second-home owners with deeper pockets from across the border, name loss such as this also represents a loss of understanding of the history and culture of a place. Llyn Bochlywd for example, takes its name from the time when a stag was seen swimming in the lake, with only its grey (llwyd) cheek (boch) showing above the water. The name Faerdre Fach attests to the fact that the land was worked by unfree tenants of the local noble court. Unlike English place names, the vast majority of Welsh language names can be readily understood by Welsh speakers, and thus the history and culture of an area remains alive for them in a very immediate way, which is unfortunately not accessible to the monoglot English speaker.

The problem is sufficiently acute that the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 established a List of Historic Place Names, that would act as a statutory resource for developers and local authorities to use in the naming and re-naming of houses and streets, to ensure that historic names would be used, rather than artificial new creations. The List also functions as a repository, so that if a name is changed, it remains available online for future generations, whatever the plaque on the house might say. Following its launch in 2017, the List now contains 692,867 place names, all geo-located and freely viewable by the public on our website <https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/>.

Maps are strongly represented amongst the resources used in compiling the List, with the two largest collections of names coming from the 1840s tithe maps, digitised as part of a project run by the National Library of Wales, and the 1900 Second Edition OS map, digitised by the GB1900 project, respectively. Taken together,

these two sources account for over 600,000 names, the vast majority of the List's contents. This is no means the end of the use made of historic mapping however. Several members of the public have sent in old maps of their farms, or of their local area, which has enabled us to trace some names back to as early as the 17th century.

such as a map of Kenfig in Glamorgan, dating from 1569–97.

The List is an ongoing project, with more names being added all the time, and cartographical sources will continue to be a large part of our work. We are currently working with the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates



An illustration of the number of historical forms of the name Carmarthen. Image courtesy of James January-McCann

For example, the modern farm name Blaensaith Fawr in Ceredigion is recorded as Blaensaith-fawr in 1900, Blaen saith uchaf in 1840, Blaen Saith in 1772 and Blaine dyffrin Saith in 1634. We also have more recent maps, from the late twentieth century, which allow us to trace the development of field names since the tithe. Some 1,700 of these were collected as part of 'Perci Penfro,' a community-led project in northern Pembrokeshire which gathered current field names from the farming community. In several areas we have also been able to use old town maps,

on an AHRC-funded project looking at estate maps from c.1500–1930, the place name data from which will eventually be incorporated into the List. We are also working on a project to digitise enclosure maps from the period before the tithe maps, which will provide us with some of the earliest recorded examples of Welsh field names.

*James January-McCann,
CADW*

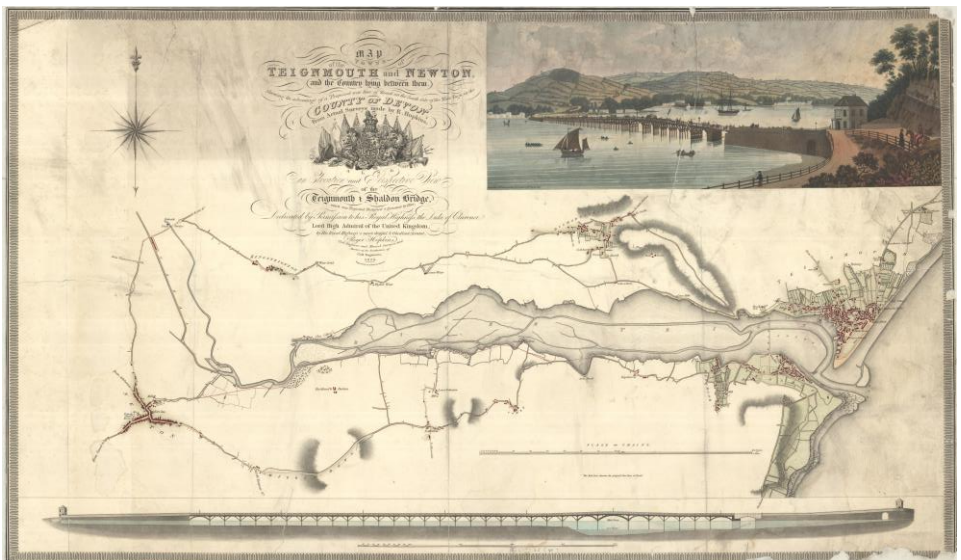
What we did during the lockdown: how the Bodleian Map Department filled the time, dealt with enquiries and the benefits and disadvantages of working from home

When our 'Talking Maps' exhibition finished on the 8 March, staff at the Bodleian Map Department had just come to the end of a most successful and enjoyable twelve months. Our outreach programmes had seen staff visit public libraries as well as schools, we'd welcomed into the library groups as diverse as visiting Librarians, inner-city sixth formers and primary school children. And then there was the exhibition itself. Over the course of eight months staff gave regular lunchtime talks in a room full of our most wonderful and special maps. What could possibly go wrong?

Looking back on March last year my overriding memory is of how quickly

things changed. One minute staff were having a drink to celebrate thirty years of service by one of us, squeezed around a pub table with not a cough or a face mask in sight, the next minute our beloved leader is on the television telling us things need to shut down, then at work the next day Bodley's Librarian is telling us to go home and look after ourselves. After a few days getting used to being at work, but not at work, if you know what I mean, things started to settle down. Weekly Zoom meetings with colleagues were a chance to keep in touch and discuss what we could do. Luckily a few of us had book projects on the go and enquiries still came in via email, though those soon dried up. Eventually, as March turned into April and then May (how long was this going to last?) we needed to come up with something to keep us going.

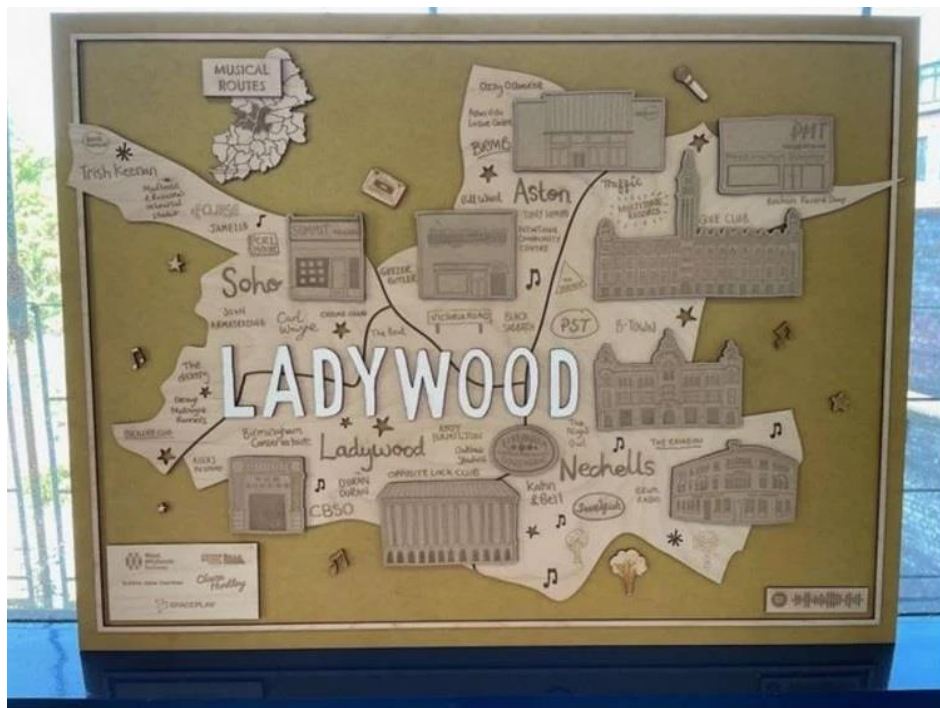
Back In 2012 there had been a project to scan select maps in the collection. First our trench maps, then named collections and finally all our pre-1850



River Teign. Image courtesy of Stuart Ackland

printed sheet maps. This was a huge undertaking covering over 16,000 images, but as the images weren't linked in any way to anything that could identify what each scan showed we had no way of knowing what was available. So a plan was hatched. First we got our Digital Library Services department to create spreadsheets of the shelf marks that had been copied. Then we went through the images, matching them up with the spreadsheet entries. This was crucial in making any sense of what we had and has proved to be a very useful exercise, certainly worth the effort taken, and has benefitted us in a number of ways. During lockdown it gave us access to some wonderful images that allowed us write new blog posts, useful in promoting the collection and getting our maps 'out there' when everything was shut down (such as this [blog about the River Teign](#), map illustrated above) and it also helped on a number of occasions with reader enquiries. Finally our technical departments would now be able to post the images onto our online viewing platform [Digital Bodleian](#) (ox.ac.uk) increasing by a considerable number the amount of maps on the site. This was a job that needed doing, but as it was going to time consuming and while in the office there would always be more important things to do we had always put it off. Lockdown provided the perfect opportunity, and managed, even if it was just as images on a computer screen, to keep us in touch with our marvellous maps.

*Stuart Ackland,
Bodleian Library*



Ladywood Musical Map. Image courtesy of West Midland Railway

Endpiece

Musical Heritage Project, Birmingham

The map above is one of a number of Musical Maps installed at Birmingham railway stations, as part of a project to recognise and celebrate the musical heritage of Birmingham. The locations highlighted on the Musical Maps include venues, record shops, radio stations and musician's local history. There will be 30 specially commissioned wooden maps in all, including artists such as Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath, Jamelia, UB40, Joan Armatrading and many more. For more information see <https://www.21stories.co.uk/musical-routes>.

The maps are constructed in wood with a 3D effect, and were created by city-based studio Space Play. They will feature Spotify codes that connect to a curated playlist for each area.

Judith Fox

Not the last Page

Dates for your Diary

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, most scheduled face-to-face events have been cancelled.

The TOSCA series for 2020-2021 is available online at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMMT6JPEQdLrxAgd4Q2dfdUMB265XJ7KT>.

BCS Teatime Talks are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, see <https://www.cartography.org.uk/teatime-talks> for more information.

2022

3 February 2022, 4.30pm, UK time.
Mark Monmonier (Syracuse University) – **Writing the life and work of John Byron Plato: serendipity, challenges, and implications.** *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom
https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps/to_sca

17 February 2022, 4.30pm, UK time.
Carla Lois (Universidad de Buenos Aires) – **The thinking hand: sketch maps and geography in late 19th-century education.** *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom.
https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps/to_sca

22 February 2022, 5.30pm UK time
Sara Caputo (Magdalene College Cambridge) – **Tracking, surveillance, and maritime cartography in the long nineteenth century.** *Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography*. Via Zoom.
<https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem>

10 March 2022, 5.00pm UK time.
Catherine Scheybeler – **Cartography**

as Naval Power: The Atlas Marítimo de España (1789). *Maps and Society Lecture Series, Warburg Institute*.
<https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series>

7 April 2022, 5.00pm UK time.
Lexie Cook (Columbia University, New York) – **Island, Archive, Além-Mar: the Insular Mechanics of Iberian Expansion.** *Maps and Society Lecture Series, Warburg Institute*
<https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series>

3 May 2022, 5.30pm UK time.
Joy Slappnig (Royal Holloway, University of London) – **The historical significance of indigenous maps** (title TBC). *Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography*. Via Zoom.
<https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem>

19 May 2022, 5.30pm UK time.
Kevin Wittmann (Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain) – **Turning the world inside out: T-O maps in an English almanac (c.1420).** *Maps and Society Lecture Series, Warburg Institute*.
<https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series>

September 2022. Map Curator's Workshop. Online Details TBC.

lis-maps

lis-maps is a forum for discussing news, ideas, issues, policies and practices related to map & spatial data librarianship. Topics can be broad ranging including: acquisition; cataloguing; use; information retrieval; management of metadata; relationship to GIS & RS; collaborative work; conservation. For more information see: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/lis-maps.html>

To join lis-maps just send the message: join lis-maps <your name> as the only text in the body of an e-mail addressed to:
jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk

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