An Alternate Career Choice for the Geography Major: Map, GIS, or Geographic Information Librarianship

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Overview of today's talk

- Brief introduction to librarianship
- Map, GIS, Geographic Information Librarians
- Special projects in libraries
- How the geography (and related) degrees support this work
- Degree requirements for librarianship
- Collaboration is Win-Win

Librarianship You Ask?

- Libraries are changing
  - Transition to digital information
  - Increasing specialization and use of technology
  - Library user interacting differently with information
- Scholarship is changing
  - Electronic publications shorten time to publication
  - Copyright / fair use
  - Collaborative learning
  - Smaller units of information and data

Librarian

- Main work categories:
  - Up front (reference desk, instruction)
  - Behind the scenes (cataloging, database licensing, journal subscriptions)
  - Managers (planning, budgeting, supervising)
- Great deal of specialization, particularly in university or corporate library setting
- Job growth, increasing IT emphasis
- Starting salary in universities– $40,000+

Map Librarianship

- Specialization took hold after WWII – rise of map collections in libraries
- Collect - maps, atlases, and aerial photos
- Instruction and user support
- Organize and preserve collection
- Create bibliographies, web guides
- Recently → Scanning and web exhibits

GIS Librarianship

- Growth of GIS in libraries over 15 years
  - 1992 - Association of Research Libraries & ESRI partner for GIS Literacy Project
  - 1999, 60% of libraries surveyed provide some GIS services
  - 2005, all libraries surveyed provide GIS services
- GIS services vary – most assist in finding and collecting data; some give training, digitize or create maps; few handle campus site license and have dedicated GIS computer labs in libraries

Geographic Information Librarianship

- Recently formed by merging, overlap of print Map and GIS Librarianship duties
- Spans both print and digital worlds
  - Taking cartographic information in the form it comes in, often converting from one to the other
- Follows evolution of print to digital format for many key sources and growth of geospatial data in libraries and on web
  - Census → American Factfinder
  - National Atlas (was print now is on internet)

Map and GIS Projects in Libraries

- Build geodatabase and clearinghouses of locally held GIS data
- Map-based search interfaces
  - Yahoo!Map and Google Earth
- Digitizing maps – put on webpage or in digital library
  - Portal to Texas History (UNT)
  - Perry Castenada Library web page (UT)
  - Geologic Atlas of the U.S. (A&M)
- ArcIMS used to present GIS dataset (A&M)
- GIS lab & help desk in library (UT-Arlington)

Portal to Texas History
Texas Soil Surveys (UNT)

The Portal to Texas History -- Texas Soil Surveys

Page Tools

Reconnoissance soil survey of the panhandle region of Texas

Date: 1911-10-26

Creator: Carter, William T. (William Thomas)

Description: Soil survey of 26 counties in the panhandle region of Texas. Included are Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler counties. Text describes the area, climate, soils, agriculture, and irrigation of these counties.

> more info

Soil map, Bee County, Texas

Date: 1938-10

Creator: United States. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

Description: Map displays soil types along with creeks, towns, schools, churches, power transmission lines, oil and gas pipelines, roads, and railroads. Includes legend and symbols.

> more info

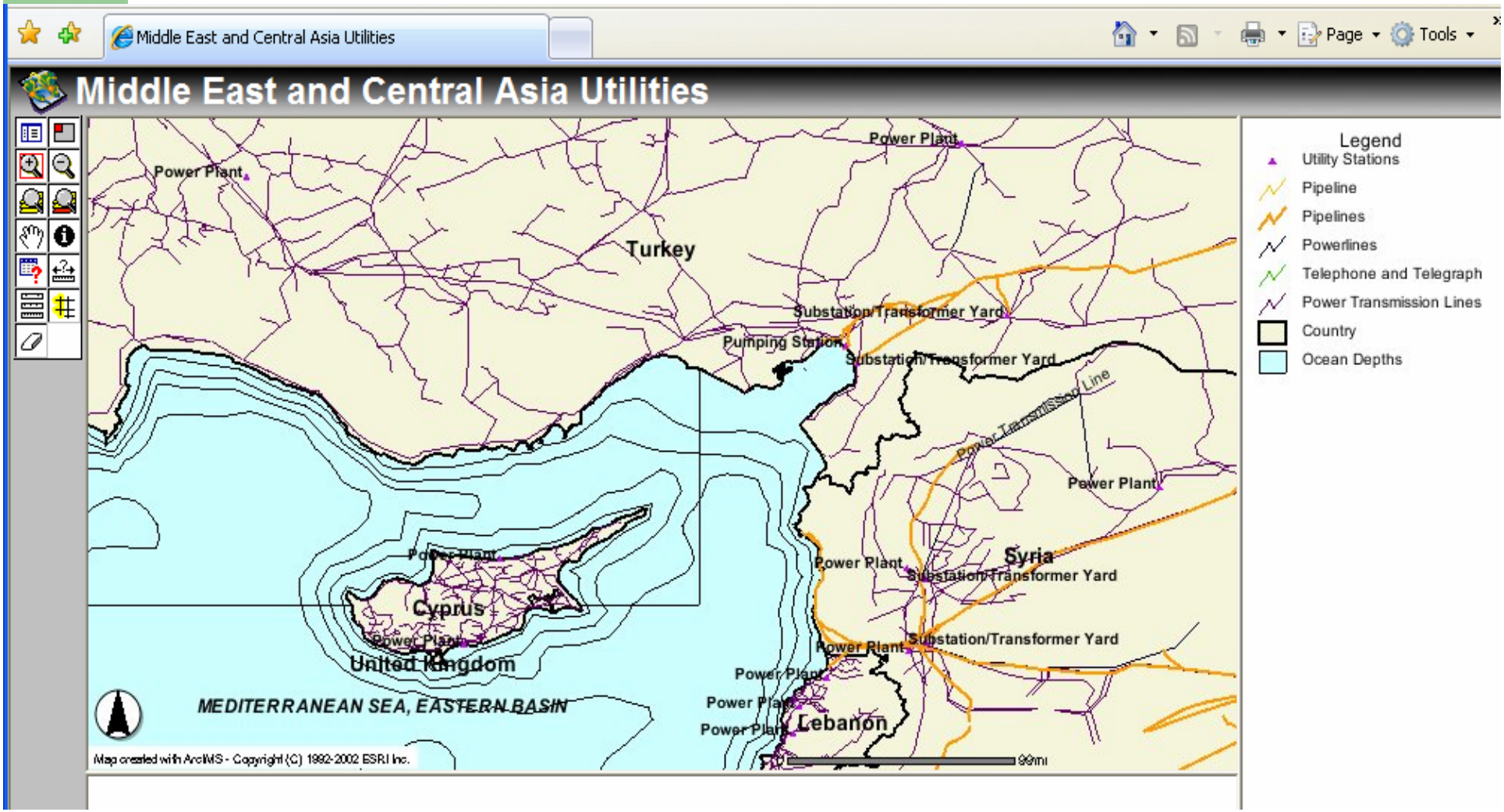
Soil map, Brown County, Texas

Date: 1948-03

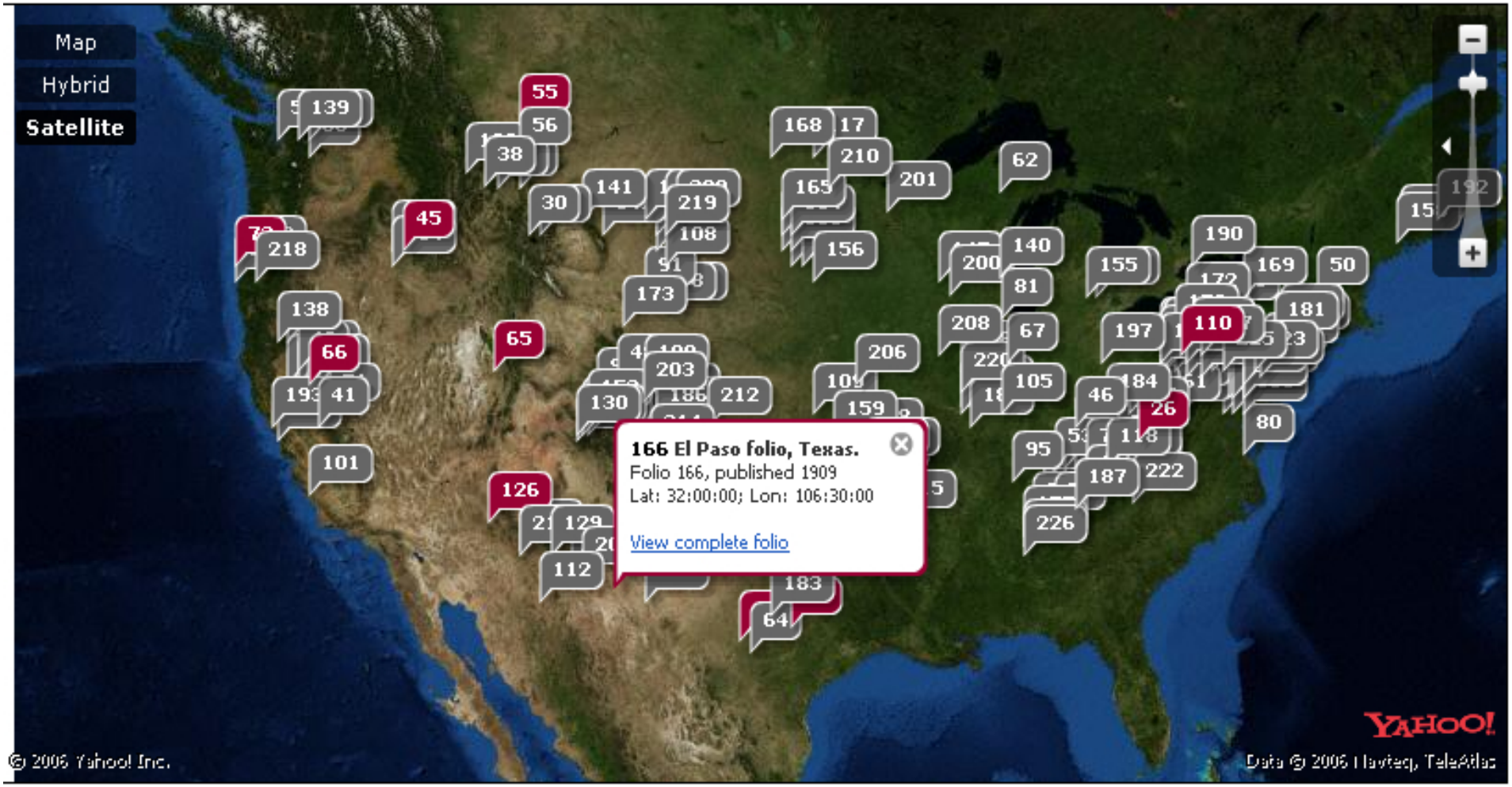
Creator: United States. Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Description: Map displays soil types along with bayous, lakes, rivers, agricultural field stations, refineries, pipelines, power transmission lines, towns, churches, country clubs, roads, and railroads. Includes legend and symbols. Separate, supplemental chart shows principle characteristics of each soil type. A polyconic projection, North American datum. "Horizontal control by U.S. G. S. and U. S. C. and G. S. 10000 foot grid based upon Texas (Central) system of plane coordinates." With supplemental soil chart, 36 x 35 cm.

ArcIMS presentation of Dataset

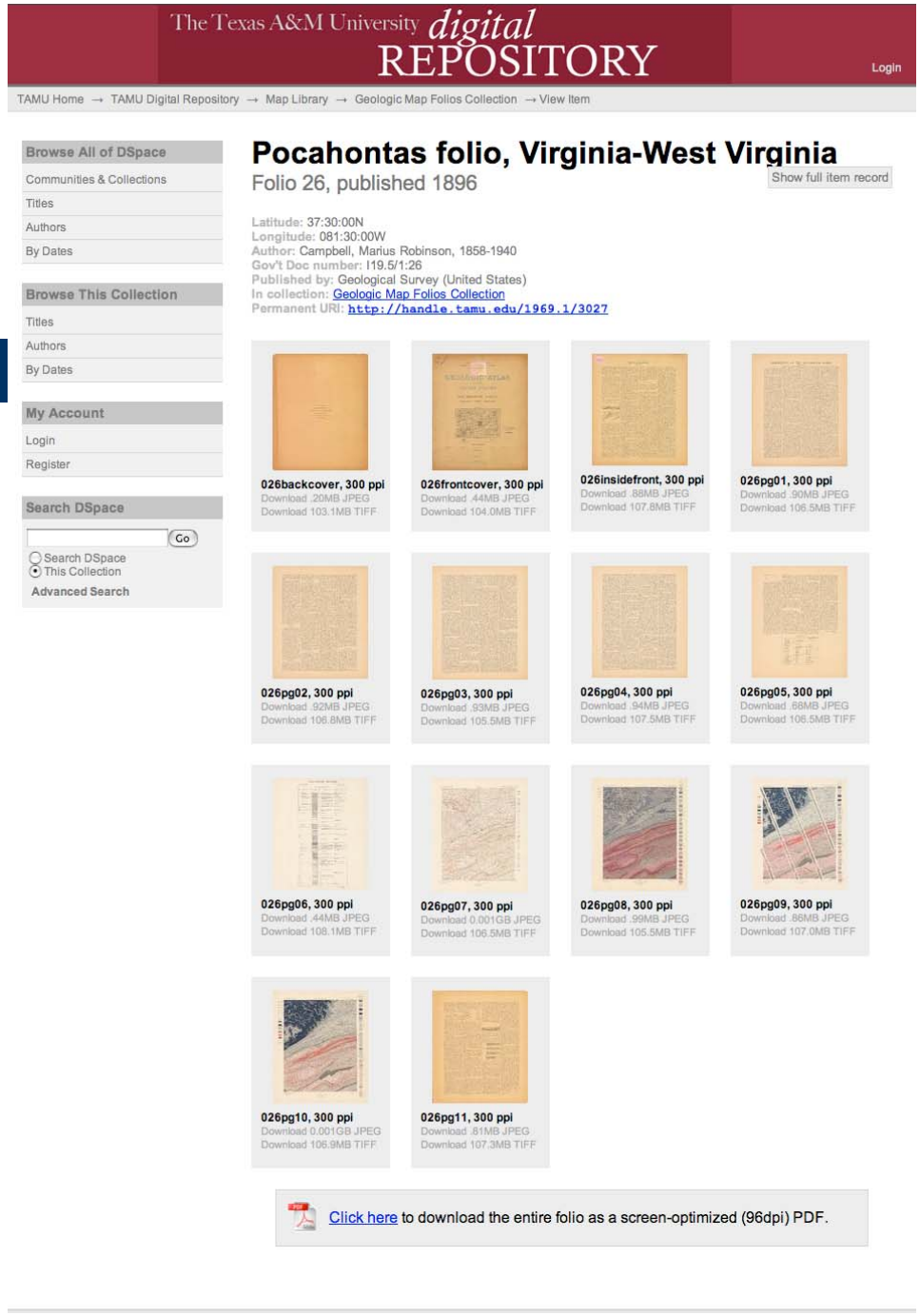


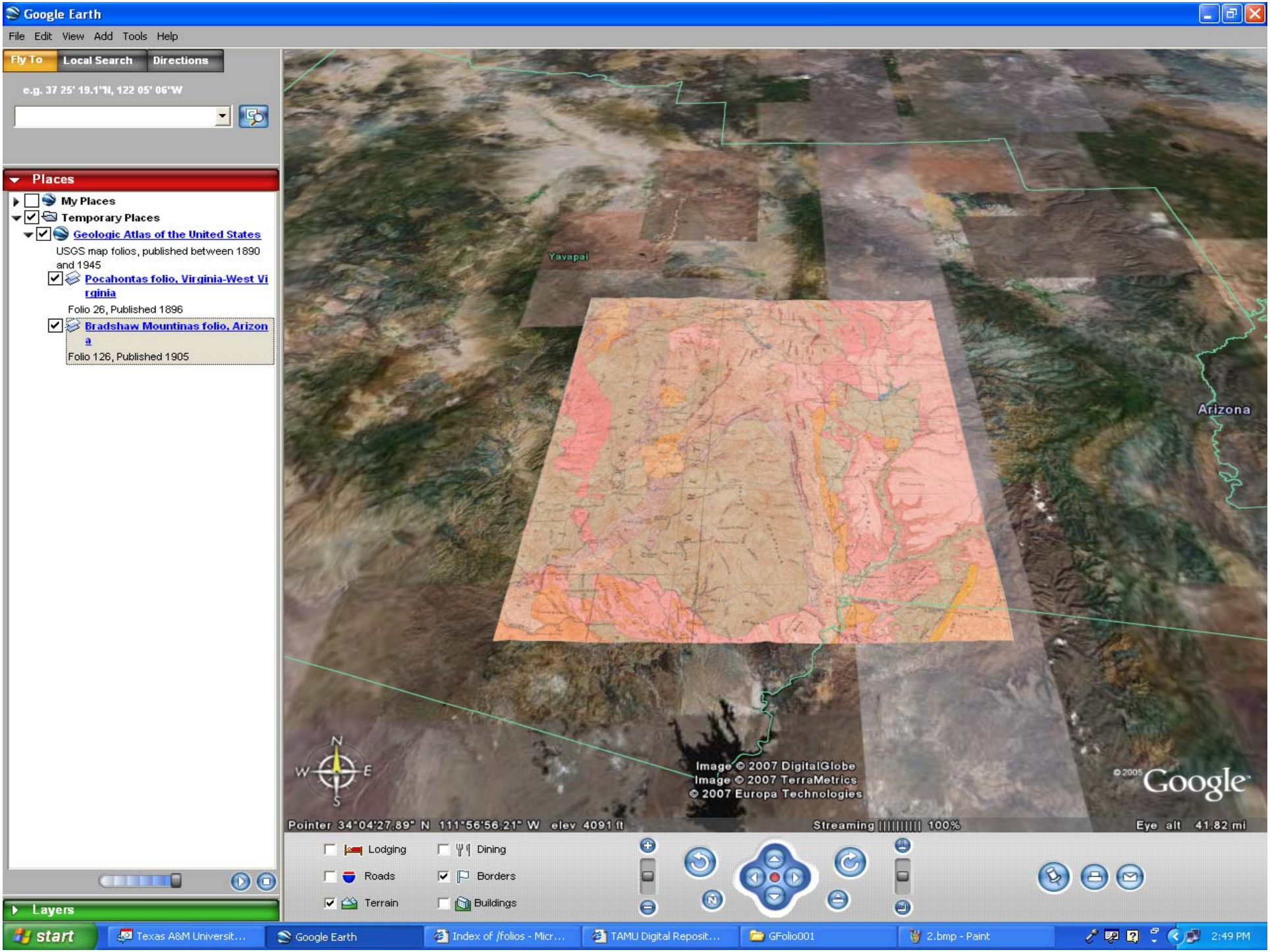
YahooMap Interface to Geologic Atlas of the United States



Gallery Display

One volume of *Geologic Atlas of the United States* with gallery display in Institutional Repository

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Places
My Places
Temporary Places
Geologic Atlas of the United States
USGS map folios, published between 1890 and 1945
Pocahontas folio, Virginia-West Virginia
Folio 26, Published 1896
Bradshaw Mountinas folio, Arizona
Folio 126, Published 1905
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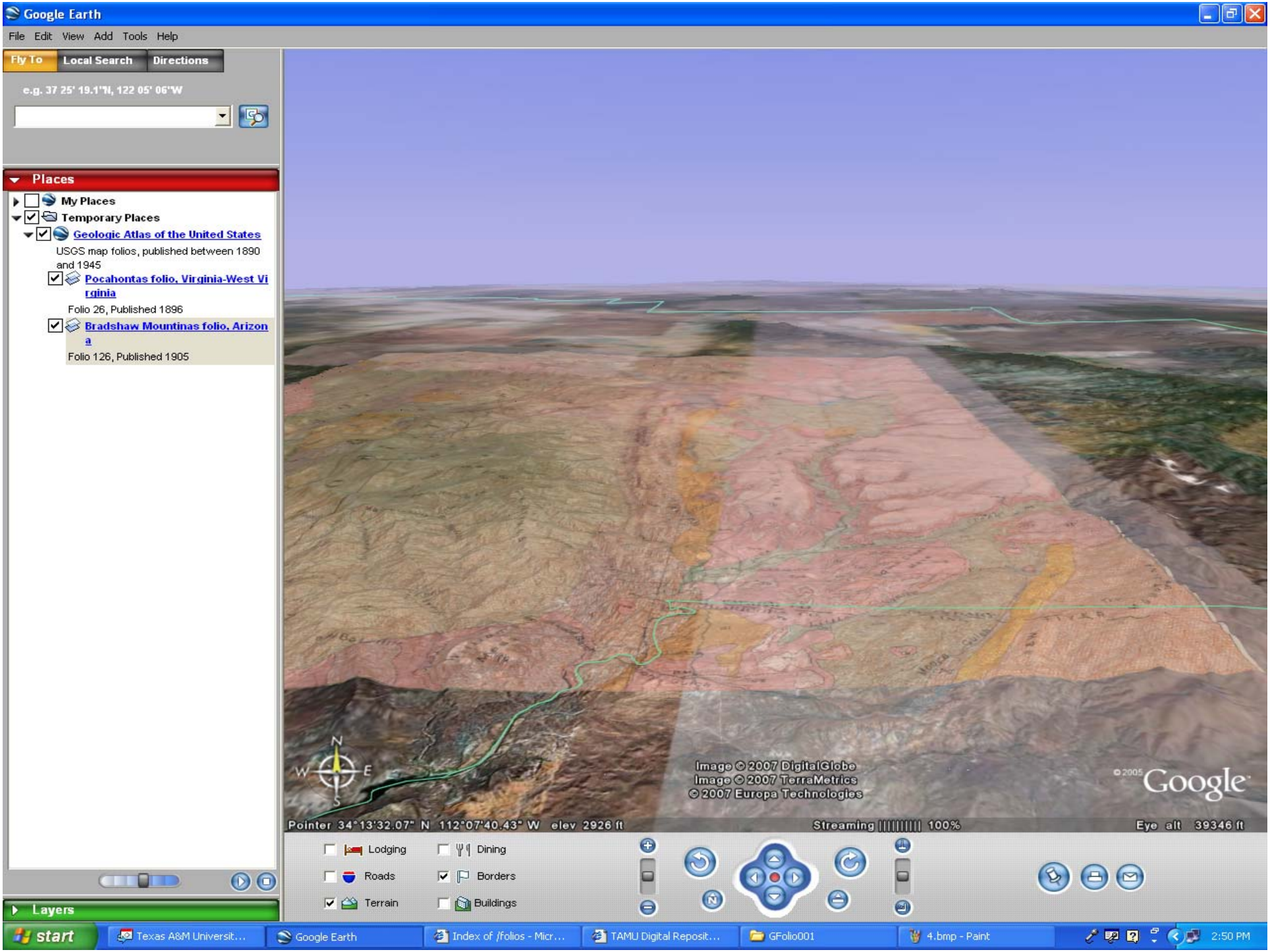
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Geographic Knowledge in Action

- Geographic concepts are put to use when:
  - Teaching library users how to read a map
    - coordinates, grids, legend, scale, revisions
  - Locating places from coordinates or grids
  - Purchasing maps
  - Creating catalog or metadata records
  - Doing any type of GIS work
  - Knowing how maps are used!

Degree Requirements

- BA/BS in any subject, with Geography, Environmental Sciences or related degree preferred for map or GIS positions
- Master's degree from American Library Association Accredited program of Library or Information Science
  - Many have distance education courses and some have completely online degrees


American Library Association Accredited Programs
U- Alberta
U- British Columbia
U- Washington
McGill, U- Montreal
U- Western Ontario
U- Toronto
Dalhousie
SUNY - Albany
Syracuse
Wayne State
Simmons
U- Wisconsin - Milwaukee
U- Michigan
U- Rhode Island
U- Wisconsin - Madison
SUNY - Buffalo
So. Connecticut State
CUNY - Queens College, Pratt, St. John's, Long Island U.
Kent State
Clarion
Iowa
Rutgers
Dominican
Indiana
Drexel
U- Pittsburgh
San Jose State
Emporia State
U- Denver
U- Illinois
U- Kentucky
U- Maryland
Catholic
North Carolina Central U.
UNC - Chapel Hill
U- Missouri - Columbia
U- Oklahoma
UCLA
U- Tennessee
UNC - Greensboro
U- Arizona
U- Alabama
U- South Carolina
U-So. Mississippi
U- North Texas, Texas Woman's
Florida State
Louisiana State
U- Texas
U- South Florida
U- Hawaii
U- Puerto Rico
American Library Association. Alphabetical List of Institutions with ALA-Accredited Programs.
Date of access, Oct. 5, 2007. <http://www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/lisdirb/Alphaaccred.htm> Map created Oct. 22 2007.

Who Should Consider Map & GIS Librarianship?

- Those interested in a service profession and academic or research environment
- Those who want to use their degree and enjoy the variety of teaching, collaboration, use of general technology and GIS, and enjoy the mix of historical and high tech
- Try it out – Take a job as part time student assistant or full time staff member

How Geography Department can support this Specialization

- Build interdisciplinary collaboration between Geography & Library/Info Programs
- Cross list and team teach courses
  - Metadata, Database & Geodatabase design
- Build a specialized Curriculum–
  - Dual Master's degree
  - Library/Information Science Certificate requiring Geography / GIS courses

Summary

- Jobs are available – Libraries are hiring!
- Employees with knowledge of geography support rapidly expanding map and GIS services and collections in libraries.
- Further information
  - American Library Association (www.ala.org)
  - Association for Library & Information Science Education (www.alise.org)
  - Special Libraries Association (www.sla.org)

Thank You!

- Questions?

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