

THE FOUNDING OF ALA'S MAP AND GEOGRAPHY ROUND TABLE

LOOKING BACK TO SEE THE FUTURE

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Abstract

In 1979, a group of map librarians founded the American Library Association's Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT). An examination of the organization's creation and early history offers a glimpse into the state of map librarianship at that time, as well as into the role of professional organizations of map librarians for their members, and how these founding concepts are still relevant today.

Background

Map collections in North American libraries and the professional specialty of map librarianship grew rapidly in the post-WWII period. By the 1970's, map librarians had few options for professional affiliation. One group had a long history: the Geography and Map Division (G&M) of the Special Libraries Association (SLA), which had been in existence since 1944.¹ In 1967 an additional group with a regional focus was established: the Western Association of Map Librarians (WAML).² In the same year, Canadian librarians formed the Association of Canadian Map Libraries (ACML, now the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, or ACMLA).³ The Cartographic Users Advisory Committee (later Council, and referred to as CUAC) was also newly formed and was active as a collaborative network across these groups. CUAC exists primarily to give

input to USGS and national agencies and hosts annual meetings.

Founded in 1876, the American Library Association (ALA) has a long history, and a broad membership base composed of school, public and academic librarians, of many backgrounds and areas of specialization. By the late 1970's, paralleling the rapid growth in librarianship, ALA had over 35,000 members and a number of well established Divisions and Round Tables.⁴ It was, and still is, the largest professional association for librarians in North America. However, there was no group dedicated to map collections and related issues in ALA at that time. Somewhat new at the time, ALA's 'Round Table' concept provided an independent and centralized gathering place for librarians on a focused topic without the boundaries imposed upon a smaller affiliate, so was not subsumed in a division structure. Of particular interest to map librarians was the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), which was founded in 1972,⁵ since many map collections hold a high proportion of government-published maps, and often librarians serve as both documents and map librarians.

The Precursor: Issues with SLA

To understand the motivations for the formation of MAGERT, one must delve into the history of the Special Libraries Association Geography and Map Division (SLA G&M). This organization was founded in 1941 and was the predominant national professional association for map

librarians through the 1970s. SLA G&M had 200 members in 1971, and almost doubled during the 1970s.⁶ Despite its long history and a plethora of programs and professional enhancement offerings, dissatisfaction was evident among some members. Active G&M member, David Cobb, writing in the Division's *Bulletin*, questioned the effectiveness of the Division on the national scene—particularly on such issues as establishing a formal relationship with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and with influencing the Library of Congress (LC) regarding cataloging rule revisions. Cobb suggested that affiliating with the American Library Association might be advantageous.⁷ In response, member Stanley Stevens, also an active WAML member, suggested that a larger federation of the numerous library-related cartographic associations be created.⁸

Dissatisfaction intensified to the point that a number of members considered breaking away from SLA, culminating in June, 1979, with the Chair of the SLA Geography and Map Division, Kathleen Zar, assigning a committee to consider alternatives for professional association, including: affiliation with ALA, affiliation with another organization, formation of an independent association, or continued affiliation with SLA. Each alternative was studied and reported on in the March 1980 *Bulletin*.⁹ Along with the published alternatives was a ballot for members to record their opinion.

David Cobb led the SLA “disaffiliation” movement and was a key player in the development of the Map and Geography Round Table. In June 1979, he wrote to Mary Galneder

that he intended “to propose at the SLA meeting in Honolulu, that a committee be formed to investigate the advantages/disadvantages of ALA,” and noted that G&M had “so little in common with the other SLA Divisions and so much with many ALA sections.” He added that the dues structure was more favorable in ALA, and maintained that “the fact that our members interested in cataloging could attend LRTS meetings -- increasing our input into cataloging changes—coupled with informal relationships with GODORT and ACRL—both of which we have a great deal in common—seem to favor such a move.”¹⁰ The groups Cobb referred to were the Library Resources and Technical Services Division, the Government Documents Round Table, and the Association of College and Research Libraries. Cobb foresaw that the opportunities afforded map librarians by affiliating with ALA would provide numerous avenues for collaboration and expanded professional development offerings.

In an effort to sort through the widening gulf in its members, Division leadership met with SLA leadership at the 1980 Winter Meeting in San Antonio. G&M Chair, Mary Larsgaard, presented the Division's complaints to the President and Executive Director and other SLA leaders which included a lack of communication between the Division and the Association (in both directions); the ineffectiveness of publications, particularly *Special Libraries* for Division members; the delay in publishing *Map Collections*, 3rd ed.; and lastly, the lack of representation on the revisions of AACR (the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules).¹¹

To understand the import of the revisions of AACR to G&M Division members, it should be kept in mind that cataloging work was rapidly evolving, with computer networking and cooperative cataloging creating new challenges for catalogers. The online cataloging networks, OCLC (originally the Ohio College Library Center) and RLIN (Research Library Information Network), as well as the machine-readable cataloging code, i.e. 'MARC' code, were newly developed. Map catalogers, as compared to book catalogers, had long enjoyed much independence, but at this time they correctly recognized the need for greater uniformity and collaboration. Rules for cartographic materials, in particular, were evolving rapidly, with the *International Standard Bibliographic Description for Cartographic Materials / ISBD (CM)* published in 1977. In a 2010 interview, Larsgaard reflected back on that time, and noted the great importance of the cataloging revisions to map librarians and the frustration felt by SLA members in not being involved in the writing of AACR2: "When [AACR2] came out, it was a complete surprise to us ... I didn't even know a new edition was being worked on! We had nothing to say about them, whatsoever, nothing. Nothing!"¹² She resolved at that time that map catalogers needed to be part of ALA's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA).

Cobb, laying out the issues at hand in *Special Libraries*, complained that SLA did not ask for input into ISBD(CM) or AACR2, and that neither OCLC nor RLIN contacted the group for input into their map formats. He observed that Division members

rarely attended the programs of other divisions. Further, he maintained that the primary long-term benefit of affiliation with ALA would be that map librarians could move into the mainstream of librarianship, with other academic and research librarians, and have the ability to collaborate with GODORT and ACRL members.¹³ In a stinging rebuttal, SLA President, Joseph M. Dagnese, countered that Division members did not speak up during the writing of AACR2, and questioned whether members would actually attend the ACRL or GODORT meetings if they were not already attending other SLA division programs. Dagnese denied Cobb's assertions, and stated that SLA has been "most hospitable" to G&M, and suggested that better communication in the future would help the division's efforts.¹⁴ Robert Lane, a member of both G&M and ACRL, suggested that SLA and ALA had different strengths, and that the question should not be either/or. He maintained that SLA G&M's strengths were its creative programs and its publication, the *Bulletin*.¹⁵ Despite steps being taken to repair the breakdown between SLA's leadership and the Geography & Map Division's members, the process was already underway toward the formation of a new map librarianship organization within ALA.

Considering ALA

In August of 1979, four map librarians met with representatives of the American Library Association. The range of issues discussed concerned the ALA dues structure (both the

larger organization and the specialty group), a comparison of the percent of overhead retained by the parent organization from the specialty group dues, the need for a petition with 100 signatures, meeting requirements, and publishing and membership support services. Attending the meeting were David Cobb, Mary Galneder, Robert Karrow, and Kathleen Zar. In Cobb's recap of the meeting to Mary Larsgaard he observed, "I believe we should personally, and collectively, continue to seriously consider alternatives to SLA and I believe ALA membership has some very strong points in its favor."¹⁶

Mary Galneder, a member of the SLA Geography and Map Division Disaffiliation Committee, outlined the issues at hand, and organizational alternatives in a November 1979 memo to seventeen SLA G&M long-term members.¹⁷ She noted multiple reasons for the group's dissatisfaction: the small portion of members' dues that was returned to the Division (\$2.50 out of \$40.00); the length of time it took to publish the *Directory of Map Collections* (manuscript submitted by June 1976 and published in mid-1978); and SLA lack of input, particularly on special materials, into the AACR revisions. Additionally, Galneder observed that, other than on the issue of copyright, the group did not seem involved with other national library issues. She also noted that SLA seemed geared to librarians in private companies rather than to public or academic libraries where most geography and map librarians are employed, and that neither the SLA Headquarters staff nor Board of Directors had been responsive to the problems of the Division (noting,

however, the possibility for change under the newly installed director, David Bender). Galneder closed the memo with the reminder that "any decisions about membership in SLA or other organizations will be made by each individual when it comes time to renew or join another organization."¹⁸

In order to prepare a petition to ALA, Cobb penned a letter to eleven individuals asking for their signatures, and requested that they each gather signatures from ten to fifteen of their colleagues for the required 100 names to accompany the petition (Appendix A). The signatures were due back to Cobb by December 15, 1979.¹⁹

The Formation of MAGERT

The petition to form MAGERT moved forward and was up for consideration at the ALA Council meeting at the 1980 Midwinter conference. An Ad Hoc Organizing Committee was formed, with members David Cobb, Mary Larsgaard, Robert Karrow, Richard Fox and Charles Seavey. It requested the acronym 'MAGERT' rather than 'MGRT,' which had been used in the group's initial communication with ALA.²⁰ Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director of ALA, wrote to Cobb (as Chair of the MGRT Organizing Committee) on February 22, 1980, "I am pleased to report for the record that the ALA Council, on January 24, 1980, approved the establishment of a Map and Geography Round Table...."²¹

Not all went smoothly, however, with plans to affiliate with ALA. Russell Shank, on the Executive Board of ALA, cast a dissenting vote against the formation of MAGERT. He

explained, in a letter to Cobb, that the reason for his dissent was “purely institutional.”²² Further, Shank spelled out that the Executive Board had been trying to cope with the size of the association for some time, particularly relating to rising costs and difficulties in scheduling space for conference meetings. By way of apology, perhaps, Shank offered a level of support, mentioning that Cobb now had “your unit and your command of time slots in the ALA schedule...and indirect command of ALA overhead...I trust that you will use them well.”²³

A notice appeared in the March 1980 SLA G&M *Bulletin* announcing ALA’s approval of the formation of the Map and Geography Round Table. Both a plea for members and a statement of goals, the notice stated:

On January 24, 1980, the American Library Association approved the formation of a Map and Geography Roundtable. The Roundtable hopes to attract members from academic, research and public libraries. An organizational meeting and program is being scheduled for the ALA Annual Conference in New York this summer. As stated in the organization’s goals and objectives, “...the Roundtable will address not only the immediate practical and procedural problems of cartographic and geographic material curatorship but will also encourage scholarly research in areas pertaining to map and geography librarianship.”

Although there are a substantial number of full-time map librarians, far

more frequently the librarian working with maps has this responsibility as a half-or quarter-time job, and therefore may have little time or opportunity to work on cartographic materials problems. The Map and Geography Roundtable will allow the traditionally isolated cartographic materials librarians to meet, discuss and solve their mutual problems.

*For more information, please contact the American Library Association, 50 East Huron, Chicago, IL 60611, and attend the organizational meeting in New York.*²⁴

In the same issue of the *Bulletin*, Jeremiah B. Post, long-term member of SLA G&M, speaking as an “elder statesman,” pointed out the positive effect that the Division had on map librarianship, as well as the long period of dissatisfaction that the group had with the SLA parent body. Post suggested that the group had worked well as a “club,” but that as a practical matter most members were full-time map librarians, and that the Round Table within ALA could perhaps effectively reach a wider span of librarianship. Post wrote that the round table should be viewed as a “missionary arm” of map librarians, and that the group would facilitate “spreading the cartographic word” to catalog and acquisition librarians, administrators, rare book librarians, documents librarians and others in the traditional library world.²⁵



Figure 1. At Midwinter, 1981, David Cobb states, "I'm asking GPO and OCLC: 'What are you going to do for maps?'" (*American Libraries*, March 1981, p. 130.) Photo courtesy, American Library Association.

The mission of MAGERT, as stated in the 1980 ALA *Handbook of Organization*, was: (1) to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas by persons working with or interested in map and geography collections; (2) to provide a forum to increase the availability, use and bibliographic control of map and geography collections; (3) to increase

communication and cooperation between map and geography librarians and other librarians; and (4) to contribute to the improvement of education and training of map and geography librarians.²⁶ The officers of the first Board were David Cobb (chair), Richard Fox, (secretary), and Mary Larsgaard (treasurer). Other positions on the board were occupied

by Julian Green serving as Membership Promotion Chair; Charles Seavey as Program Chair; Robert Karrow, representative to CC:DA; Mary Larsgaard as liaison to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials (AACCCM); and David Cobb and Charles Seavey, liaisons to CUAC.²⁷ In the following year, Charles Seavey served as Chair, Alice Hudson, Vice-Chair; Susan Dixon, Secretary; with David Cobb serving as past-chair and archivist. Committees were added for the Constitution and Bylaws, chaired by Pauline Gunter; Nominating, Jon Walstrom; and Program Planning, Jeremiah B. Post for the 1982 program and Alice Hudson for the 1983 program. Larsgaard served as membership promotion chair and editor of the newsletter, *base line*. Dues for the Round Table were \$7 for personal members, in addition to the required ALA membership fee of \$50.²⁸

The First Year

The new Board worked quickly to put together a program and agenda for MAGERT's first meeting at the 1980 ALA Annual Conference in New York. The agenda was somewhat brief by today's standards, but it provided plenty of opportunity for networking and discussion of a wide variety of map librarianship topics. The meeting opened with a wine and cheese reception on the first evening. The first day's activities included an organizational meeting in the morning and a reception and exhibit at the New York Public Library in the evening. The second day began with a visit to

the Rand McNally Store. Later the formal program was held, "Maps in Libraries: An Overview." Speakers included June Harris, "Maps in Public Libraries"; Mary Larsgaard, "Cartographic Materials for Energy Research"; Theresa Marquez, "Government Publications for the Map Room" and James O. Minton, "The OCLC Map Users Group." The day concluded with the group's third reception, this one held at the Richard Arkaway Antiquarian Shop.²⁹

By the fall of 1980, the leaders of MAGERT, now an official ALA organization with 45 members (see Appendix B), were learning the procedures and processes for working within the ALA. Cobb wrote to the Conference Arrangements Office requesting meeting space for Midwinter, 1981, asking for space for one Executive Committee meeting, a program room with seating for 150, and a change in the Map On-Line Users Group. He apologized, "I hope that you will excuse our late program changes as we are attempting (I really should say !!) to learn the schedule of ALA....I wish to thank you for your cooperation and patience as our Roundtable slowly evolves and its organization is established."³⁰ The final schedule for Midwinter, 1981, also included an entire day set aside for a meeting of the Cartographic Users' Advisory Council (CUAC) held at the USGS offices.

In the spring of 1981, the founders and early members of MAGERT re-examined their original purposes and goals. They recalled their concerns with SLA and sought to articulate MAGERT's guiding forces while the momentum was still fresh. In a thought-provoking letter from

Seavey to Cobb, Seavey restated the reasons for MAGERT's founding and goals for the group. He observed that in SLA, "map librarians had a nice comfortable home in G&M where we could talk to each other, but we didn't talk to much of anybody else."³¹ He noted that, at that time, map librarianship was "falling behind the mainstream," that the major library journals had not contained a map related article for 20 years, that cataloging rules were being written without the input of map librarians, and that library administrators were not aware of the information value of maps and their special requirements. He stated emphatically that, "It is imperative that the guiding forces of MAGERT keep us as involved with other librarians as possible." He urged MAGERT to co-sponsor programs and work with other ALA groups whenever possible, have members be part of the ALA Council, and that members author papers in the mainstream library journals in addition to the MAGERT publications. Further, Seavey restated other previously agreed upon goals and desires for the group: (1) a continuing education program at each conference—particularly to reach non-full-time map librarians; (2) the publication of *Meridian*, a journal with an editorial board, to be published twice a year and to contain selected papers from the conference, and *base line*, six times a year, which would contain news and notes (and that should pay for itself through advertising and subscriptions); and (3) continued cooperation with other map-focused groups, such as the Cartographic Users Advisory Council.³²

Some Humor Along the Way

While the founding of this new organization was serious business, which took much thought, however, the founders conducted much of their internal business in a playful and spirited tone. In their memos and letters to each other, they frequent used nicknames, with Cobb writing in sometimes-colorful language as "The Kid,"³³ and Larsgaard referring to Cobb as the "Ruling Czar" in a letter to Seavey.³⁴ Once the round table was established, in a moment of enthusiasm, Cobb completed a pre-printed birth announcement showing the name ALA Map & Geography Round Table, born on 24 January, 1980, 2:30 pm, with the weight crossed off and 'size' written in as "Unlimited" and 'cost' \$5.00/year. Proud parents were listed as David Cobb & Charles Seavey.³⁵

Beyond the lighthearted banter between the founders, *base line* began carrying a regular cartoon, which continues still today, called "Great Moments in Map Librarianship" and created by MAGERT member, Jim Coombs. The cartoon pokes fun at the day-to-day struggles of map librarians as well as particular incidents occurring at meetings. For many years, MAGERT members demonstrated their camaraderie and group spirit as a team in ALA's annual fun run (Figure 2). In addition, there was a long-standing joke, based on a simple typographical error that the 'Chair' was referred to instead as the 'Cahir,'³⁶ a repeated theme in some early cartoons (Figure 3).



Figure 2. MAGERT Running/Walking Team, 1987 ALA San Francisco "Fun Run." Back row: Dan Seldin, Bill Stewart, J.B. Post, Jim Coombs, [unknown], Paul Stout. Front row, Linda Newman, Donna Koepp, [unknown], Emily Matteucci, David Cobb, Alberta Wood, Nancy Kandoian. (Photo: courtesy, Nancy Kandoian)

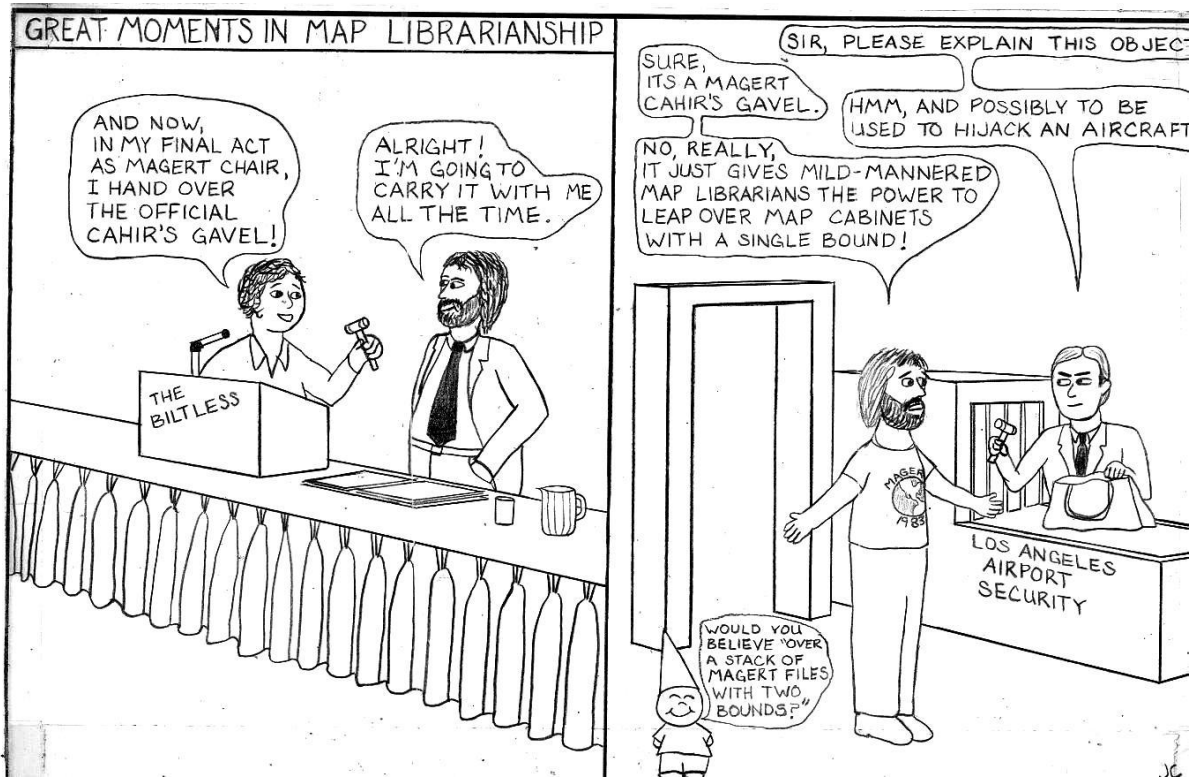


Figure 3. 'Great Moments in Map Librarianship' cartoon. Republished in Jim Coombs' *Great Moments in Map Librarianship: Cartoons from the First 30 Years of base line* (MAGERT, 2010) (Courtesy, Jim Coombs)

Postscript: 30 Years Later

The approach, outlined by Seavey, set the stage for the workings of MAGERT with essentially each proposition acted on, to a greater or lesser degree, by subsequent MAGERT leaders. In the ensuing 30 years, at each conference, one or more 'educational programs' has been presented, often collaboratively and co-hosted by other ALA groups, such as GODORT, LRTS / ALCTS, PLA and RUSA.

The regular newsletter, *base line*, continues to be published six times a year, and was moved to an digital version in 2008 in order to reduce costs. *Base line* includes meeting minutes, liaison reports, announcements, book and map reviews, and the "Great Moments in Map Librarianship" cartoon. For many years, *base line* was the single source of communication for the Round Table. In recent years though, other forms of communication have been added to keep members connected and informed, including an electronic list, a member's only intranet, 'ALA Connect,' and a Facebook page. The scholarly journal, *Meridian*, was published between 1989 and 1999, and folded due to the inability to find a replacement once Cobb stepped down as editor.³⁷ In 2005, in an effort to fill that void, the open-access online scholarly journal, *Coordinates*, was created, which included peer reviewed and other articles. *Coordinates*, however, in 2011, suffered the same fate as *Meridian*; and folded without finding a new editor upon David Allen's retirement.³⁸ Beyond the MAGERT journals, members have also

published in the mainstream librarianship journals, appearing in both ALA division journals and other general and map related publications.

Through its entire existence, MAGERT members have reached out and participated in a wide assortment of ALA committees. Elected members of Council currently include two past-Chairs, Mary McInroy and Pete Reehling. Members also currently serve as MAGERT representatives to the ALA Education Assembly, CC:DA and MARBI (Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee). A number of members also actively participate in other ALA divisions or round tables, predominantly with GODORT, RUSA, ACRL and ALCTS, resulting in cross collaboration on programs and publications. In 2010, for example, programs included collaborations with ALCTS for the pre-conference "Cataloging & Description of Cartographic Resources: From Parchment to Pixels, Paper to Digital," and with ACRL's Rare Book and Manuscript Section for "To Catch a Thief: Cataloging and the Security of Special Collections." In 2011, the group's program "There's a Map for That! Maps and Tools You Didn't Know About" was co-hosted with GODORT and RUSA. In the same year, MAGERT also collaborated with RUSA's History Section for the program, "Maps for History: Using Maps to Make Your History Collections More Visual." The round table continues to be represented and participate in CUAC, and has reciprocal liaisons with WAML and Library of Congress. MAGERT is active with many broad based ALA initiatives, including facilitating an

Emerging Leaders group project in 2009-10, and sponsoring a handful of individual Emerging Leaders in recent years.

Additionally and perhaps as a means to satisfy one major motivation for the creation of MAGERT, members have a meaningful role providing input to cataloging code revisions, with individuals serving on both the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of AACR2 (now RDA) and the standards committee, MARBI.

As the field of map librarianship evolved in the 1990s to include the responsibilities of geographic information systems (GIS) and map digitization, MAGERT expanded to include a GeoTech Committee and the GIS Discussion Group as well as programs and educational offerings for members working in those areas. GIS and related spatial data management play a large role in the round table today, with the annual conference program in 2010 focusing on establishing GIS services in libraries, at "GIS in EVERY Library: Making it Happen."

As in the early days, members continue to enjoy social outings and field trips at each conference venue and committee work seems to be ever expanding. Now, though, educational programs are presented beyond the annual conference venue to include a wide offering of guest speakers at the Midwinter meeting and digital resources on the group's web page.

The round table web page includes resources and publications published by or for MAGERT. These include: the third edition of *Guide to U.S. Map Resources*³⁹ and the second edition of *Cartographic Citations: A Style Guide*.⁴⁰ Online publications

listed on the web page include *Map, GIS and Cataloging/Metadata Librarian Core Competencies*,⁴¹ *Map Collection Security Guidelines*,⁴² and the *Map Scanning Registry*.⁴³ The *Core Competencies* serve as a defining document on the skills required for the evolving area of specialization and were noteworthy as an early addition to the ALA compilation of division and round table listing of specialty competences.

Conclusion and Future

MAGERT is now approximately 350 members strong, representing almost every state and a number of countries.⁴⁴ MAGERT can now claim to be the leading organization of map librarians in the United States; however, it still faces challenges to its membership count along with the entirety of ALA and the other map librarianship specialty professional groups. Echoing the membership trend across ALA that peaked in 2005, MAGERT's membership topped out in 2007 with 415 members⁴⁵ and has declined slightly since then. Other map librarian groups did not fare so well. The SLA Geography and Map Division was restructured as a Section under the Social Sciences Division in 2003, following a decline from 326 members in 1981 to 235 in 1996. Its *Bulletin* ceased in 1997. Reasons given for the decline in the SLA G&M membership were "the increased costs not only of membership but also of conference attendance and other activities; and increased competition for time, money, and interest from other professional associations such as the Western Association of Map

Libraries, the Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association, and the North American Cartographic Information Society."^{46,47} As a section, G&M continues to offer programming at conferences, and participates in CUAC. Also experiencing a significant decline, the IFLA Geography & Map Section membership numbers were down to forty in 2010, leading to the folding of that group.⁴⁸

The two longest standing groups, the Western Association of Map Librarians and the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives continue to be active in their respective regions, and both hold conferences and issue regularly published journals. Since the formation of MAGERT, several additional organizations have entered the field. Another regional association, the Northeast Map Organization (NEMO), was formed in 1986, and focuses on programs of interest to librarians and other map users and cartographers in the Northeastern United States.⁴⁹ The aforementioned North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) was organized in 1980, in part to bridge the gap between map librarians, academic geographers, and professional cartographers. It also holds annual meetings and publishes the journal, *Cartographic Perspectives*.⁵⁰ Other organizations appeal to map librarians with specialized interests or responsibilities, including the Geosciences Information Society and the Cartography and Geographic Information Society.

In a 2009 interview, David Cobb briefly mentioned his and

Seavey's role in the formation of MAGERT, and stated, "that organization has been very successful. It has been very good at bringing in younger persons, and keeping interest high."⁵¹ All in all, MAGERT's founders provided a clear vision for the group, as well as a structure for a successful organization, which has played a leading role in map librarianship for over thirty years.

After 30 years, the round table continues to evolve and redefine itself. In 2011, members voted to change the round table name; substituting the phrase 'Geospatial Information' for the word 'Geography' in order to better represent the changing nature of the materials that they work with, and resulting in only a slight change of the acronym to 'MAGIRT'.⁵²

Multiple issues could threaten the future of the round table. Of greatest concern is the changing face of the profession. To what extent will libraries continue to hire Map, GIS, Geographic Information and/or map cataloging librarians who are solely dedicated to this specialization? If these positions become more fragmented, that is, if individuals are required to maintain expertise in many functional areas, they may see their map responsibilities as secondary, and thus may choose to affiliate with a different division or round table, instead of MAGIRT, thus driving membership numbers down. However, as was stated by the founders, those with part-time map-related job responsibilities are very much the audience that the round table is intended to reach. Beyond the splintering of the profession in general, is the increasing digital aspect. While GIS is a growing area of

service in libraries, will libraries continue to hire dedicated GIS librarians, or will those positions change into 'data librarians' or similar titles, resulting in fragmented responsibilities and allegiances? Lastly, the fact of the declining ALA numbers in recent years is troubling and may be a reflection of the economic strain that individuals and libraries are experiencing. ALA should find ways to support even the smallest round tables in order to maintain a vital and meaningful professional association at large.

Solutions to these competing demands may be found by further expanding existing collaborations, as well as forging new ones – both within ALA and externally, such as with other map related professional association, library schools, and industry. Additionally, the increased use of technology to share solutions and expertise is helpful. With technology, meetings no longer take place only twice a year, and communication can take place instantaneously.

While there are indeed challenges, the future is quite bright. Maps and geographic information is pervasive across the web and in the public's imagination. Maps are seen and used now on a daily basis. Map librarians are embracing the digital world and evolving into 'geographic information' librarians, which is

format neutral. And, with the ongoing changes in the government's publishing and distribution of maps and geographic information, the profession and the public needs, even more, the voice of MAGIRT to give input to the agencies. With over 30 years of expertise and support, the Round Table readily navigates this evolving landscape for the library profession.

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Appendix A

1979 Petition to ALA

The purpose of this petition is to request the establishment of a Map and Geography Roundtable in the American Library Association.

According to the Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1(a), 100 signatures are required for the establishment of this Roundtable. All signatures must be those of personal members of ALA.

The statement of function and responsibility of the unit proposed is to provide a national forum for map and geography librarians within ALA. The proposed Roundtable will address not only the immediate practical and procedural problems of cartographic and geographic material curatorship but will also encourage scholarly research in areas pertaining to map and geography librarianship. A map librarian, for the purposes of this proposal, is defined as one who works with, or has under their supervision, a collection of cartographic and/or geographic materials.

The vast majority of such collections (of which there are approximately 800 in the United States) is in academic and public libraries, generally under the authority of the reference department, the government documents department, or, in the case of academic collections, the geography or geology departments. Although there are a substantial number of full-time map librarians, far more frequently the librarian working with maps has this responsibility as a half- or quarter-time job, and therefore may have little time or opportunity to work on cartographic materials problems. The formation of the proposed roundtable would allow the traditionally isolated cartographic materials librarians to meet, discuss, and solve their mutual problems.

Appendix B

Membership as of Sept. 4, 1980

Anderson, Sharon M. (UC-San Diego)
Ash, Lee (consultant, CT)
Azzolina, David S. (Rice University)
Briggs, Margaret S. (Kansas State Historical Society)
Cobb, David (U-Illinois)
Dolezal, Norma M. (Cleveland Public)
Duffy, Mary Anne Burns (West Chester State College, PA)
Faull, Sandra K. (New Mexico State Library)
Fleming, Myrna D. (USC)
Fox, Richard M. (LC)
Fry, Roy H. (Loyola)
Goodman, Susan (Rutgers)
Green, Julian (Harvard)
Gunter, Pauline (U-Alaska)
Hedrick, David T. (Gettysburg College, PA)
Hill, Janet Swan (Northwestern)
Hyatt, John D. (Rosenberg Library, Galveston, TX)
Jennings, Vincent (Hofstra)
Karrow, Robert (Newberry Library)
Larsgaard, Mary (Colorado School of Mines)
Legg, Diane C. (U-Minnesota, Minneapolis)
Levy, Suzanne S. (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Lin, Joseph C. (Indiana University)
Lohrentz, Ken (U-Nebraska, Lincoln)
McCawley, Christina (West Chester State College, PA)
McCorkle, Barbara (Yale)
McGarry, Dorothy (UCLA)
Macqueen, Laura M. (USGS Library)
McLean, G. Robert (U-Toledo)
Mangan, Elizabeth (LC)
Martin, Robert S. (UT-Arlington)
Neville, Ellen P. (student-U. Michigan)
Nichols, Gail M. (UC-Berkeley)
Peters, Scott N. (U-Chicago)
Phinney, Hartley K. Jr. (Colorado School of Mines)
Post, Jeremiah B. (Philadelphia)
Ray, Jean Meyer (Southern Illinois)
Schulze, Sue (U-Northern Colorado)
Schwartz, Arlene (ILLINET)
Seavey, Charles A. (U-New Mexico)
Sharp, Linda Carlson (Indiana Historical Society Library)
Stearley, Patrice A. (Northeastern Ill.)
Wilkinson, Patrick J. (U-Northern Iowa)
Younger, Jennifer A. (U-Wisconsin)

Appendix C

Abbreviations

AACR	Anglo-American Cataloging Rules
ACRL	Association of College and Research Libraries
ALA	American Library Association
ALCTS	Association for Library Collections and Technical Services
CC:DA	Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access
CUAC	Cartographic Users Advisory Council
G&M	Geography & Map Division of Special Libraries Association
GODORT	Government Documents Round Table of ALA
LRTS	Library Resources and Technical Services Division of ALA
MAGERT	Map and Geography Round Table
MAGIRT	Map and Geospatial Information Round Table
MARBI	Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee
OCLC	Online Computer Library Center
PLA	Public Library Association
RUSA	Reference and User Services Association
RLIN	Research Libraries Information Network
SLA	Special Libraries Association
WAML	Western Association of Map Librarians

Notes

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