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Map/Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Collection Development Policy

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Map/Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Collection Development Policy

University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Adonna Fleming, December, 2009

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MAP COLLECTION

Introduction

Technology has changed the focus of this collection in recent years. Presently, digital access to both maps and GIS data is the primary goal. However, maintenance of the paper map collection is vital, as it supports the graduate and undergraduate curricula in many areas. The paper map collection supports students studying geology, natural resources, geography, Great Plains studies, political sciences, history, community and urban planning, and architecture.

The University Libraries are a regional depository for U. S. Government documents, and the majority of maps in the Libraries' collection are distributed through this program. Although, most new maps currently received through this program are digital and access is provided on-line, 400 to 600 per year are still distributed in paper. These, and commercially published maps, such as those by National Geographic, make up the bulk of new paper maps added to the collection.

It has been the practice of the University Libraries to distribute the depository maps to the various libraries or library departments based on subject specialization. Thus, U.S. government maps dealing with agriculture, soils, or forestry are located in the C.Y. Thompson Library. Geology and domestic topographic maps distributed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are located in the Geology Library, and maps distributed by the U.S. Department of Energy are held in the Engineering Library. Love Library holds the rest of the collection. The C. Y. Thompson and Engineering map collections though important, are secondary to the Love and Geology collections in scope and size.

Love Library Map Collection

The Love paper map collection consists of two parts: maps purchased from commercial publishers, state and local government agencies, and those distributed by the U. S. Government as part of the depository library program. The depository maps are comprised mostly of aeronautical and nautical charts, country, and regional maps. Both the commercial and depository maps are classed using the Library of Congress Classification Scheme, and most remain un-cataloged. In addition, maps that are distributed as part of a U.S. document, remain with the piece, are classed with the SuDOC Classification Scheme, and are shelved within the Government Documents Collection.

Located in the Love Library reference area, the Love Library Map Collection has the largest variety and most detailed selection of topographic and thematic maps of the world's hemispheres, continents, nations, and regions in the state. Thus, it remains an important resource for both students and faculty as well as community users.

This collection is administratively a section of the Geology Library, and is supervised by the GIS-Maps-Geosciences Librarian. Additionally, this subject specialist is responsible for efficient organization and maintenance of the collection. The GIS-Maps-Geosciences Librarian is responsible for selecting new items, when funding is available.

Geology Library Map Collection

This is the largest single map collection in the state. The largest part of this collection is the USGS topographic series: 7.5 minute, 15 minutes, 1:100,000 scale, 1:250,000 scale, County, State, National Park, Shaded-relief, bathometric, Antarctic. The library holds all editions and printings of these series, and arranges them according to the Library of Congress Classification Scheme. Most remain un-cataloged. The Geology Library support staff and students, under the guidance of the GIS-Maps-Geosciences Librarian, catalog and process these maps.

The Geology Library holds the following thematic maps published by the USGS: Coal Investigative Maps, Geologic Quadrangle Maps, Hydrologic Investigations Atlases, Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations Maps, Miscellaneous Field Study maps, Oil and Gas Investigation Charts, Scientific Investigations Maps. These are classed by the SuDOC Classification Scheme, and many have been cataloged.

Maps published as part of the following USGS series are not classed separately, but held with the piece: Bulletins, Circulars, Professional Papers, Techniques of Water Resources Investigations, and Open File Reports.

Special Factors

Digital map collections include "A to Z Maps" and "Sanborn Maps – [Nebraska]".

GIS COLLECTION

The focus of GIS at the Libraries is to provide access to GIS data distributed digitally by various government agencies, and to provide computer hardware and software to manipulate it. In support of this concept, the Libraries have a cooperative agreement with the Conservation and Survey Division of the School of Natural Resources to provide metadata expertise for their GIS data portal. In addition, the GIS-Maps-Geosciences Librarian provides metadata support to the State of Nebraska's GIS data portal: "<http://nebraskaMap.ne.gov>." The Libraries' GIS webpage, "<http://www.unl.edu/libr/gis/>", provides additional information about data portals and how to access them. Specialized datasets are purchased at the discretion of the GIS-Maps-Geosciences Librarian.

Materials, primarily monographs, about GIS or using GIS technology are collected for all disciplines at the research level. The Geography and GIS-Maps-Geosciences Librarians share the responsibility for the purchase of these items. See "Geography-GIScience Collection Development Policy" for additional details.