Geospatial Data: models for shared responsibility in collecting, serving and archiving

Geography and Map Division Library of Congress
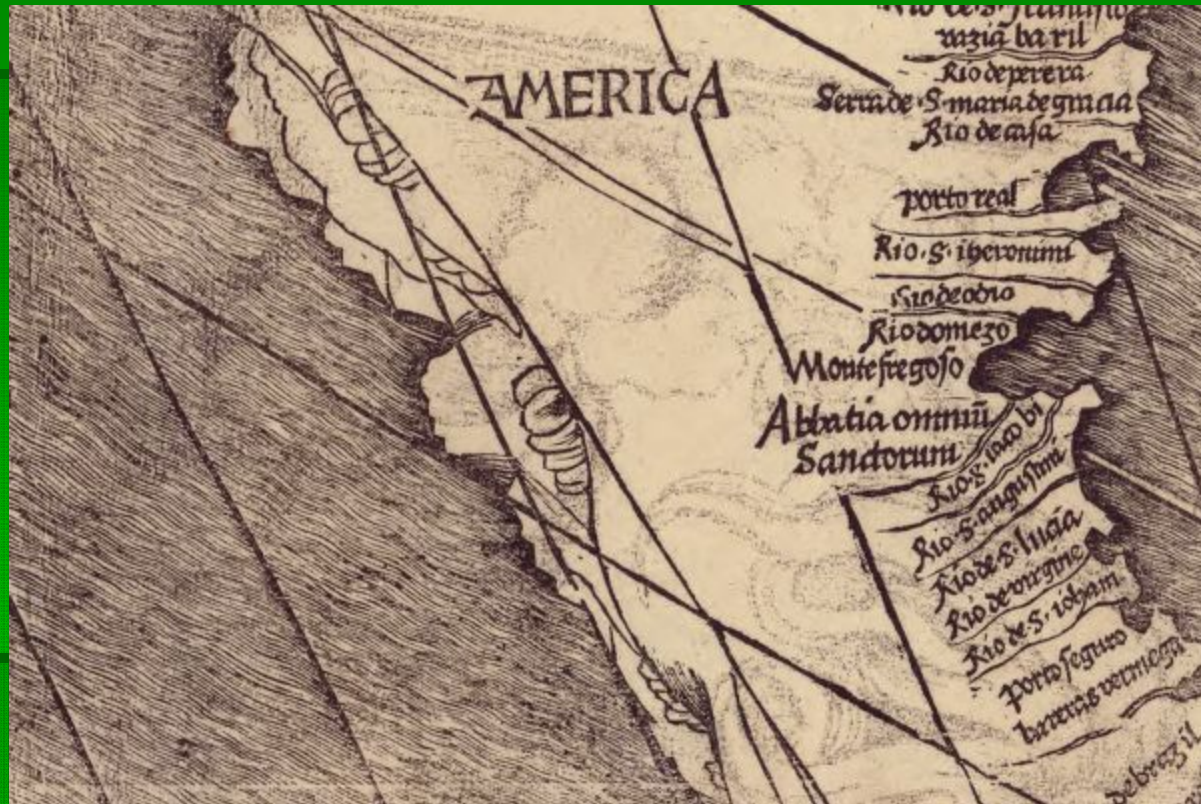
Scanning the Collection

Bringing the Collection to the World

The world in 1507

- 1507 World Map by Waldseemuller

Geography and Map Division

- Largest cartographic collection in the world
- 5.5 million maps—80,000 atlases—500 globes and globe gores—3,000 raised relief images—20,000 digital files

Since 1995, more than 24,000 cartographic objects have been scanned and are available on the Library of Congress' American Memory Website. These items are not georeferenced.
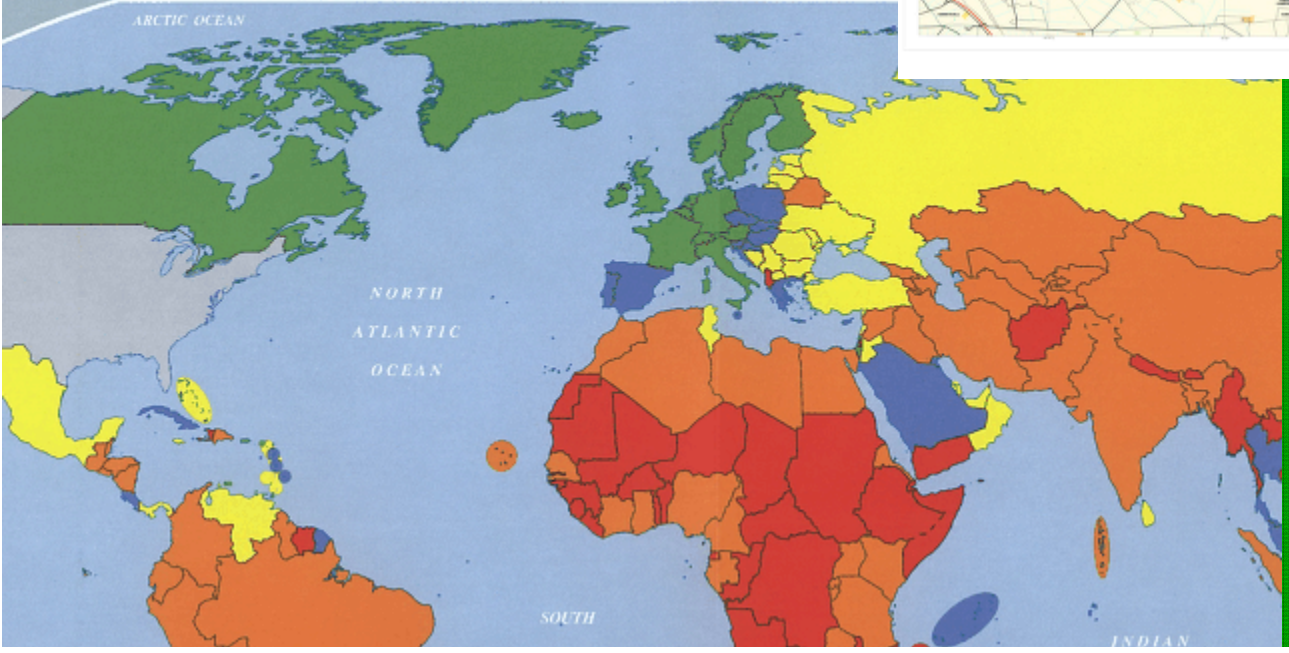
Strategy to scan the collection

- In 1995, the American Memory Project was born in the Library of Congress
- Initial scanning program concentrated on popular U.S. historical topics, that is, the Civil War, the American Revolution, Panoramic Maps of U.S. cities, U.S. Railroad Maps
- Since 1999, the scanning program has become more international, providing map coverage in scanned images from throughout the world

Contemporary maps

Figure 5
Typology of Countries by Health-Care Status

BAGHDAD

Collection Policy

- Annual effort to acquire broadly from throughout the world.
- Annual acquisition is between 35,000 and 45,000 items.
- Sources of data include federal, state, and local governments (US), commercial publishing, foreign mapping
- Acquired through official deposit from federal agencies, transfers from federal agencies, copyright, purchase, exchange, gift.

Formats of geospatial data

- Geospatial data is received in paper, digital formats. These may be in the form of maps, atlases, globes, three dimensional raised relief images.

- Traditionally, the Geography and Map Division has acquired the completed map. Today, the need to acquire the layers of data from which a map can be made takes increasing priority. We are involved in producing maps and analysis for Congress through our Congressional Cartography Program a program begun officially in 2003.

G&M Model

- Our process is based on meeting our research demands.

- We catalog that which we acquire
- Items received are to be used and available to the public.
- In some situations we hold items that are restricted in usage, official use only or limited distribution items, but by and large our collections are to be used by the public.
- In the matter of digital data, we acquired currently tangible digital data, i.e., in cd/dvd/hard drive. We do not download to acquire geospatial data.
- We have not acquired consistently imagery, although the discussion on the need to acquire imagery is persistent, given the implications of such data for GIS and other research needs.
- In the past, we acquired federal mapping in parallel with the National Archives, with the expectation that one of us, or the issuing agency, would have a copy of a particular item.

Data needs and assurances

- Federal geospatial data of all types
- Assurance that the creating body has archived the data
- Currently we depend upon Federal agencies for the sources of much of our data used in creating analytical studies for Congress
- This is a minimal start for preserving digital geospatial data