Navigating to Success: Finding Your Way Through the Challenges of Map Digitization

Abstract

This poster highlights the key steps and decision points essential to completing a successful map digitization project. Topics to be covered include: overcoming the challenges of scanning large-scale materials (including file sizes and encapsulation), descriptive metadata for map collections, copyright and privacy issues for geographic materials, adding geographic coordinates to map collections, image viewer and interface options for online maps, and methods to track the impact of map digitization with users. Using University of Nevada Las Vegas Libraries’ digital project Southern Nevada: History in Maps as a case study, the authors will discuss the challenges inherent in map digitization and suggest strategies to overcome these obstacles. In addition to walking the audience through map digitization workflow, the poster will highlight the University of Nevada Las Vegas’ spatial search tool, ISIS, that allows users to search maps in CONTENTdm collections without text-based queries. Poster session attendees will learn from one institution’s experience with a successful map digital collection and leave with the knowledge and confidence to pursue their own project.

Presentation Highlights:

- Selecting maps for digitization
- Issues with scanning maps
- Issues in metadata for maps
- Presenting maps online
- Viewers and software
- Who uses digital maps?
- Maps in context—history
- What does the future hold?
Resources and Standards:

Scanning old maps: http://www.ehow.com/how_7733918_scan-old-maps.html
Large-format scanners buying guide: http://www.largeformatscanners.com/
Dublin Core basic elements: http://dublincore.org/usage/terms/dc/current-elements/
DjVu map viewer downloads: http://djvu.org/resources/
CONTENTdm: http://contentdm.org/
SimpleDL: http://www.simpledl.com/
ISIS (Interactive Spatial Image Search): http://digital.library.unlv.edu/isis/

Digital Map Collection Project Links:

UNLV Southern Nevada and Las Vegas: History in Maps: http://digital.library.unlv.edu/collections/maps
UNR Nevada History in Maps: http://www.delamare.unr.edu/maps/digitalcollections/nvhistory/
HDPL Southern Nevada Maps: http://digitalcollections.mypubliclibrary.com/c/Southern-Nevada-Maps/?fq%5B%5D=c
David Rumsey Map Collection: http://www.davidrumsey.com/
American Memory (Library of Congress) Map Collection: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/
Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/