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base line

a newsletter of the

Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

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MAGIRT
Map and Geospatial Information Round Table

base line is an official publication of the American Library Association's Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT). The purpose of base line is to provide current information on cartographic materials, other publications of interest to map and geography librarians, meetings, related governmental activities, and map librarianship. It is a medium of communication for members of MAGIRT and information of interest is welcome. The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the American Library Association and MAGIRT. Contributions should be sent to the appropriate editor listed below.

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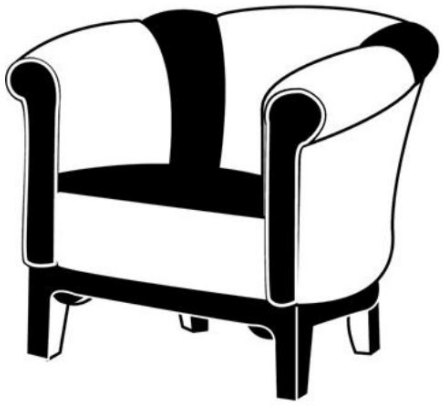
From the Chair

Susan Moore

University of Northern Iowa



I write this to you from a snow-covered Iowa. Planning is underway for the annual conference in Chicago! With this being the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Association, there are additional no-conflict times in the schedule this year. One of them is when we have traditionally held our Executive Board and Membership Meeting; so for those of you attending in person, be prepared for a change in the usual schedule but little to no snow.

Even if you do not attend the annual conference, there are ways to get involved! Conference attendance is not required to serve on a committee and we need your ideas! If you attended the virtual ALA Membership meeting on November 17th, you know that the Association is facing some challenges. MAGIRT is facing the challenge of membership involvement being fairly quiet. If you have an idea for a webinar or an activity that a MAGIRT committee should be involved in, let me or other members of the Executive Board know. Together, we can make a strong round table!

Another opportunity for us is ALA's one-day virtual event on February 10, 2026, "Recharging in Challenging Times". There will be two keynote speakers and three content tracks: Strengthening Leadership; Sustaining Wellbeing; and Preserving Intellectual Freedom. Registration is $129 for ALA members ($179 for nonmembers, free for student members) and registrants will have on-demand access to the recordings through May 10, 2026. For more information or to register, please see the virtual event homepage.

On the Cataloging/Cataloguing Front

Tammy Wong

Library of Congress

PTCP at ALA Annual Conference

The ABA Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP) presented programs at the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. During the preconference session, "A Joint Workshop with NARDAC and PCC SCT RDA Training Task Group" was presented during the preconference session. The focus is on the basic concepts in Official RDA, from elements and entities to aggregates and metadata description sets.

The presentation, along with an introduction to LC- and PCC-created RDA-adjacent documentation, provided a foundation for the workshop's practical application on cataloging an ebook. Workshop materials are available here.

LC also hosted the North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) Update Forum, featuring guest speakers from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC): Jessica Grzegorski (RDA Examples Editor) and James Hennelly (Director of ALA Digital Reference). Grzegorski and Hennely respectively delivered a talk on the development of examples in Official RDA and provided an update on the RDA Toolkit. Slides will be posted on the NARDAC presentation site.

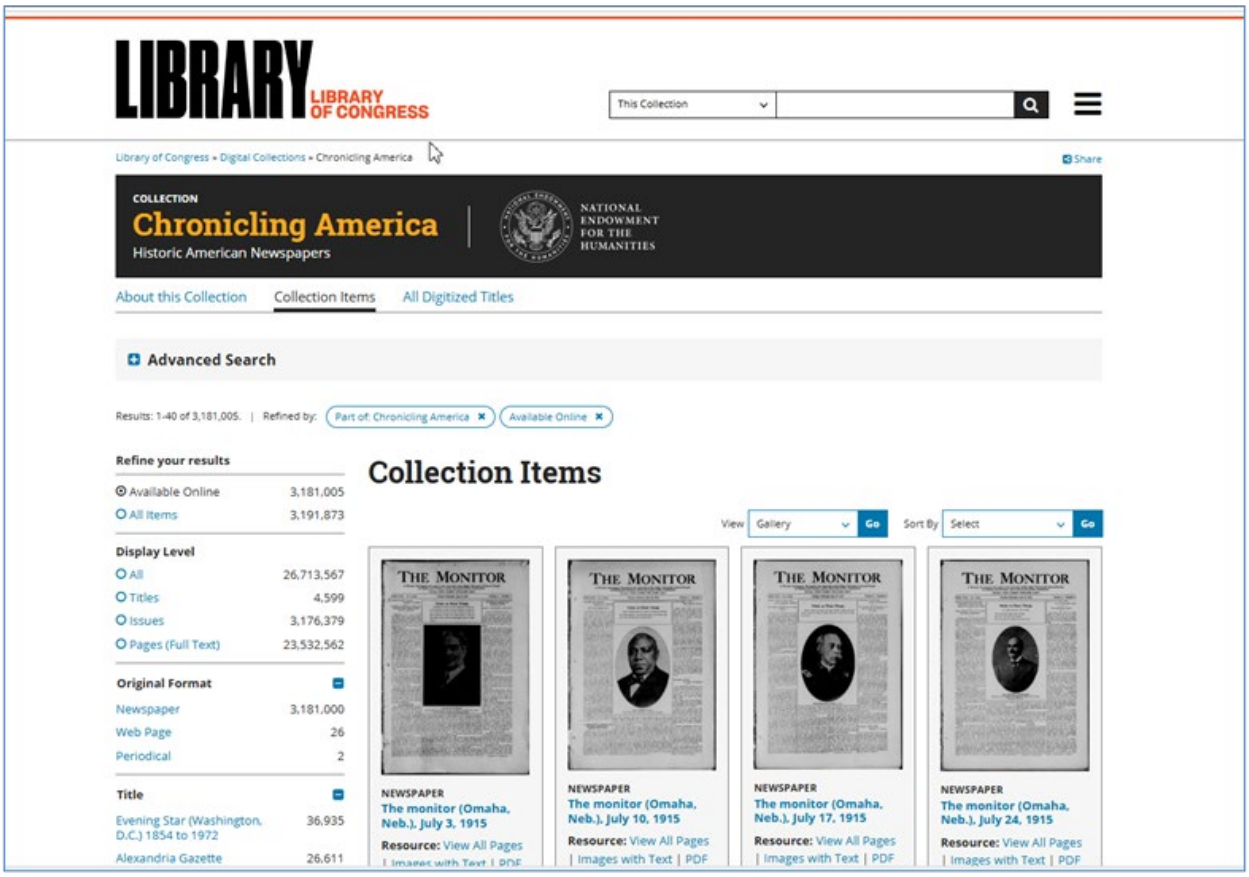
BIBFRAME Update at ALA Annual Conference

Library staff and colleagues from other institutions presented a virtual program focused on "BIBFRAME and cataloging" during the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. The update coincided with the first day of the Library's new system—Folio. There is a slide presentation that illustrates the Library's movement away from Voyager and forward to Folio, BIBFRAME, the Marva Editor (used to create BIBFRAME records), and the growing importance of ID or id.loc.gov (the Library's linked data website of controlled vocabularies used in BIBFRAME and MARC records). In the last several months, training over 300 Library catalogers in BIBFRAME and the Marva editor (in Washington as well as the overseas offices) were carried out. Also discussed was the BIBFRAME Hub and how it is used for collocation of resources. Staff from the University of Pennsylvania discussed their tests to use the Sinopia and Marva BIBFRAME linked data editors with their Alma system. Finally, presenters from Stanford and Cornell demonstrated a BIBFRAME data validation tool. The recording of the session can be accessed from the BIBFRAME website.

LC Report:

Chronicling America Transitioning to New Interface

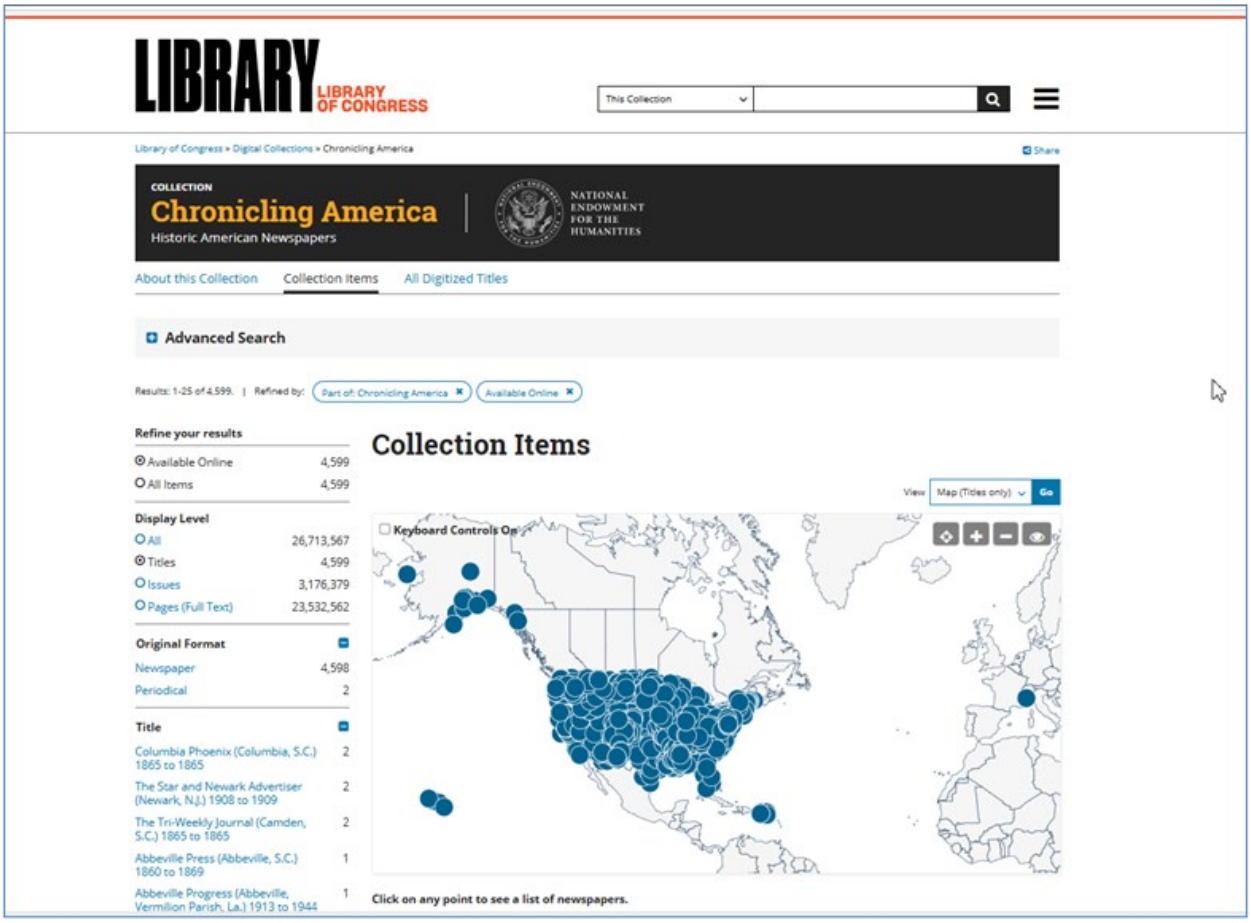
The [legacy Chronicling America] website has transitioned to a new, user-centered interface in the [loc.gov] digital collections framework. Produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), Chronicling America is a partnership between the Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to bring digitized historic American newspapers to online audiences. The migration includes a more accessible, responsive design; enhanced image viewing; updated back-end search functionality; faceted browsing options; improved advanced search features; and the ability to explore digitized titles in a new [map interface]. As part of the effort, the Library's digital collections infrastructure was upgraded to accommodate the growth of this sweeping collection and automate future uploads.



Please use the following resources to assist you with using the new site:

- Chronicling America: A Guide for Researchers
- Tips for Searching in Chronicling America
- How to Browse All Digitized Titles in Chronicling America (includes new map interface)
- Exploring a Newspaper Title Record
- Top Five Tips for Using the Image Viewer

Please email Ask-A-Librarian if you encounter any issues.



Minutes of the September 23, 2025 MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

Laura McElfresh, MAGIRT Secretary

University of Minnesota

Date/Time: 2:00 PM Central Time via Zoom
Present: Sam Kim, Laura McElfresh, Susan Moore, Pete Reehling
Regrets: Tim Kiser

1. **Call to order - 2:01 pm Central**
2. **Call for changes to Agenda — none**
3. **Secretary--Minutes from past meeting**
   a. In the (finished, soon to be published) September *base line* issue
4. **Officer Reports**
   a. **Chair** (Susan)
      i. Review of member groups and awards - ALA Executive Office
         1. Email from Danielle — we are to review our programs, activities, awards, etc. to make sure they are aligned with "ALA Forward" initiative. Is what we are doing sustainable? Susan has identified the Chair's Program, the MAGIRT Award, and our webinars for assessment. (Susan will put the spreadsheet in ALA Connect. It is due on September 30th.)
            a. Found that while they're all high-effort, there is demand; we can support them financially; they are impactful
            b. Would also like to mention MAGIRT's internal review of our committees but not sure how to fit it into the spreadsheet.
         2. Elections: Round Table elections will be standardized; all will elect Chair and Treasurer. Based on feedback from Round Tables, agreed to let us keep electing Secretary (elected positions carry more weight for tenure, etc. than appointed)
         3. When do we need to have awards stuff done?
   b. **Vice Chair** (Iris) — not here
   c. **Secretary** (Laura)
      i. MAGIRT website doesn't have officers listed — is this an us thing, or an ALA central office thing? Laura will check with Kevin.
         1. Update: Kevin will look into it on Monday 9/29 when he's back in the office.
      ii. Swapped out Facebook link in *base line* for LinkedIn. May do more to improve accessibility of *base line* template; Headings text in the blue title boxes doesn't show up in the outline structure, and people who use screen readers need headers for navigation.
   d. **Webmaster** (Kevin) — not here

e. **Treasurer** (Pete)
   i. Has still not received a (previously quarterly?) financial report. Susan notes that Danielle is liaison for 10 Round Tables — by far the most (others have responsibility for 4 or so). Also ALA staff are stretched very thin.

f. **Past Chair** — not here

5. Old Business

i. What to do about on-site programming and events for ALA Annual? We didn't have very many people in Philadelphia (though the ones who were there had a good and productive time). CCC will not be on-site since Tim won't be there. Probably not cataloging IG either.
   1. Onsite "combo meeting" idea still sounds good; need to put it out for discussion (on Connect?)
   2. Virtual or hybrid would be difficult (expensive for ALA; unlikely to happen for us).
   3. Are other RTs meeting onsite, or have they gone virtual? (Susan offered to look into this.) Pete points out that belts are likely to keep tightening and we need to adapt. Susan reminds us that virtual options lower a barrier to participation, which might help us get more volunteers.

6. New Business

i. [Via Tim Kiser, in absentia]: Paige Andrew wrote to report that a group will be gathering during the WAML pre-conference on 9/24 to discuss the future of the *Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections*.
   1. From Paige:

      > *One item of discussion is whether WAML could take over 'ownership' of the project going forward from MAGIRT (but of course we will take volunteers from any of the map organizations to serve as Regional Coordinators as was done in the past). While I am not aware if there are or were any "legal" documents saying that MAGIRT owns the project I raised the idea of contacting a MAGIRT leader to see if there actually are any and if so what next steps would be for WAML to work with MAGIRT in transitioning things.*
      >
      > *So, I am writing to see if you or any of the current or past Exec Board members are aware of any kind of project ownership documentation that might need our attention in the near future. If you are not aware of any would you reach out to fellow MAGIRT leaders with an ask on our behalf? It would be sincerely appreciated!*

   2. Do we know of any such documentation that we should report to Paige? And could someone respond to Paige ASAP in advance of the 9/24 meeting? I (Tim) can watch for the draft minutes that day, but I'll be traveling in advance of the WAML conference (and won't be present at Paige's aforementioned meeting), so I won't be a reliable communicator on 9/23-24.
      a. Laura: I wrote Paige, cc'ed Tim, and copied my reply to an earlier email discussion (where Tim had forwarded Paige's email to Susan, Erin, Iris, and me)
   3. Check the print book for copyright? (Is Chris Thiry still involved? Who was responsible for the latest edition? If memory serves, ALA Editions was not enthusiasic about

continuing to publish the *Guide*, so we took it online.) If we hand it over to WAML and anyone even notices to complain, we could deal with it then.

4. Laura will write to Paige & let him know MAGIRT Board is amenable to WAML taking over the *Guide* and that we're around to help if needed/wanted.
    a. [UPDATE] Paige replied that he shared the information from this meeting at the WAML group discussion he & Sierra Laddusaw led on Sep. 24th (no legal MAGIRT stake in the project; MAGIRT members willing to assist with transition). He said there was lots of good input in the discussion. No firm decisions were made other than to write a proposal for the WAML Executive Board, to be delivered at their next meeting (October).

ii. [Tim] MAGIRT webinar "Four Collections in Four Days: A Map Librarian's Journey" scheduled for October 23 at 2pm EDT. Registration link. I will be on hand to help monitor chat and troubleshoot. Laura, are you still available to introduce Kathleen and moderate? [yes, I'll be there! Susan also says she'll be there & can be backup. -lkm]

7. **Committee/DG/IG Reports**
    a. **Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee** — none
    b. **Cataloging & Classification Committee**
        i. CCC will meet virtually rather than onsite at ALA 2026 (Chicago)
        ii. Laura has volunteered as new ACRL-RBMS BSC liaison (ACRL Rare Books & Manuscripts Section, Bibliographic Standards Committee). Supposed to give MAGIRT cataloging update/report annually. For the 2025/26 year, I'm on the schedule for the January 21st BSC meeting. They might want a little more in-depth report for my first one, but "our work continues as before" is an acceptable report in general.
    c. **Education Committee** — none
    d. **Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG** — none
    e. **Membership & Marketing Committee** — none
    f. **Online Presence & Publications Committee (OPPC)** — none
    g. **Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG** — none
    h. **Map Collection Management DG** — none
    i. **Freedom to Read Foundation** — none
    j. **WAML liaison report**
        i. No report this time; WAML conference is this week.
    k. **CC:DA Report**
        i. No report this time; previous report appears in minutes from Annual meeting

8. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 2:00 pm Central via Zoom

9. **Adjournment:** Susan adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm Central.

Minutes of the November 18, 2025 MAGIRT Executive Board Meeting

Laura McElfresh, MAGIRT Secretary

University of Minnesota

Time: November 18, 3:00 PM Eastern Time via Zoom
Present: Iris Taylor, Sam Kim, Susan Moore, Laura McElfresh

1. **Call to order - 3:05 pm Eastern**
2. **Call for changes to Agenda — none**
3. **Secretary—Minutes from past meeting**
   a. September notes went out over email; haven't had any corrections
   b. Minutes for September (& November if they're ready in time) will run in December *base line*.
4. **Officer Reports**
   a. **Chair** (Susan)
      i. ALA Annual schedule
         1. ALA is in Chicago this time (June 25-29) & is the 150th anniversary of ALA.
            a. This means there will be more no-conflict times than usual (including our usual Exec Board time slot).
            b. No-conflict times: Fri. 6/26, 4pm-10pm; Sat 6/27, 5:30pm-7:30pm; Sun. 6/28, 4pm-5:30pm; Mon. 6/29, 3:30pm-8pm
         2. Last time, we discussed having a single meeting with all IGs/Committees together. Right now we have several groups that don't have leaders. This would be an opportunity to discuss which groups we still need and, for the groups we want to keep, how do we get them going again?
         3. Chair's Program: Susan is thinking of a maps cataloging information session — how to do it, what makes maps cataloging different? We have done these in the past and they've been well attended. For a program like this, might want tables rather than theater seating.
         4. In the past, MAGIRT would have 3 programs (GeoTech would do one, plus Chair's Program, plus one on the geography of the ALA host city.)
         5. Outcome: Susan will be scheduling 4 sessions:
            a. Cataloging IG (usual time)
            b. Chair's Program (time/date is whatever ALA gives us)
            c. Exec Board (note: usual slot is in a no-conflict time)
            d. Membership/large joint IG & Committees meeting (maybe at CCC usual time).
   b. **Vice Chair** (Iris)
      i. ALA President-Elect Maria McCauley is having a discussion session for all incoming Round Table Chairs: December 9, 2025, at 1:00 pm CT/2:00 pm ET.
      ii. When do we need to get started on planning the map library tour & Awards Dinner?

1. Definitely still having the tour. Not certain we are still doing the dinner; should perhaps do a survey to gauge how many people are going to Annual this year and whether they would attend the 1) tour; 2) dinner after the tour; 3) Awards Dinner.
2. If there aren't enough people to make a private room necessary or feasible, we could just get a reservation and have the Awards Dinner at a restaurant. Or, we could present the award at Exec Board.
3. Tour: Obama Presidential Library is in Hoffman Estates, a half hour away from O'Hare (not on the bus line!) We went to the Newberry last time we were in Chicago; Rand McNally is also a tour possibility.
4. Due dates for ALA scheduling:
    a. Ticketed Events and President's/Chair's Program: due January 6, 2026
    b. Meetings and other events: due February 10, 2026
    c. Offsite events: due April 8, 2026

c. **Secretary** (Laura)
    i. Not Secretary (or *base line*) related, but I was a guest speaker in Wade Bishop's map librarianship class last month & talked a little bit about MAGIRT, including the webinar
d. **Webmaster** (Kevin) — not here
e. **Treasurer** (Pete) — Sam is here instead
    i. Iris says that ALA held a training session on financial statements for incoming Round Table Treasurers in October. She forwarded the training link to Sam; Sam has reached out to Danielle.
f. **Past Chair** (Erin) — not here

5. Old Business

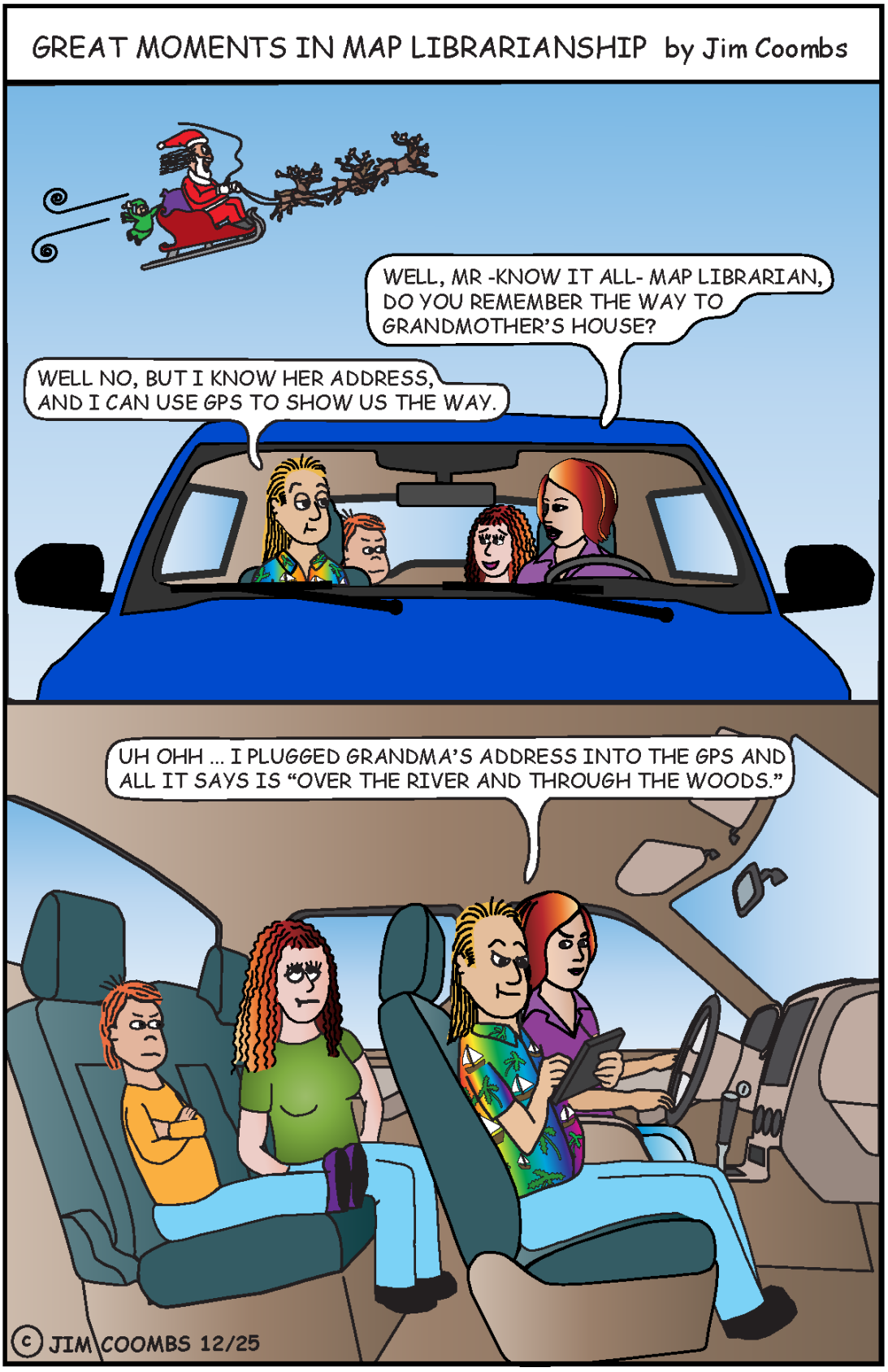
i. MAGIRT webinar 10/23: "Four Collections in Four Days: A Map Librarian's Journey"
    1. Went well! Good attendance, engaging subject. The recording is now on MAGIRT's YouTube channel.
    2. Will we be doing more webinars, perhaps regularly? — GODORT has "Friday chats". Do we want to try something like this to stoke interest in what's going on with MAGIRT, build up more participation? Weekly is probably too much; thinking maybe monthly or bimonthly. (Laura thinks monthly would be better.) Start in January perhaps? "Mappy Hour"?
ii. Discussion at WAML conference: future of the *Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections*
    1. There was an inquiry on MAPS-L about the *Online Guide* just this morning — luckily Paige stepped in to answer!
    2. Laura will look at email from Paige & fill in some stuff

6. New Business

i. Question from Laura: Some of our committees & IGs have gone quite a while without activity. Are they on actual hiatus? Are we just letting it ride till ALA Annual and the big IG combo meeting? (Answered already during "Chair" portion of the agenda — we're letting it ride till the big combo meeting at ALA Annual)
ii. Recruiting for elections (VC/CE; Assistant Treasurer)
    1. Nominations are due Dec. 12th. None received so far
    2. Is VC/CE required to attend ALA Annual?

iii. Melanie Wacker approached Tim & Susan for input on cartographic needs for Bibframe. Susan pointed her to the cartographic cataloging & RDA report on our website; Melanie will get back to her.

7. **Committee/DG/IG/Liaison Reports**
   a. **Bylaws & Governing Documents/Nominations & Awards Committee —** none
   b. **Cataloging & Classification Committee**
      i. CCC will meet virtually, either before or after Annual
      ii. Next RBMS-BSC meeting (Wed. January 21st) has MAGIRT on the reporting schedule. Laura's report will be due in advance (probably Fri. Jan. 16th) so please let me know if there's anything I need to share.
         1. CCC might have something to report if BIG (Bibframe Interoperability Group) gets back to us; otherwise
   c. **Education Committee —** none
   d. **Geographic Technologies (GeoTech)/GODORT GIS DG** – none
   e. **Membership & Marketing Committee —** none
   f. **Online Presence & Publications Committee (OPPC) —** not here
   g. **Cataloging of Cartographic Resources IG —** none
   h. **Map Collection Management DG —** not here
   i. **Freedom to Read Foundation —** not here
   j. **WAML liaison report —** none
   k. **CC:DA Report —** none
8. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, January 20th, at 3pm Eastern via Zoom
9. **Adjournment: 3:55pm Eastern**


GREAT MOMENTS IN MAP LIBRARIANSHIP by Jim Coombs
WELL, MR -KNOW IT ALL- MAP LIBRARIAN, DO YOU REMEMBER THE WAY TO GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE?
WELL NO, BUT I KNOW HER ADDRESS, AND I CAN USE GPS TO SHOW US THE WAY.
UH OHH ... I PLUGGED GRANDMA'S ADDRESS INTO THE GPS AND ALL IT SAYS IS "OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS."
© JIM COOMBS 12/25

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Paraguay	2022	2020	3
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Vietnam	2019	2020	3

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