

Map Collection Users' Group

www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collection/maps/

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 29 October 2002

1. Attendance

Richard Pennell – Chair (History), Bernie Joyce (Earth Sciences), Brendan Whyte (Student rep), Andrew Veal (for Peta Humphreys), Priscilla Stott (Collection Management), John Maidment (Archi Library), John Cain (Map Collection).

2. Apologies

Leanne Howard, Tim Meredith, Joe Leach, Peta Humphreys, Brian Finlayson.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

4. Business Arising

- Earth Sciences Map Collection: The School of Earth Sciences has not taken any action on this matter and the ball remains in their court.

5. Report from the Map Curator

John Cain reported a range of issues

- Services: Data from the 2001 census is now available and is being used by students and academics. Scanning of maps and aerial photographs is very popular with students. It is noticeable that use of digital data is increasing rapidly and is approximately 50% of our users; in particular provision of maps in AutoCAD format to Archi & Planning students and academics.
- Equipment: New IT equipment includes an A3 scanner, an A4 scanner with transparency adaptor and two new (replacement) computers with CD burners. Self-help instructions are provided for scanning and CD burning.
- Operational Plan: Four new map cabinets have been installed; much of the collection is now being respaced; over summer this will allow all maps to be integrated into their proper locations in the map sequences for the first time, including MMBW 40' to 1" (ca. 1500 maps).
- Learning Resources Catalogue: this is a collaborative venture (u21) to publicize and make available learning resources via the internet. A dozen resources from the map collection have been included in the catalogue.
- 2003 Equipment Bids: requests include new desks for the digital mapping workroom, two new (replacement) map cabinets, two new (replacement) computers, and a colour laser printer.

5.1. Additions to the Collection

A lot of material has been arriving recently, highlights include:

- *Melbourne Metro Photomosaic* – a digital aerial photography mosaic, covering the whole of Melbourne and environs, each pixel is 0.35m on the ground, in ECW format (can be exported to jpeg), total database is 130 GB in TIF format, donated by the Dept of Infrastructure.
- *VicMap Digital* – large amounts of new GIS data continue to be ordered and received from Land Victoria under our research and education license. While some data is ordered on the initiative of Map Collection staff, mostly we order data “on demand” as requested by academics and students. Recent arrivals include **Transport** (roads, rail, airports), **Address** (all point addresses statewide), **Planning** (all planning schemes statewide), **Admin** (LGAs, electorates, postcodes, parishes), **Parks** (national, state, forests, ramsar), Catchments, Building Points, Biosites.

- *Aerial Photos* – new high resolution spot shots including Melbourne Airport, Melbourne Airport Terminal, Essendon Airport, Morabbin Airport, Docklands and Yarra Bend Park.
- *Cdata 2001* – 2001 census data and mapping software from the ABS.
- *China 1:250 000 topographic* – US military mapping, donated by Latrobe University.
- *Victoria Geological Map Series* – approximately 80 maps have arrived to update our holdings.
- *Turkey 1:500 000 geological* – complete geological coverage of Turkey at this scale.
- *South Australia 1:50 000 topographic* – completing our coverage.
- *Historical Atlas of Armenia*
- *Melway Wall Maps of Melbourne (Postcodes and LGAs)*

In response to requests from MCUG, from the beginning of 2003 it is planned to circulate a monthly (?) list of new maps and GIS data via email, and place it on the web.

6. Map Collection 2003 Operational Plan.

John briefly discussed some objectives in the Map Collection 2003 Operational Plan, including: respacing ES and MX, production of a “new maps and GIS data” list, digitize some historical maps, negotiate a copyright agreement regarding aerial photography with Land Victoria, relocate a number of low-use books to closed access to overcome space constraints, and investigate the production of a cdrom of the Walker Collection.

7. Departmental Map Needs (standing item).

Any requests for maps or spatial data can be emailed to John Cain at any time.

- Maps of Morocco: Richard requested more to support research, John will liase with Richard.
- Geography Materials Allocation: Richard noted that the Geography Dept has asked the Library to increase its fund allocation for materials; Richard asked how purchases of GIS data are funded. John noted that most purchases of GIS data are made from the Map Collection materials allocation at no cost to departmental allocations. Occasionally major purchases, such as Cdata 2001, are funded from Research Support Funds.

8. Other Business

- MCUG Mission Statement: As this was last reviewed in June 1999, John requested this be reviewed and re-approved. It was agreed the current statement is adequate, except that in the first paragraph “geographic information” should be replaced by “GIS data”.
- MCUG Membership: It was agreed that the membership of MCUG should be reviewed at the next meeting, including the idea of deputies.
- Photocopiers: John reported that the contract for photocopying services will go to tender early in 2003. Whatever the outcome, it is hoped that a new large-format photocopier will be provided for Maps. These now take the form of a scanner and printer, so this would enable us to scan maps up to A0 in size and save the resulting file to computer (for burn to CD or similar).
- Fee-For-Service charges: These charges apply to external commercial users who get Map Collection staff to post copies of maps out to them. The charges were last revised in July 2000 and are currently being reviewed (particularly the service fee). The meeting felt the current charges are appropriate, though the service fee should cover the actual service cost.

9. Next meeting.

The next meeting will be at 2:15 pm on Wednesday 2 April 2003 in the Map Collection.