

Searching for Maps and Atlases in iDiscover

Some of the cartographic materials – maps and atlases – held in Cambridge libraries are listed in iDiscover. However, many are not and may just be listed in card catalogues or other finding aids that are accessible only within the library concerned. If you cannot find the item you are looking for it is a good idea to ask the relevant librarian.

In iDiscover there is usually more than one way to construct a search. Different search strategies will use different parts of the catalogue record and so may produce subtly different results, so it is usually worth trying more than one type of search.

If in doubt, ask a librarian!

We will discuss below:

- Advanced Search (*Recommended!*)
 - ❖ Searching for maps and atlases of a particular **Place**
 - ❖ Searching for maps and atlases of a specific **Type**
 - ❖ Searching for maps and atlases at a specific **Scale**
- **Sorting** Results by **Date**
- Simple Search
- Searching for **World Atlases**
- Subject **Search Terms**

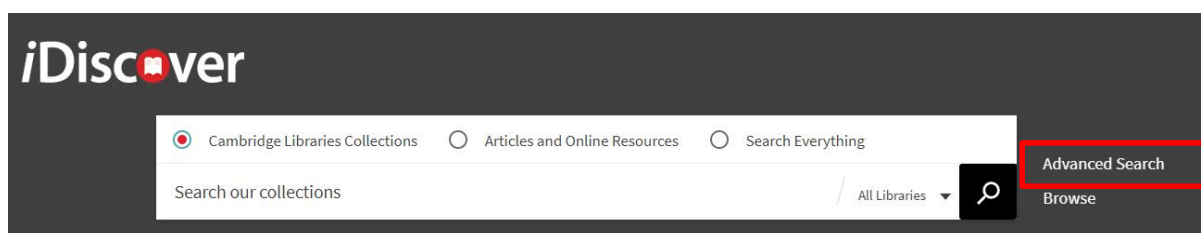
Note: For the purposes of this guide the term ‘maps’ includes atlases.

ADVANCED SEARCH:

‘Advanced Search’ is recommended for finding cartographic materials within iDiscover. This is primarily because when searching for maps people are often looking for maps of a particular area rather than for a specific item of which the title / author are known (if you do have this information it may be useful to look at some of the other **Quick Guides** at <http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/idiscover>).

Searching for Maps and Atlases of a Particular Place:

Click on ‘Advanced Search’:



- Limit your search to 'Cambridge Libraries Collections'
- If you want to search the collections of a particular library select the relevant library from the 'Library' drop down list on the left.
- To search for maps of a specific **area**, select 'Subject' from the drop down menu on the left and in the search box type the area required followed by the word 'maps':

The screenshot shows the iDiscover search interface. At the top, there are three radio buttons for 'Search for': 'Cambridge Libraries Collections' (selected), 'Articles and Online Resources', and 'Search Everything'. Below this is a 'Library:' dropdown menu set to 'All Libraries'. The main search area has a 'Subject' dropdown menu set to 'Subject', followed by a 'contains' dropdown menu set to 'contains', and a text input field containing 'malta maps'. To the right of the search area are several filters: 'Material Type' (All items), 'Language' (Any language), and 'Publication Date' (Any year). Below the search area, there is a '+ ADD A NEW LINE' button and a 'CLEAR' button. At the bottom of the search area, there is a green arrow icon followed by the text 'Subject contains malta maps' and a black 'SEARCH' button. Below the search area, there is a 'PAGE 1 71 Results' indicator. On the left side of the results area, there is a 'PAGE 1' indicator with a dropdown arrow. The first result is a map titled 'Map of Malta and its dependencies : [showing the Malta railway]. Wells Owen & Elwes. London : Wells Owen & Elwes, [1870?]'. It is available at UL: Order in Map Room (Not borrowable) (Maps.c.270.87.1) >.

- Click on  to retrieve your results.

Note: Unless you have selected a specific library, this will search across all Cambridge libraries and collections (print and electronic) and Apollo, the Cambridge institutional repository. Selecting 'Articles and Online Resources' or 'Search Everything' will also find online images of maps in a selection of external databases.

Note on World Maps: If you do a subject search (as shown above) for *world maps* you would find *maps* of the world BUT NOT world *atlases*. There is a section towards the end of this document on searching for world atlases:

The screenshot shows the iDiscover search interface. At the top, there are three radio buttons for 'Search for': 'Cambridge Libraries Collections' (selected), 'Articles and Online Resources', and 'Search Everything'. Below this is a 'Library:' dropdown menu set to 'All Libraries'. The main search area has a 'Subject' dropdown menu set to 'Subject', followed by a 'contains' dropdown menu set to 'contains', and a text input field containing 'world maps'. To the right of the search area are several filters: 'Material Type' (All items), 'Language' (Any language), and 'Publication Date' (Any year). Below the search area, there is a '+ ADD A NEW LINE' button and a 'CLEAR' button. At the bottom of the search area, there is a green arrow icon followed by the text 'Subject contains world maps' and a black 'SEARCH' button. Below the search area, there is a 'PAGE 1 1,098 Results' indicator. On the left side of the results area, there is a 'PAGE 1' indicator with a dropdown arrow. The first result is a map titled 'World map. Revised ed., London : HarperCollins, 2000.' It is available at UL: Order in Map Room (Not borrowable) (Maps.20.F.1) >. On the right side of the results area, there is a 'Simple Search' button and a 'Browse' button. Below the results area, there is a 'Refine my results' section with a 'Sort by' dropdown menu set to 'Relevance' and an 'Availability' dropdown menu set to 'Available in the Libr... (1,094)'.

Note: If you don't find anything suitable it is also worth doing an 'Any field' search for your place name, with 'maps' as your only subject search word:

Search for: ☒ Cambridge Libraries Collections ☐ Articles and Online Resources ☐ Search Everything

Library: All Libraries ▼

Subject ▼ contains ▼ maps

AND ▼ Any field ▼ contains ▼ valletta

+ ADD A NEW LINE CLEAR

→ Subject contains maps AND Any field contains valletta

PAGE 1 28 Results

1 MAP
Map of the Island of Malta.
Valletta, [1964?]
Available at UL: Order in Map Room (Not borrowable) (Maps.c.270.96.2) >

This is most effective for smaller places that are not likely to be a place of publication.

Searching for Maps and Atlases of a Specific Type:

To find maps of a particular **type** – geology or soil maps, for example, or maps published before 1800, or facsimiles – use one of the following search strategies.

1) Add additional search terms to your '**Subject**' search box. Some of the more commonly used search terms are listed below; they can be combined with a place name or searched instead of a place name if you are only interested in, e.g., geological maps:

Search for: ☒ Cambridge Libraries Collections ☐ Articles and Online Resources ☐ Search Everything

Library: All Libraries ▼

Subject ▼ contains ▼ malta maps geology

AND ▼ Any field ▼ contains ▼

+ ADD A NEW LINE CLEAR

→ Subject contains malta maps geology

PAGE 1 3 Results

1 MAP
Geological map of the Maltese islands / Oil Exploration Directorate, Office of the Prime Minister, Valletta, Malta.
Malta. Office of the Prime Minister. Oil Exploration Directorate.
Valletta, Malta : Oil Exploration Directorate, 1993.

Simple Search
Browse

Refine my results
Sort by Relevance ▼
Availability ^
Available in the Library (3)

- Click on to retrieve your results.

2) Or, on the **next line of search boxes**, ensure that the drop down options are set to 'And' and 'Any field' and type subject (or title, author, publisher, additional place name, etc.) words into the corresponding search box:

The screenshot shows the iDiscover search interface. At the top, there are radio buttons for 'Cambridge Libraries Collections' (selected), 'Articles and Online Resources', and 'Search Everything'. Below this is a 'Library' dropdown set to 'University Library'. The main search area has two rows of search boxes. The first row has 'Subject' and 'contains' dropdowns, followed by the text 'malta maps'. The second row has 'AND' and 'Any field' dropdowns (both highlighted with red boxes), followed by 'contains' and 'soils' (also highlighted with a red box). To the right of these are dropdowns for 'Material Type' (All items), 'Language' (Any language), and 'Publication Date' (Any year). Below the search boxes are links for '+ ADD A NEW LINE' and 'CLEAR'. At the bottom of the search area is a summary: 'Subject contains malta maps AND Any field contains soils' and a 'SEARCH' button. On the right side, there are links for 'Simple Search' and 'Browse'. Below the search area, it says '1 Results' and shows a single result: 'MAP Malta & Gozo : soils map. Great Britain. Directorate of Overseas Surveys. [London] : Directorate of Overseas Surveys, 1960. Available at UL: Order in Map Room (Not borrowable) (Maps.270.96.1) and other locations >'. There are icons for citation, email, and bookmarking.

- Click on **SEARCH** to retrieve your results.

3) Or, use the **'Refine my results'** options on the right side of the results screen. In the 'Subject' section of the 'Refine my results' panel you can restrict your results to, for example, specific areas, e.g. Valletta, or to type of map, e.g. Roads (these terms are taken from the Subject Headings in the catalogue records).

Note: Click on the **'Show more'** label at the bottom of the list to see all the refining options

The screenshot shows the iDiscover results page. On the left, there is a list of search results. Each result includes a map icon, the title 'Malta [cartographic material]', the publisher 'Great Britain. Directorate of Overseas Surveys', and the year. Below each result is a link to 'Available at UL: Order in Map Room (Not borrowable)'. On the right side, there is a 'Refine my results' panel. It has a 'Maps' filter selected, a 'Reset filters' link, and a 'Refine my results' button (highlighted with a red box). Below this are sections for 'Sort by' (Relevance), 'Availability' (Available in the Library (69)), 'Date' (From 1700 to 2016, with a 'Refine' link), 'Library' (University Library (69)), and 'Subject' (highlighted with a red box). The 'Subject' section lists various categories with counts: Malta (55), Gozo Island (Malta) (26), Valletta (Malta) (7), Roads (6), and Mdina (Malta) (5). There is a 'Show More' link at the bottom of the 'Subject' list. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'PAGE 1' indicator.

- For more details on refining and expanding searches see **Quick Guide: Refining, expanding and ordering your results** <http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/idiscover>
- You might also find **Quick Guide: Advanced searching methods** useful – see <http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/idiscover>

Searching for Maps and Atlases at a Specific Scale:

Catalogue entries for most (*but not all*) maps and atlases **drawn at one or two scales** include a scale statement in the form of a representative fraction, such as 1:50,000. To search for such items do an 'Any field' search for '50000', etc. (i.e. search for the number after '1:', excluding commas and spaces):

The screenshot shows the iDiscover search interface. At the top, there are search filters: 'Search for:' with radio buttons for 'Cambridge Libraries Collections' (selected), 'Articles and Online Resources', and 'Search Everything'. Below this is a 'Library:' dropdown set to 'University Library'. The main search area has a 'Subject' dropdown set to 'contains' and a search term 'malta maps'. To the right, there are filters for 'Material Type' (All items), 'Language' (Any language), and 'Publication Date' (Any year). Below the search term, there is a red box around the 'AND' operator, 'Any field', 'contains', and the search term '50000'. Below this, there is a '+ ADD A NEW LINE' button and a 'CLEAR' button. At the bottom, there is a summary of the search: 'Subject contains malta maps AND Any field contains 50000' and a 'SEARCH' button. On the right side, there are links for 'Simple Search' and 'Browse'. Below the search area, there is a 'PAGE 1 11 Results' indicator. The first result is a map titled 'Map of the island of Malta' by Progress Press Co., Valletta, Malta, published in 1968. It is available at the University Library (UL) in the Map Room (Not borrowable) with the call number Maps.c.19.H.93. On the right side, there is a 'Refine my results' section with 'Sort by' set to 'Date-oldest' and 'Availability' set to 'Available in the Library (11)'.

- Click on **SEARCH** to retrieve your results.

Note: Catalogue entries for maps and atlases **drawn at more than two scales**, or **with no, or an unknown scale**, may include scale statements such as: 'Scale not given'; 'Scale indeterminable'; 'Scales differ'; 'Not drawn to scale' – or there may be no scale statement at all.

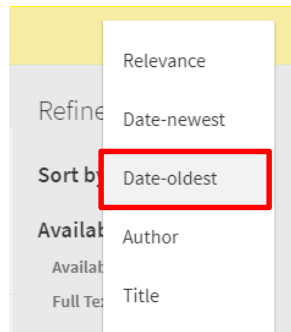
SORTING RESULTS BY DATE:

You will probably then want to sort the results into Date Order:

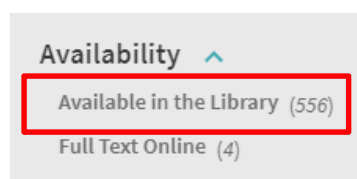
- Use the 'Sort By' feature on the right of the search results screen:

The screenshot shows the iDiscover search results screen. At the top, there is a search bar with the term 'malta' and a search button. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for 'Cambridge Libraries Collections' (selected), 'Articles and Online Resources', and 'Search Everything'. Below this is a dropdown for 'All Libraries'. On the right side, there are links for 'Advanced Search' and 'Browse'. The main search area shows 'PAGE 1 69 Results'. The first three results are maps: 1. 'Map of the island of Malta' by Progress Press Co., Valletta, Malta, published in 1968. 2. 'Map of the island of Malta' by Great Britain, Directorate of Overseas Surveys, published in 1962. 3. 'Map of the island of Malta' by Great Britain, War Office, General Staff, Geographical Section, published in 1940. On the right side, there is a 'Refine my results' section with 'Sort by' set to 'Relevance' (highlighted with a red box), 'Availability' set to 'Available in the Library (69)', and 'Date' set to 'From 1700 To 2016' with a 'Refine' button.

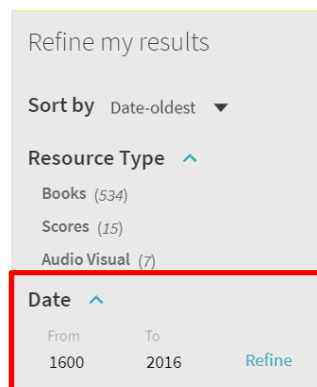
- Sort the results by 'Date – oldest' to see the oldest entries first:



Note: Electronic versions come first when you sort by Date-oldest, so you can also limit to 'Available in the Library' which will give only cartographic items which are physically available in a library somewhere in Cambridge.



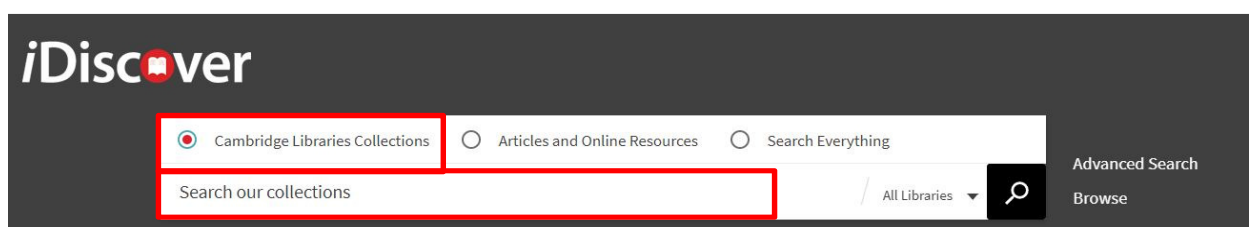
Note: Early printed items which have uncertain dates may also come at the top of your list when sorted by Date-oldest; you can avoid this by refining your set of results further by date. The system will give default dates which you can search between, based on the results of your search. You can refine down to a single year.



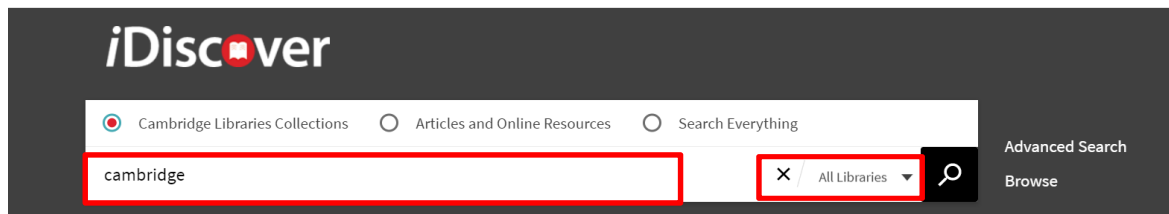
SIMPLE SEARCH:


Conducting a Simple search will produce similar results to an Advanced Search but there will be some differences. Try both to make a thorough search of the collections.

- 1.) Select 'Cambridge Libraries Collections' and type your search term in the 'Search our collections' box:



- Most often you will be looking for a map of a particular place so your search term might just be the name of that place e.g. Cambridge:



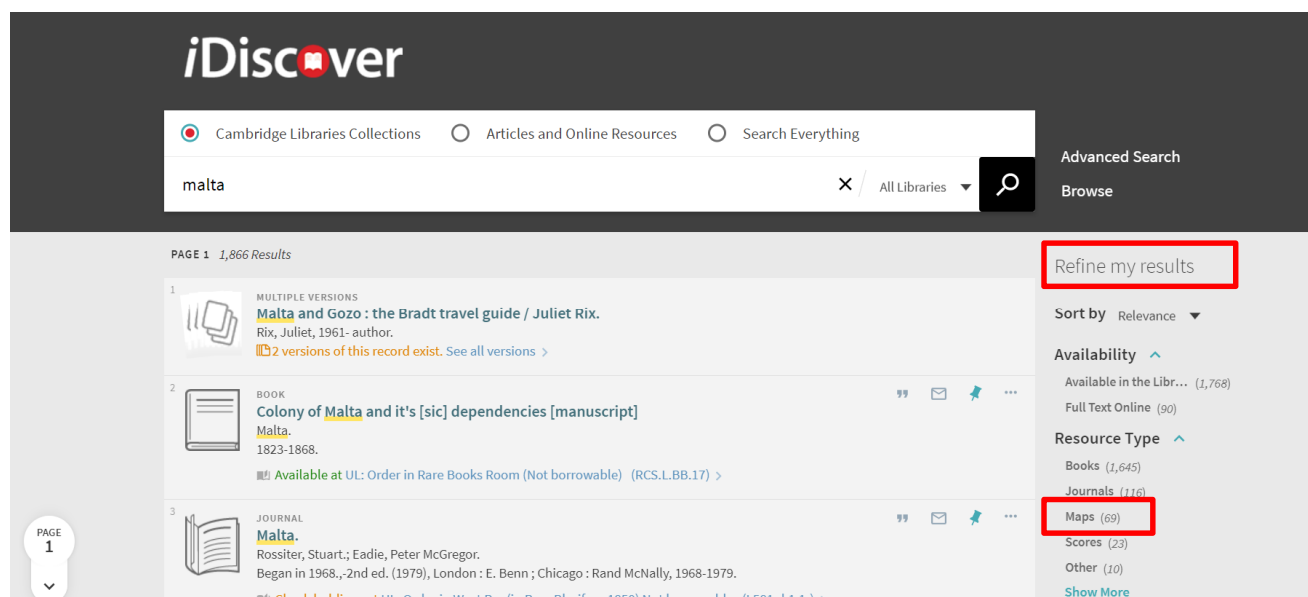
- But if you are looking for a specific map then you can enter title words, cartographer, etc. here. If you are looking for a particular title then use “...” around the title.
- If you only want to search the collections of a particular library select the relevant library from the ‘All libraries’ drop down list on the right.
- Click on  to retrieve your results.

Note: This will search for books (printed and electronic), other physical library content and Apollo, the Cambridge institutional repository. Selecting ‘Articles and Online Resources’, or ‘Search Everything’, will also find online images of maps in a selection of external databases.

- For more details on simple searching, see: [Quick Guide: Quick searching](http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/idiscover)

2.) Use the ‘Refine my results’ options on the right side of the results screen:

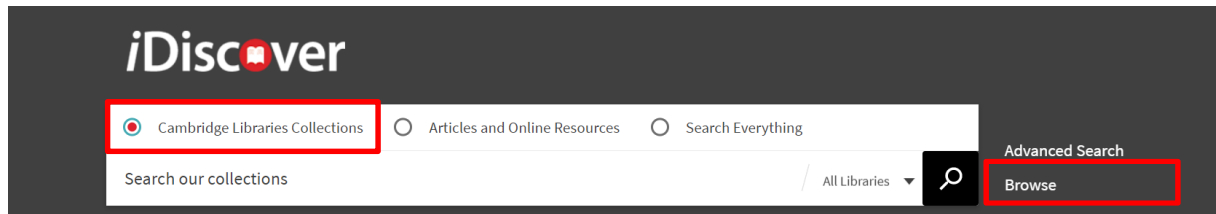
- Go to the ‘Resource Type’ area.
- Select ‘Maps’ (this include atlases)
- For more information see [Quick Guide: Refining, expanding and ordering your results](http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/idiscover)



SEARCHING FOR WORLD ATLASES:


To find World atlases in iDiscover it is best to do a browsable Subject search. This is because catalogue records for World atlases contain no conventional Place subject heading (see above for searching for World Maps):

- Select 'Cambridge Libraries Collections'
- Go to Browse:



- Select 'Browse by Subject' and type the word 'atlases' in the Search Box:



- Click on  to retrieve your results.

This will retrieve a list of subject headings beginning with the word 'Atlases':

Browse by subject ▼ Atlases	
Atlases	326 records
Atlases (2lcf)	1 record
ATLASES (asth)	202 records
Atlases (bet)	34 records
Atlases (fast)	15 records
Atlases (lcf)	1191 records
Atlases (mesh)	1 record
Atlases (rbgenr)	20 records

- At the top of the list is 'Atlases'. Click on this to see World atlases published in the United States of America. (For the purpose of finding World atlases ignore the 'Atlases' headings followed by strange abbreviations in brackets!)

- If you want World atlases published in other countries scroll down the list or add the appropriate country adjective (Australian, Belgian, British ...), to your search box:

The screenshot shows the iDiscover search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Atlases british' entered. To the left of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled 'Browse by subject'. Below the search bar, a list of search results is displayed. The first result, 'Atlases, British', is highlighted with a red box and shows '940 records'. Other results include 'Atlases, British -- 19th century' (2 records), 'Atlases, British -- Bibliography' (3 records), 'Atlases, British -- Early works to 1800' (28 records), 'Atlases, British. [from old catalog]' (1 record), 'Atlases, British -- Indexes' (1 record), 'Atlases, British -- Juvenile literature' (39 records), and 'Atlases, British -- Politics and government' (1 record).

SUBJECT SEARCH TERMS FOR MAPS AND ATLASES OF A PARTICULAR TYPE:

Catalogue records will nearly always include subject headings which, for maps, will indicate the area covered by the map or atlas and, where appropriate, special characteristics such as topic (geology, soil, administrative) or type of map (e.g. facsimile).

In many Cambridge libraries, the terms used in these subject headings are taken from a restricted list known as **Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)**. They were devised in the USA, hence the American spelling of words like harbor.

A searchable list of LCSHs is available at:

<http://authorities.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>

The list below includes a selection of headings most commonly used when looking for maps and atlases. They can be used in Subject searches (in Advanced Search, see above) with or without a place name.

It is best to start your search with general terms and then refine it by using more specific search terms if necessary. If you find an item that suits your needs, try searching on the subject terms present in the catalogue record for that item.

Also think, where appropriate, of substituting the word 'maps' with **guidebooks** – cycling and walking guidebooks, for example, often contain maps – or of dropping the terms maps / charts altogether.

Selected Library of Congress Subject Headings useful when searching for maps and atlases (Use 'Subject' search in 'Advanced Search')

early works maps

For maps and atlases (original and facsimiles) published before 1800

administrative maps

aerial views

For maps that depict places observed from the air

<i>aeronautical charts</i>	
<i>agriculture maps</i>	
<i>archaeology maps</i>	
<i>archaeological surveying maps</i>	
<i>bathymetric maps</i>	
<i>childrens atlases</i>	For children's atlases. If you want maps search for <i>childrens maps</i>
<i>cities towns maps</i>	For collections of maps (including atlases) of cities and towns, including worldwide collections. Combine with a place name – e.g. a country – for collections of city and town maps of that country
<i>climate maps</i>	
<i>cycling maps</i>	Also try <i>bicycle trails maps</i>
<i>facsimiles maps</i>	
<i>geology maps</i>	
<i>globes</i>	For globes (and books about globes)
<i>historical geography maps</i>	
<i>history maps</i>	
<i>land use maps</i>	
<i>manuscript maps</i>	
<i>mental maps</i>	
<i>nautical charts</i>	
<i>outline base maps</i>	For outline and base maps
<i>physical maps</i>	
<i>pictorial maps</i>	
<i>pictorial works maps</i>	
<i>planning maps</i>	You could also add the terms: <i>city</i> ; <i>highway</i> ; <i>regional</i> as appropriate

<i>railroads maps</i>	
<i>remote sensing images</i>	
<i>remote sensing maps</i>	
<i>roads maps</i>	
<i>soils maps</i>	
<i>topographic maps</i>	For maps with topographical information (relief, settlements, etc.) at more detailed scales of ca. 1:200,000 or larger. Use with caution since some useful maps (and, e.g. town plans) may be excluded
<i>tourist maps</i>	
<i>transportation maps</i>	For maps showing a variety of transport modes. For specific transport types search for: <i>railroads ; roads ; air travel ; harbors ; waterways ; rural transportation ; subways ; urban transportation ;</i> etc plus <i>maps</i>
<i>walking maps</i>	Try also <i>trails maps</i> and <i>hiking maps</i>
<i>weather maps</i>	
<i>world maps</i>	For maps of the whole world. See also section above on 'Searching for World Atlases'

Note: not all maps can be found on iDiscover. The Map Department of Cambridge University Library (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps>) has a huge map collection much of which is *only* catalogued in a **card catalogue** which is not available remotely. More information on finding maps (and books on cartography) in the University Library can be found at <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/finding-maps>

Note: Over time **cataloguing standards** have changed, and they also may not be the same across all libraries. It is always worth, therefore, after you have tried the search strategies described above, searching for keywords, especially where smaller or more obscure place names are required.

Note: Also search **Janus**, the University's manuscripts and archives catalogue. To access the Janus catalogue, go to <https://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/> where you will also find extensive guides on how best to use it.

Note: Maps, atlases and most books on cartography in the University Library cannot currently be requested electronically; you will need to fill in a **paper request form**, probably in the Map Department's reading room. To request cartographic materials held in other Cambridge libraries, contact the relevant librarian.

Note: A document listing the larger **map collections in Cambridge** can be found in Cambridge University Library Map Department's Information Sheet 2A at <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/information-sheets>