# Cartographic Resources

## HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY – GENERAL

**The History of cartography.** *The University of Chicago Press.*

An important multi-volume work to be complete in 6 volumes; see [www.geography.wisc.edu/histcart/](http://www.geography.wisc.edu/histcart/)

Published so far:

- **Vol. 6 (in 2 volumes). Cartography in the Twentieth Century** (2015)

Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 6 are available online at [http://press.uchicago.edu/books/HOC/index.html](http://press.uchicago.edu/books/HOC/index.html)

**Cartographical innovations: an international handbook of mapping terms to 1900.**


**Why north is up : map conventions and where they came from.**


**British map engravers: a dictionary of engravers, lithographers and their principal employers to 1850.**

Laurence Worms and Ashley Baynton-Williams. Rare Book Society, 2011.

**Dictionary of land surveyors and local mapmakers of Great Britain and Ireland 1530-1850.** 2nd ed.


**Tooley’s dictionary of mapmakers.** Revised ed. Editor Josephine French. Map Collector Publications or Early World Press, Riverside, CT. In 4 volumes.

Some Researchers in Map History can be identified at [http://www.maphistory.info/research.html](http://www.maphistory.info/research.html)

## HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY – CARTOBIBLIOGRAPHIES (a select few!)


**Koeman’s Atlantes Neerlandici.** Compiled by Peter van der Krogt. New ed. (1997-2012)
### Map History / History of Cartography Website

Lots of invaluable information on, e.g. conferences, talks and exhibitions, fellowships and prizes, map collecting and collections, map catalogues, email discussion lists, societies, thefts, forgeries, links to images of early maps, and much more. Includes section entitled *Books to get you into the Subject* at [www.maphistory.info/litgen.html](http://www.maphistory.info/litgen.html)

### H-Maps

An discussion forum for those interested in the historical study of maps from the ancient to the contemporary period.

### ORDNANCE SURVEY (OS) MAPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Shelfmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>A History of the Ordnance Survey.</em></td>
<td>Edited by W. A. Seymour</td>
<td>Dawson, 1980</td>
<td>S696.b.98.3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Detailed history of OS. Available online at <a href="https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/about/history">https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/about/history</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invaluable to anyone using Ordnance Survey maps, especially maps at the more detailed (large) scales.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Old Series to Explorer : a field guide to the Ordnance map.</em></td>
<td>Chris Higley</td>
<td>Charles Close Society, 2011</td>
<td>S696.c.201.15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/">www.charlesclosesociety.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An active society that publishes books and a newsletter. Very useful website which includes links to non-British mapping sites.</td>
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### OS Digital Data in the Map Department

OS no longer publish printed maps at scales of 1:1,250, 1:2,500 or 1:10,000. However, since 1998 Ordnance Survey has voluntarily deposited an annual snapshot of their most detailed map data in the legal deposit libraries. This data can be viewed in the Map Room of CUL and A4 size prints can be taken for non-commercial private research purposes. Since 2004 similar data for Northern Ireland has also been deposited by Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland. More information is available at [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/ordnance-survey-digital-maps/os](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/ordnance-survey-digital-maps/os)

### DIGIMAP

Cambridge University staff and students can access current and historic OS map data, plus other data including geological and marine, via the Digimap service. A Raven Account is required and users must register with EDINA to use the current data. See [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/digital-maps/digimap](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/digital-maps/digimap) for more information.

### CURRENT MAPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A comprehensive and invaluable guide to recent printed and digital mapping of the UK.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A primary resource for information on topographic and thematic mapping (printed and digital) for all parts of the world. Includes a brief history of mapping for each country; a discussion on what mapping has been compiled plus comments on its availability; graphic indexes for map series; postal and web addresses for map producers and publishers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GeoKatalog 2.</strong></td>
<td>ILH Scientific Cartography</td>
<td>Reference Shelves in Map Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Based in Stuttgart, Germany. Until the end of September 2015, ILH Scientific produced a very useful 3-volume loose-leaf map sales catalogue listing the items they believed they could supply (not all are held in stock). It also includes graphic indexes and although not now added to it is an excellent guide to what current mapping is available. Their website <a href="http://www.ilh-stuttgart.de/">www.ilh-stuttgart.de/</a> does not include their full catalogue.</td>
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Omnimap

This map supplier maintains a comprehensive online catalogue to the current mapping they believe they can supply (not all items are held in stock).

National Mapping Agencies

See list hosted by the Charles Close Society [www.charlesclosesociety.org/organisations](http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/organisations) and Eurogeographics [https://eurogeographics.org/our-members/](https://eurogeographics.org/our-members/)

MAP COLLECTIONS / LIBRARIES

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<tr>
<th>Printed and online</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A Directory of U.K. map collections.</strong> <a href="https://www.cartography.org.uk/ukmca">https://www.cartography.org.uk/ukmca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Map Collections in Britain and Northern Ireland.</td>
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Information on larger map collections in Great Britain, Ireland and other parts of the world.

See also the Directories section at: [www.maphistory.info/collections.html](http://www.maphistory.info/collections.html)

LIBRARY CATALOGUES

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<tr>
<td>As in many libraries, only a small part of Cambridge University Library's map collection is catalogued online – bear this in mind when searching all online catalogues.</td>
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For discussions on and links to online catalogues see [www.maphistory.info/collections.html](http://www.maphistory.info/collections.html).

For information on the CUL Map Department's card catalogue and for tips on searching iDiscover ([http://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk/](http://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk/)) the Library’s online catalogue for maps, atlases and books on cartography see [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/finding-maps](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/finding-maps).

Links to many other map collections and their catalogues can be found in the Map Department Links page at [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/links/catalogues-collections](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/links/catalogues-collections).

The most frequently used online catalogues for maps are:

**British Geological Survey (BGS)**

The BGS library – [www.bgs.ac.uk/services/library/](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/services/library/) – includes geological mapping from all over the World and is part of the NERC Library & Archive Service [www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/outputs/library/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/outputs/library/). The BGS site also has online geology maps of Great Britain [https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/](https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/).

**The British Library Map Library**

With certain limitations (e.g. individual maps in atlases and many maps in map series) the online catalogue includes records for the entire map collection. The records are also available via Library Hub Discover (see below). The Images in their Online Gallery [www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlinex/viewall/index.html](http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlinex/viewall/index.html) may also be of interest.

**Library Hub Discover** (from 31 July 2019 ; the new COPAC)

In a single search you can discover (some of the) holdings of the UK’s National Libraries (including the British Library) and of many university libraries and specialist research libraries.

**IKAR**

Database of old maps listing over 260,000 pre-1850 printed maps in a group of German libraries. The records are also available via the KVK catalogue – [https://kvk.bibliothek.kit.edu/](https://kvk.bibliothek.kit.edu/) – a world-wide union catalogue.

**Library of Congress**

Includes records for cartographic materials catalogued since 1968. Further information about the collections of the Geography and Map Division can be found at [www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/](http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/).
The National Archives (TNA)  
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/  
A very large percentage of the maps held at this institution are not yet catalogued. See the TNA Research Guide at https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/maps-further-research/ for information on how to search their catalogue for maps and plans.

Printed catalogue: Maps and plans in the Public Record Office  
4 volumes covering a small proportion of the collection.  
S696.b.026.1-4

Royal Geographical Society  
https://www.rgs.org/about/our-collections/  
Excellent map collection with catalogue records for the older (and some of the newer) items available online. The catalogue records are unfortunately not available via Library Hub Discover.

WorldCat / OCLC Online Union Catalog  
http://www.worldcat.org/  
Originally a database of North American university catalogue records, it now includes catalogue records from the Library of Congress and British academic and national institutions including Cambridge University Library.

GAZETTEERS  
(see also www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/links/gazetteers-and-directories)  
Printed/Online

Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online  
www.columbiagazetteer.org/  
Online version of the printed world gazetteer but with more searching options. Only available within the University.

Printed version: Columbia University Press, c2008  
S696.b.200.339-341

GEONet Names Server (GNS)  
https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/  
Access to over 3 million place names outside of the USA approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names.

Printed version: but the website includes updated information.  
S696.b.012

Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)  
https://tinyurl.com/yya8e2cp  
Entries for almost 2,000,000 geographic features in the USA. Maintained by the United States Board of Geographic Names and the US Geological Survey. Can link from the search results to a map of the place.

Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN)  
http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/tgn/index.html  
A structured vocabulary containing over 1,000,000 names and other information about places. Includes all continents and nations of the modern political world as well as historical places, physical features and administrative entities such as cities and nations.

National Library of Scotland (GB around 1900)  
https://maps.nls.uk/  
If you use the ‘Explore Georeferenced Maps’ option you can search for names on Ordnance Survey six-inch maps from around 1900, just use the ‘Search OS six-inch 1888-1913 names’ search box on the left hand side (it is in a slighter darker purple/grey box).

Ordnance Survey (OS) Gazetteer of Great Britain  
http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/  
Searches an electronic version of the 1:50,000 scale gazetteer of Great Britain and provides National Grid references, map numbers, etc.

Printed version of 1:50,000 gazetteer:  
S696.b.99.209

JewishGen Gazetteer  
http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/  
Provides information on the location of populated places in Eastern Europe many of which no longer exist.

SCALES AND PROJECTIONS  
(also see – www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/links/scales-etc)  
Online

Map Projections – John P Snyder, download the whole book!  
http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/pp1395

Map Projection Home Page  
www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/mp/index.html

FieldenMaps.info – Includes a co-ordinate converter for OS and other maps  
www.fieldenmaps.info
OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES – GATEWAYS AND IMAGES

David Rumsey Collection  
www.davidrumsey.com/  
Extensive collection of scanned images of historic maps which may be reproduced and transmitted for non-commercial use.

Map Curators’ Toolbox  
www.cartography.org.uk/the-map-curators-toolbox  
Lots of useful links of interest to all map users.

National Library of Scotland Map Images  
https://maps.nls.uk/  
Excellent source of images of maps of all types of Scotland and of Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales.

Perry-Castañeda Library  
www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/  
Lots of online maps and links to gazetteers, etc.

Old Maps Online Portal  
www.oldmapsonline.org  
An easy-to-use gateway to historical maps in libraries around the world.

Vision of Britain Through Time  
www.visionofbritain.org.uk/index.jsp  
An extensive site offering descriptive information on boundary changes, census data and travellers’ tales as well as images of old maps.

iDiscover  
https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk/  
iDiscover, CUL’s online catalogue, includes many links to images of maps hosted by other organisations. Search in the normal way but restrict your search to ‘Articles and Online Resources’.

SEE ALSO

CUL Map Department Web Pages:  
www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/links  
Links to: map collections, gazetteers, email discussion lists and weblogs, online maps, cartographic journals and societies, websites exploring scales, projections, map grids, etc., etc.

Cartographic Resources LibGuide  
https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/cartographic_resources  
LibGuide exploring Cambridge University Library Map Department and cartographic resources in general.

CUL Map Department Information Sheets:  
www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/information-sheets  
As well as a general introduction to the Map Department collection and services, the Map Department Information Sheets – available online or in the Map Room – cover such subjects as: where to buy current, OS and Soviet military maps; how to access detailed modern Ordnance Survey maps; Digimap; map collections within and outside Cambridge; the Map Department catalogues.

This Information Sheet is available as a MS Word document at http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/information-sheets

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maps@lib.cam.ac.uk