

Geographical Services

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The Basics

- ★ **Geography** – “the science that deals with the study of the Earth and its lands, features, inhabitants, and phenomena” (Wikipedia, 2011)
- ★ “As our perspectives shift to a more global outlook, the importance of geographical information increases, allowing more learning about the world in which we live” (Cassell & Hiremath, 2009, p.213).
- ★ **Geographical Services in a Library –**
 - ★ Locations
 - ★ History
 - ★ Ecological Factors/Climate
 - ★ Directions/Trip Planning

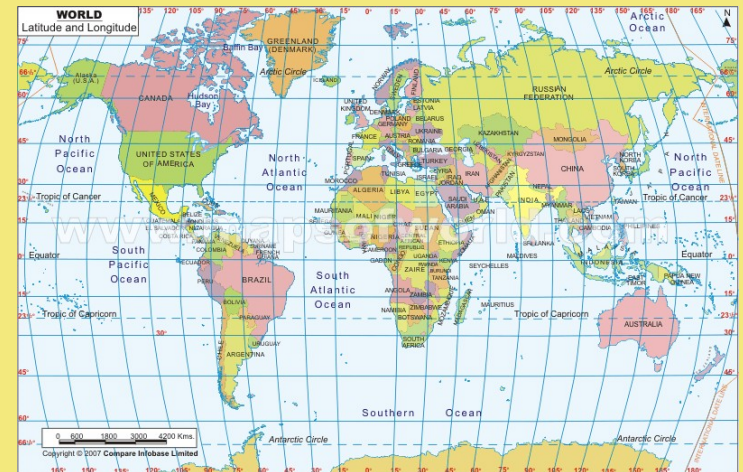


image: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-maps-2008.html>

Types of Resources

- ★ Gazetteers/
Geographical
Dictionaries
- ★ Maps and Atlases
- ★ U.S. Government
Publications
- ★ Geographic Information
Systems
- ★ Travel Guidebooks

These are typical forms of geographical resources. Following are a few in depth examples of some popular sources and how they can be used.

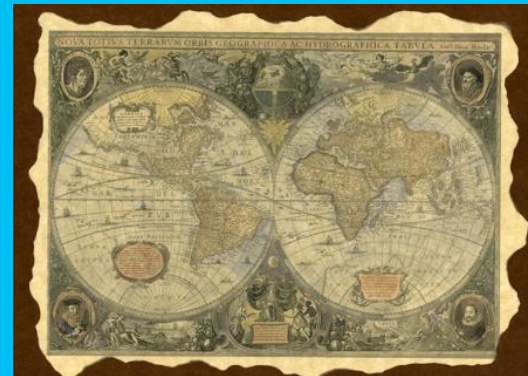


Image:
<http://www.enchantedimagesart.com/FantasyMaps.html>

Maps

★ “A representation, usually on a flat surface, as of the features of an area of the earth or a portion of the heavens, showing them in their respective forms, sizes, and relationships according to some convention of representation” (Dictionary.com, LLC, 2011)

★ **Types of maps:**

- ★ Climate
- ★ Economic
- ★ Physical
- ★ Political
- ★ Road
- ★ Topographic



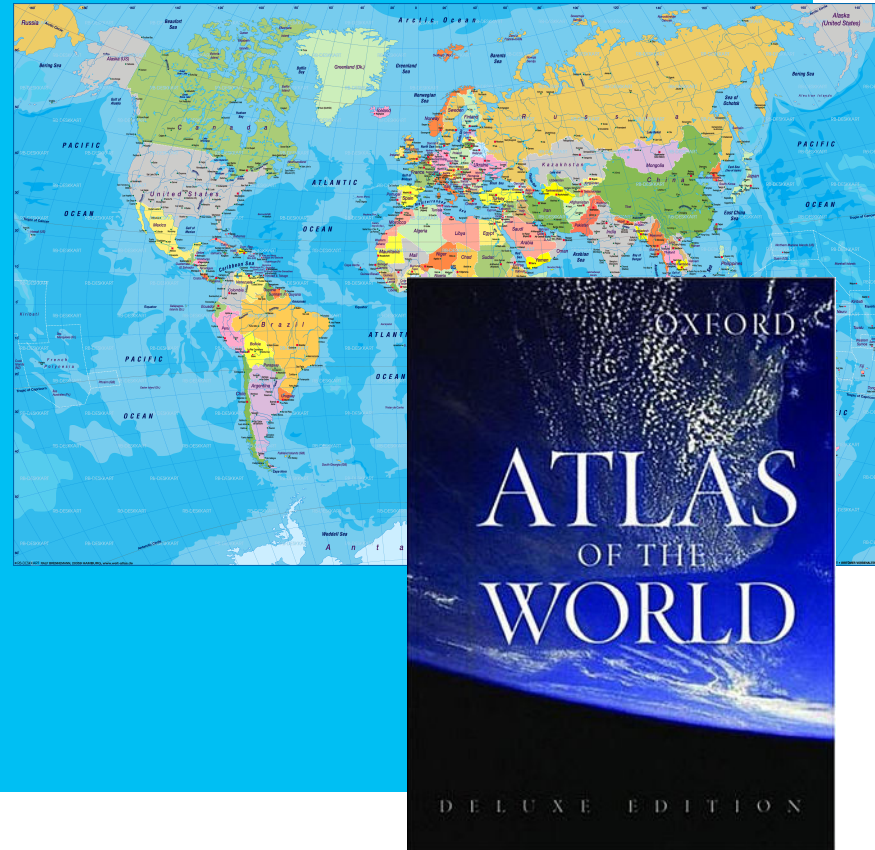
Image: <http://artsytime.com/antique-maps/>

Atlases

★ An atlas is generally thought of as a book of maps, often maps of roads or physical formations. There are, however, many types of atlases:

- ★ Maps
- ★ Charts
- ★ Tables
- ★ Statistics
- ★ Special Subjects

While atlases are traditionally books, there are some available online, like the [National Atlas of the United States](http://www.nationalatlas.gov/), which is a comprehensive collection of digital maps of the U.S. provided by the government.



Considerations for Libraries

- ★ Reliability – Is the map up to date and/or accurate?
- ★ Cost – Does the map fit within the library's budget?
- ★ Print or electronic?
- ★ Circulating vs. Non-circulating – How important would this factor be to patrons?



- ★ Located at <http://www.woodalls.com>, this is a website that is specific to the North American pastime of camping.
- ★ The site is very rich – It includes info about where to go camping by state or province, including local attractions, and gives users the opportunity to search information based on tent, RV, or family camping.
- ★ Forums within the site allow campers and prospective campers to ask and answer questions on a variety of camping topics.

Woodall's RV & Camping Copilot
Find 12,000 campgrounds, everywhere RVers go... FREE



- ✓ Fast
- ✓ Free
- ✓ Complete



Visit the iTunes App Store for your FREE Download!

Win \$250! Find out how at facebook.com/Woodalls



- ★ Print option: For libraries that want to keep a print reference on hand regarding camping sites, Woodall's offers an annual *North American Campground Directory*.
- ★ With a list price of only \$29.95, the book is a very reasonable addition to any library's collection
- ★ A free subscription to Woodall's results in a discounted price of \$14.95

Woodall's Campground Directory

USGS and EROS

- ★ “The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is a scientific agency of the United States government. The scientists of the USGS study the landscape of the United States, its natural resources, and the natural hazards that threaten it” (Wikipedia, 2011).
- ★ Four major science disciplines:
 - ★ Biology
 - ★ Geography
 - ★ Geology
 - ★ Hydrology
- ★ The U.S. Department of the Interior’s only scientific agency
- ★ Offers a wide variety of info and mapping on many science issues that pertain to the disciplines listed above.

A recent screen capture of the category offerings, retrieved on July 8, 2011:

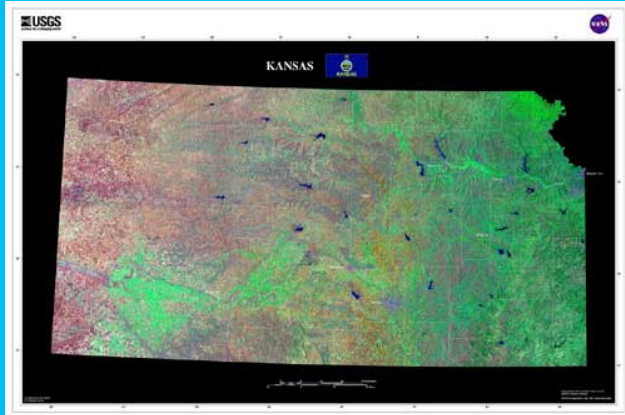
Science Topics

Browse USGS topics of interest:

- [Avian Influenza](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Contaminants](#)
- [Droughts](#)
- [Earthquakes](#)
- [Energy and Minerals](#)
- [Floods](#)
- [Geospatial Analysis](#)
- [Groundwater, Surface water](#)
- [Human Health](#)
- [Invasive Species](#)
- [Map Interfaces](#)
- [Maps and Atlases](#)
- [Microbiology](#)
- [Real-time data](#)
- [Remote Sensing](#)
- [Volcanoes](#)
- [Water Quality](#)
- [Wildfires](#)

View all **USGS science topics** or see more topics at Science.gov.

USGS and EROS, continued...



“Science for a changing world” (USGS, 2010).

★ The USGS Earth Resources Observation (EROS) Center has as its goal, “providing science and imagery to better understand our Earth” (EROS, 2011). Their image gallery houses visual depictions of, among other topics:

- ★ The world as art
- ★ Tri-Decadal Global Lands at Orthorectified States
- ★ Lewis & Clark’s Journey

★ These sites are particularly appealing to libraries not only because the resources are freely available via the internet, but also because the site contains info and images that can be used by most age groups.



“A book for the guidance of strangers or visitors in a district, town, building, etc., giving a description of the roads, places, or objects of interest to be found there” (Murray et al, 1961).



Image: <http://www.asia-travel-portal.tk/about/asia-travel-reviews/europe-review-travel-guide>

“A book of directions, advice, and information, especially for travelers or tourists” (Dictionary.com, LLC, 2011).

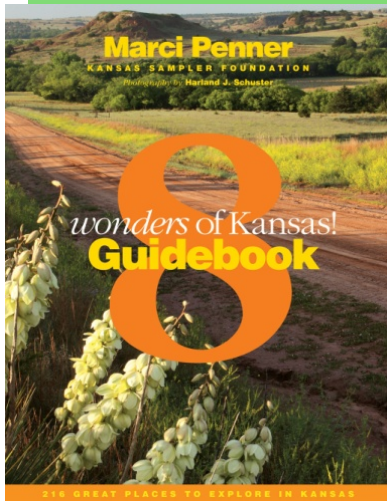
Guidebooks

Guidebooks contain not only maps, but also contain information on the culture of the place visited and common phrases (if the place is a foreign country), key sites to visit, places to eat, etc. They can be found for locations as specific as Disneyworld, or for general areas, like Europe.

Formats and Well Known Guides

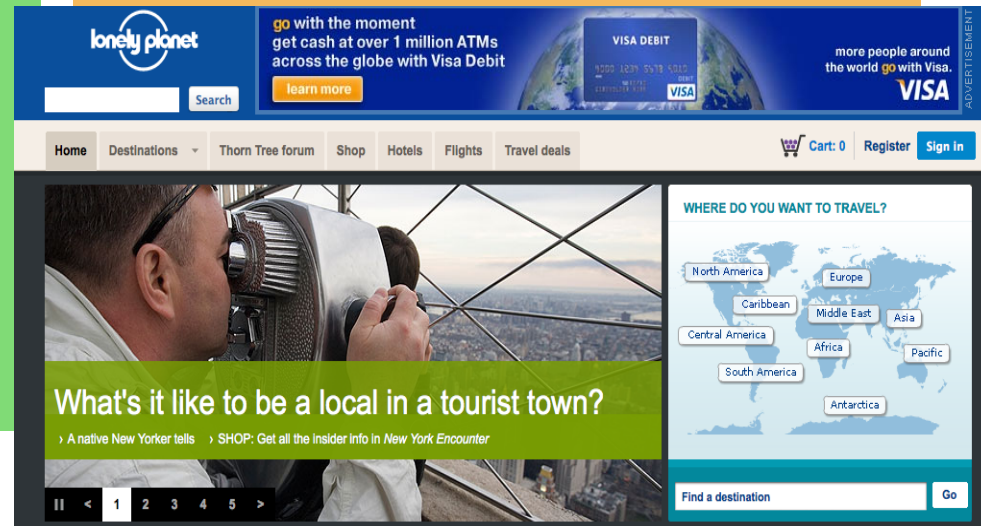
★ Book Format:

- ★ Forbes Travel Guide – Updated every year; gives latest information on best restaurants and hotels in any given region
- ★ Fodor's – Provides info on any city, state, or country



★ Digital Format:

- ★ www.fodors.com
- ★ www.forbestravelguide.com
- ★ www.frommers.com



Images: <http://www.kansassampler.org/page.php?id=3> and <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/us>

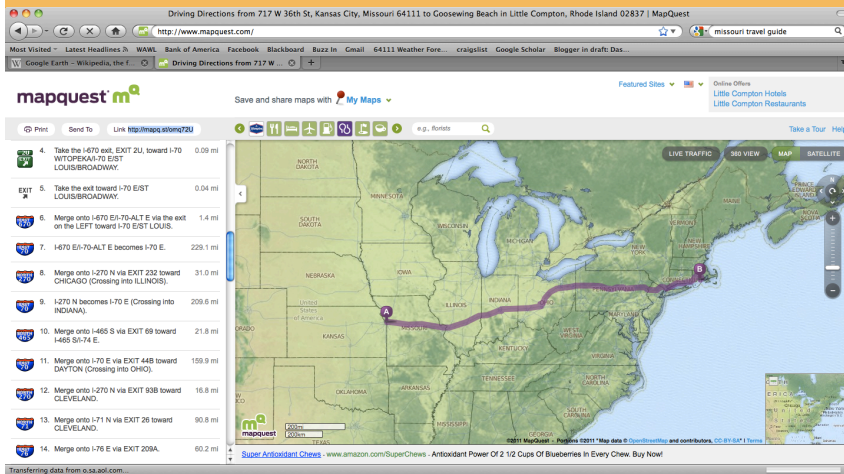
Guidebooks, continued...

- ★ Due to budget cuts, some libraries, including Emporia Public Library, are not buying the latest versions of guidebooks. They are instead sending patrons to the internet to find the latest and current info.
- ★ Patrons are looking at state tourism divisions and state department of commerce web pages, as well as researching specific locations. They are purchasing guidebooks that deal with historic sites.



Digital and Online Resources: MapQuest.com

From Kansas City...



... to Goosewing!

- ★ A quick and user friendly way to get maps of specified destinations, and, most notably, turn by turn driving directions.
- ★ Users can view live traffic, 360 views, as well as traditional maps of satellite views.
- ★ Here is a screen grab from a recent driving direction search I did.
- ★ You can also save the link to your searches and go back to it, like [this](#)...

Digital and Online Resources:

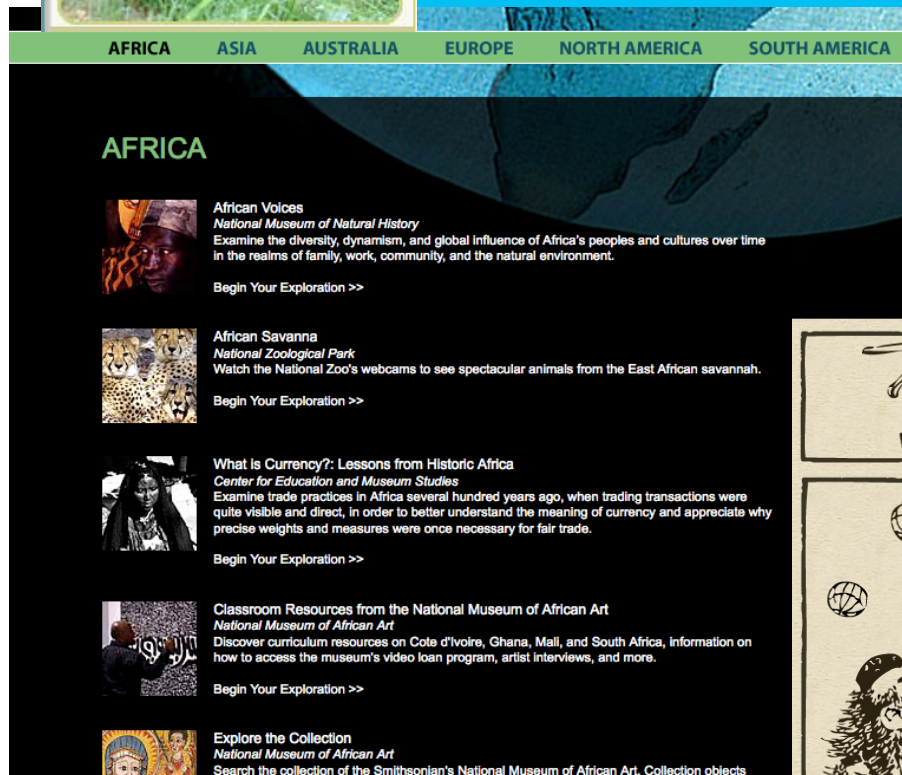
Google Earth

- ★ “Get the world’s geographical information at your fingertips” (Google, 2011).
- ★ With the free download of the Google Earth software, users can search through satellite imagery and different kinds of digital maps, as well as view images from the ocean floor and outer space. 3D views of cities and buildings are also available for some areas of the world.
- ★ “Google Earth is easy to use and presents, in a visual geospatial context, a great deal of information that applies to topics that are addressed in geoscience courses and many other educational settings. By offering the ability to place this information in combination on a three-dimensional model of the Earth, it can facilitate understanding of the Earth system and the many subject areas that comprise it, ranging from natural sciences to social sciences, history, art, engineering and any other topic that has a geographic component” (SERC @ Carlton College, 2009).

Digital and Online Resources: Geographic Resources *from the Smithsonian*



- ★ A geographic resource rich in cultural info and free to the public
 - ★ Accessed [here](#), viewers can choose a continent from an interactive map to learn more
 - ★ The results by continent span several different categories:
 - ★ Zoos
 - ★ Art exhibits
 - ★ Music
 - ★ Cultures
- ★ A fun, colorful, and exciting way to learn more about the cultures and peoples of all seven continents



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