

# Draft

## Digitization of the *Bibliography of Map Projections*

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### ABSTRACT:

This article discusses the digitization into a searchable database of the classic *Bibliography of Map Projections* by John P. Snyder. It explains the purpose of the digitization project from the perspective that in the “digital age” in which we live, important bodies of work, if not digitized will completely fail to meet the information needs and behaviors of cartographic research scientists. Such works will tragically cease to exist for all practical purposes in the world of information, due to their lack of accessibility using digital retrieval systems. The creation of the Snyder bibliography, as a part of an effort by the International Cartographic Association (ICA) Commission on Map Projections, into a database with a keyword search function will also benefit researchers by enabling them to obtain entire lists of works on single related topics or by individual authors.

The paper also looks at the background of the bibliography, including Snyder’s specific motivations in developing it. The *Bibliography of Map Projections* was first published in 1988 by the United States Geological Survey as Bulletin 1856. It is comprehensive with approximately 3,000-items, and with 110 pages. Its historical importance is shown, such as the inclusion of works from as early as the Second Century A.D. – a classic work by Ptolemy – and 51 works from prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The paper discusses how Snyder effectively elevated *map projections* in the hierarchy of information; and it describes how the bibliography can now actively indicate future research directions and be a dynamic part of the research environment, which was Snyder’s intention.

Details of the process of digitization are provided, such as the discovery of specific bibliographic software tools that best aided different phases of the process. Technology features such as options in the selection of reference types; customization of category fields; and defined term lists are included. The advantages and disadvantages of various software tools for actual usage includes which technology best allows for collaborative work; and one tool with an interactive environment that links directly to web sources that hold any of the large quantity of references in their online catalog.

The paper concludes with a description of plans for the ongoing growth of the bibliography, and the protocol for its maintenance. The relationship of the digitized bibliography to the ICA Commission on Map Projections is also explained.

**KEYWORDS:** map projections, John P. Snyder, map bibliographies, map library