
Reported by Michael L. Smith (UCSD), Chair.

The convener for 2009-10 was Cynthia Moriconi (UCSC). The recorder was Michael L. Smith (UCSD).

Campus representatives/meeting attendees included: Patricia Carbajales (Stanford), Julia Gelfand (Irvine), Tracey Hughes (San Diego), Jane Ingalls (Stanford), Jon Jablonski (Santa Barbara), Kris Kadianovitz (Los Angeles), Lizbeth Langston (Riverside), Tony Lin (Irvine), Cynthia Moriconi (Santa Cruz), Brian Quigley (Berkeley), John Ridener (Berkeley), Michael L. Smith (San Diego), Kathy Stroud (Davis), Julie Sweetkind-Singer (Stanford), Brian Williams (Irvine), Yvonne Wilson (Irvine).

This year, the group’s meetings were held via video conference call on December 11, 2009 and on June 11, 2010. The northern group met at Stanford and the southern group met at UC-Irvine and the meetings were held via video conference.

The minutes of the December and June meetings will be available at the UC/S MLG web site at:


Major action items and topics discussed at our meetings this year:

1. Transitions

This was in many ways a year of change for our group. Last year, three longstanding UC map librarians retired and we in turn welcomed new representatives from Berkeley, Riverside and Santa Barbara. UCSB had a national search and hired Jon Jablonski from the University of Oregon. The positions at Berkeley and Riverside are currently being covered part time by staff librarians, Brian Quigley and Lizbeth Langston, respectively. Our group is small enough that for the 2nd year we have been able to meet in person at two locations while conducting the meeting via video conference. This has worked quite well, and at a low cost; therefore, we plan to continue with this arrangement. (Various members also see each other in person at Western Association of Map Libraries conferences, which are held once or twice a year.)

With new members joining the group, we have taken this opportunity to do a little restructuring and updating of group documents. First, the group’s website was transitioned from Santa Cruz to San Diego (see URL above). As part of this, the site has been completely updated. We are also reexaming some older agreements, such as updating our primary collection responsibilities, reconsidering collection levels and updating cooperative purchasing information. In addition, we have a set up a wiki for group work and are considering creating a LibGuide, which would be publicly accessible and include resources on GIS, tutorials etc. Finally, we are in the process of changing our name to the UC/Stanford Map & Geospatial Libraries Group to reflect other types of information we increasingly deal with, such as digital formats.
2. Acquisitions and Digital Initiatives

Of course, finances did not improve this year and as such there were no consortium purchases, either of maps or databases. There are a couple new, major digital map products on the market, but we did not consider a CDL consortium purchase given our financial situations. This led to a discussion at our last meeting that we should be striving to create free, publicly accessible map websites, along the lines of the Library of Congress Map Division and http://davidrumsey.com. Stanford is adding a lot of historic maps through their Image Gallery (http://collections.stanford.edu/images) and continues to be a leader in putting digital maps on the web.

3. GIS Usage and Promotion

We have been discussing how libraries can add value to GIS usage on UC campuses, whether or not the library has a GIS lab as they may be located elsewhere on campus. Some ideas included: the library can assist GIS users by purchasing and providing data, becoming a “data repository,” by cataloging and creating meta-data for GIS data and layers and making them searchable, and encouraging and/or providing space for GIS info sessions by users on campus. Ultimately, a result would be a “GIS Librarians Toolbox,” perhaps hosted as part of the LibGuide previously discussed. Lastly, a few members have also been considering the possibility of beginning a new GIS Academic Support organization, either at a regional or national level.

GOALS

1. Formally change our name to “UC/Stanford Map & Geospatial Libraries” (UCSMGL).

2. Reconsider collecting levels at each institution and update information for cooperative purchases.

3. Study the feasibility of creating a LibGuide site for UCSMGL.

4. Further partnering with other organizations, such as the Library of Congress, to create a freely available, publicly accessible website for historic maps. Similarly, continue to explore the scanning of historical (out-of-copyright) Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of California, to be put on a publicly accessible website.

5. Work together on creating metadata for GIS data and possibly a “GIS data portal” for the group.

The 2010/2011 chair of the group will be Julie Sweetkind-Singer from Stanford. The next meeting will be another split video conference on December 10th. Michael Smith (UCSD) continues as Chair of the UC Maps and Geography Bibliographers Group (a separate office from the chair of UC/S MLG). As outgoing chair of UC/S MLG, Cynthia Moriconi will be the recorder this year.

Michael L. Smith
UC San Diego
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