ICA Commission on Map Projections
Commission report 2007-2011

Introduction
The ICA Commission on Map Projections was established in August 2003 at the 21st International Cartographic Conference in Durban, South Africa, following an official approval of its proposed terms of reference by the 13th General Assembly of the ICA. The goals of the commission are:

- To establish a repository of map projection knowledge
- To promote map projections to all relevant audiences
- To provide a platform promoting research and a common language in the field of map projection
- To encourage collaboration on map projection issues between researchers and across disciplines


Currently, the Commission on Map Projections has 63 corresponding members of which only few have been actively involved in commission activities in the 8 years of the commission’s existence. Many corresponding members have an interest in map projections, yet mostly from a user perspective. Only a small minority of the members of the commission is involved in map projection research.

Having completed two terms, the current chair and co-chair did not apply for a new term, yet a proposal for a continuation of the Commission with new terms of reference was submitted by Prof. Miljenko Lapaine from the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Activities in 2007-2011

Digitization of the Bibliography of Map Projections
In 1988 the U.S. Geological Survey published the first edition of the Bibliography of Map Projections, compiled by John P. Snyder and Harry Steward. With a total of almost 3,000 entries the bibliography is by far the most comprehensive in its subject area, including references in 28 languages: 50% are in English, 28% are in German, Russian and French, and 22% are in other languages, the majority in Polish, Hungarian, Italian and Spanish. Also, the
work has significant historical value. Fifty one references were published before 1800, one a
classic work by Ptolemy, circa 150 AD. The bibliography is an invaluable source of
information for those pursuing research in the field of map projections. Cartographers and
map projection enthusiasts interested in the rich history of the subject or in more recent
accomplishments of map projection science (over 2,000 of the entries have been published
since 1960) find the bibliography a useful reference for exploring the vast body of literature
covering the field of map projections.

Based on revisions by John P. Snyder two updated on-line versions of the bibliography were
installed at Ohio State University in 1994 and 1996, yet without an on-line search or update
capability. In 1997 the U.S. Geological Survey published the 2nd edition of the bibliography
with 446 new entries added to the 2,551 of the first edition.

From the start of its activities in 2003 the commission put forward as one of its goals to
develop an on-line, searchable version of the bibliography that can be updated and
expanded with new entries by authorized users. The digitization of the bibliography was
initiated by the Center for Excellence in Geospatial Information Sciences (CEGIS) of the US
Geological Survey as a contribution to the ICA Commission on Map Projections in May of
2009 and reached a stage of completion one year later when made available on-line.

The creation of the bibliography into a database with a keyword search function will benefit
researchers by enabling them to effectively obtain entire lists of works on single related
topics or by individual authors. In addition to the nearly 3,000 items in Snyder’s publication,
additional references that add to the body of literature on map projection continue to be
added. Non-duplicate references from Snyder’s book *Flattening the Earth: Two Thousand
Years of Map Projections* (1993) are among them.

The aim is to continue adding new references to the bibliography as submitted by the
cartographic community. The ICA Commission on Map Projections chairman will have total
administrative management access and will provide authorized access to appropriate
individuals for updating the database (read/write abilities). The bibliography is accessible
and searchable as read-only to all having URL access information and is available in WikIndX

**Workshops and meetings**

Alternating with the 2-yearly ICA International Cartographic Conferences, the Commission
on Map Projections organized a workshop at Autocarto 2008 (Shepherdstown, West-
Virginia) and one at Autocarto 2010 (Orlando, Florida), each attracting around 10
participants.

The commission organized business meetings at ICC 2007 in Moscow and at ICC 2009 in
Santiago de Chile. The commission will also host a business meeting at ICC 2011 in Paris.

Daan Strebe, chair
Frank Canters, co-chair
Lynn Usery, secretary