



ICA Commission on Cartographic Heritage into the Digital

Report of 2019–2023 period

<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2019-2023/Cartoheritage.html>

The Commission's targets in 2019–2023 were:

- to introduce the Heritage of Cartography and Maps as an important part of World's Cultural Heritage,
- to access, treat and diffuse the Cartographic Heritage by using all available digital tools,
- to transform and reference all available assets of Cartographic Heritage in digital form,
- to advance innovative cooperation with partners who curate and provide the Cartographic Heritage assets, who transform into the digital, who analyze, interpret and promote Cartographic Heritage, who use the Cartographic Heritage data and meta-data,
- to publish the results of the Commission's work.

The working tools used by the Commission are:

- the annual **Conferences** "Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage" (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2019-2023/Conferences.html>)
- the focused **Workshops** (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2019-2023/Focused.html>)
- the thematic **Tutorials** (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2019-2023/Tutorial.html>)
- the strategic partnership with the **MAGIC Group** (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2019-2023/MAGIC.html>)
- the cooperation with the **Supporting Institutions** (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2019-2023/Support.html>) backing the Commission
- the publishing of the Commission's work in the web journal **e-Perimtron** (<http://www.e-perimtron.org/>)

Unfortunately, the pandemic, and recently the Ukrainian war had its effect on the commission's work. Traveling, physically participating conferences became harder, and the extra efforts of daily life during the pandemic made it harder for everyone to contribute to the scientific community. Still, although with fewer presentations, but we managed to have three out of the planned four annual conferences (two in person and one online), and the commission also organized a focused workshop on automatic vectorization in March, 2020, which happened to be the very first on-line event of ICA.

Papers referring to the Commission's Terms of Reference were presented by commission members and other researchers in the annual Conferences and the focused workshop (97 papers on 4 events):

- Budapest/online, 2021 (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/Budapest2021/>, Joint conference with MAGIC Group)
- Cluj-Napoca, 2022 (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/Cluj-Napoca2022/>)
- Thessaloniki, 2023 (<https://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/Thessaloniki2023/>)
- AVHM workshop, Budapest/online, 2020 (<http://lazarus.elte.hu/avhm/>)

These papers were published in digital form, in the Conference Proceedings (ISSN 2459-3893). The major characteristic of these collections of papers is the strong interdisciplinarity of the issues, showing the multifaceted content of Cartographic Heritage, especially when embodied into the Digital mainstream. The contributions related to cartography associated GLAM are also numerous proving the relation of cartoheritage with the general domain of Cultural heritage.

The interdisciplinarity of the issues and the big interest of the researchers on cartographic heritage are also apparent by the participation of researchers with relevant issues to the International Cartographic Conferences organized every two years by the international Cartographic Association (ICC2021, ICC2023).

Additional activities which realize the current Terms of Reference:

The Terms of Reference of the Commission for the 2015-2019 working period are:	Realization of the Terms of Reference - Additional activities
<p>Promote research and development on the field of cartographic heritage, more specifically on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - objects: old maps, charts, globes, relief models, bird's eye views, etc. - digitisation: 2d, 3d; hardware, software, issues, solutions - georeferencing: georeferencing methods, tools, recognising map projections - archiving: how to store; metadata - extracting content: possibility of automatic content extraction (vectorisation) - providing cartographic heritage on-line - analysing old maps in the terms of geometry (accuracy analysis, projection recognition), map symbols (how symbols depend on age, place, author etc.) and content (spatial/spatio-temporal analysis of map content) 	<p>Commission conferences – 97 papers in four years</p> <p>Strong presence of the commission at ICC conferences:</p> <p>2021: four Cartoheritage sessions with 23 papers.</p> <p>2023: three Cartoheritage sessions with 9 papers.</p>
<p>Partnership with MAGIC (Map and Geoinformation Curators Group)</p>	<p>Joint conference with MAGIC in 2021</p>
<p>Promote intra- and interdisciplinary co-operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual conferences on Cartographic Heritage - thematic workshops, joint projects and workshops with other commissions, societies - connecting existing on-line collections, creating meta-search pages - interdisciplinary research – cartography 	<p>Annual conferences (2021 Budapest/Online, 2022 Cluj-Napoca, 2022 Thessaloniki)</p> <p>Focused workshop (2020, Automatic Vectorisation of Historical Maps, Budapest/Online)</p>

and various fields of geo- and biosciences (e.g. landuse / landscape / habitat change analysis based on old maps) and especially digital humanities (history, archaeology, linguistics, literature)	
Popularisation – tools, websites, campaigns to popularise cartographic heritage	Globe making workshops in Budapest in each September during the European Researchers Night events Continuously updated commission website
Tutorials – examples of good practice of all above.	Papers on commission conferences, e.g. Esteban Arevalo, <i>Quality assessment criteria for cartographic heritage dissemination: a preliminary analysis of 300 websites</i> , 2019
Linking the Cartographic Heritage digital assets with Digital Humanities.	<u>Focused workshop</u> : “Explorations in Digital Humanities. Case studies and problem-solving”, Lisbon, 2016 <u>Supporting activities</u> : Seminar on “Maps in Libraries”, Thessaloniki, 2016
Documentation of commission work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e-Perimtron: papers presented in the annual conferences and others submitted for review to the e-journal were published in 69 issues from 2006 to 2023. http://www.e-perimtron.org - Cartoheritage Abstracts: Searchable database of all the papers of the previous Cartoheritage Conferences http://terkeptar.elte.hu/ch - Conference Proceedings: Published in digital form, ISSN 2459-3893, available to the public

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