ONLINE GUIDE TO U.S. MAP RESOURCES
A CALL TO ACTION
www.ala.org/magirt

MAGIRT — Map and Geospatial Information Round Table — AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Why should Federal Depository Libraries complete our survey?

- Participate in a nation-wide MAGIRT initiative to identify map collections, large and small, across the U.S.
- Help create a comprehensive *Online Guide to U.S. Map Resources*
- Raise awareness of map collections that are often hidden inside larger institutions
- Provide better access to map collections for the purposes of education and collaboration
- Assist the Government Publishing Office (GPO) in determining the status of federal government-produced cartographic materials in U.S. libraries

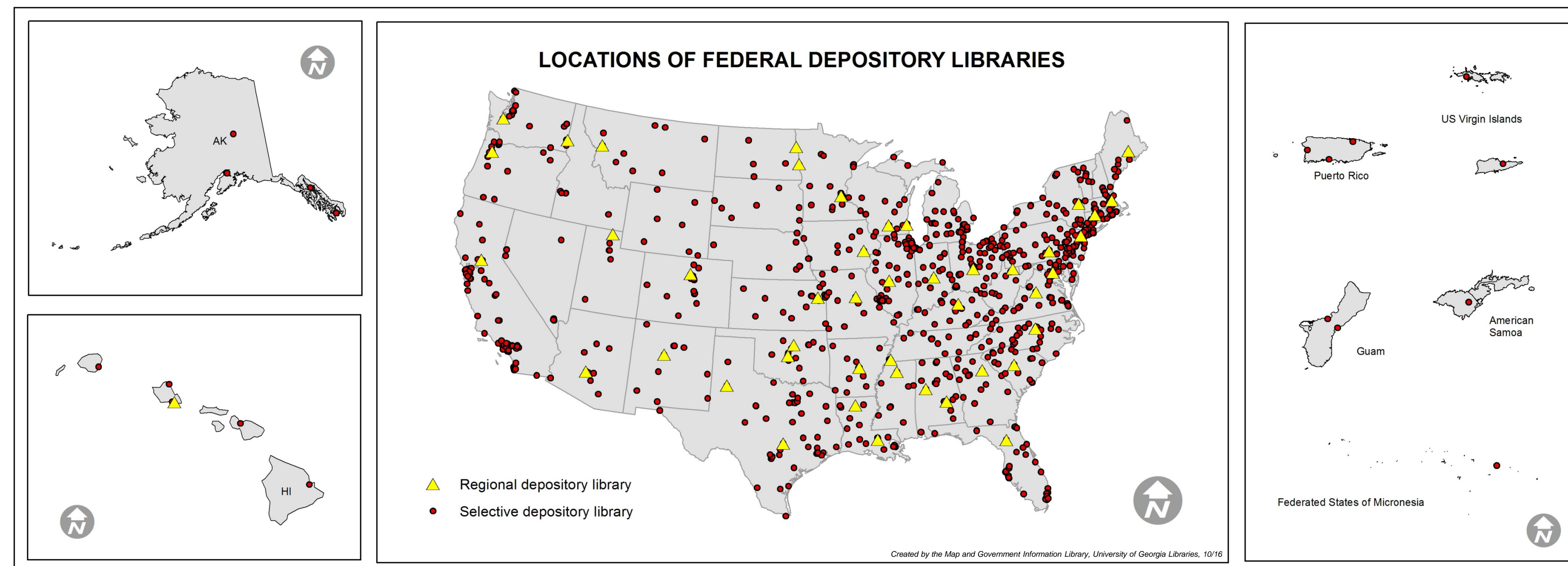## TAKE THE SURVEY
to
GET ON THE MAP!

OUTCOMES

Anticipated outcomes from this project

- Crowd-sourced directory that provides accurate, up-to-date information about U.S. map collections
- Searchable map interface that allow collections to be easily located by geographic location
- Searchable database of subject and geographic specialties amongst map collections
- Provide information about the collection and retention of government-produced maps by institutions participating in the Federal Depository Library Program
- Promote and demonstrate the relevance of map collections in the United States

Potential future outcomes and next steps

- Shared print map archives at the local, regional, and national levels
- Identify opportunities for cooperative collection development for tangible and digital cartographic resources
- Participation in the Federal Information Preservation Network (FIPNet) for libraries with large collections of maps and other cartographic resources produced by the federal government
- Expanded *Online Guide* to include archives, museums, and other cultural institutions with map collections

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

LOCATIONS OF FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

△ Regional depository library
● Selective depository library

Created by the Map and Government Information Library, University of Georgia Libraries. 10/16
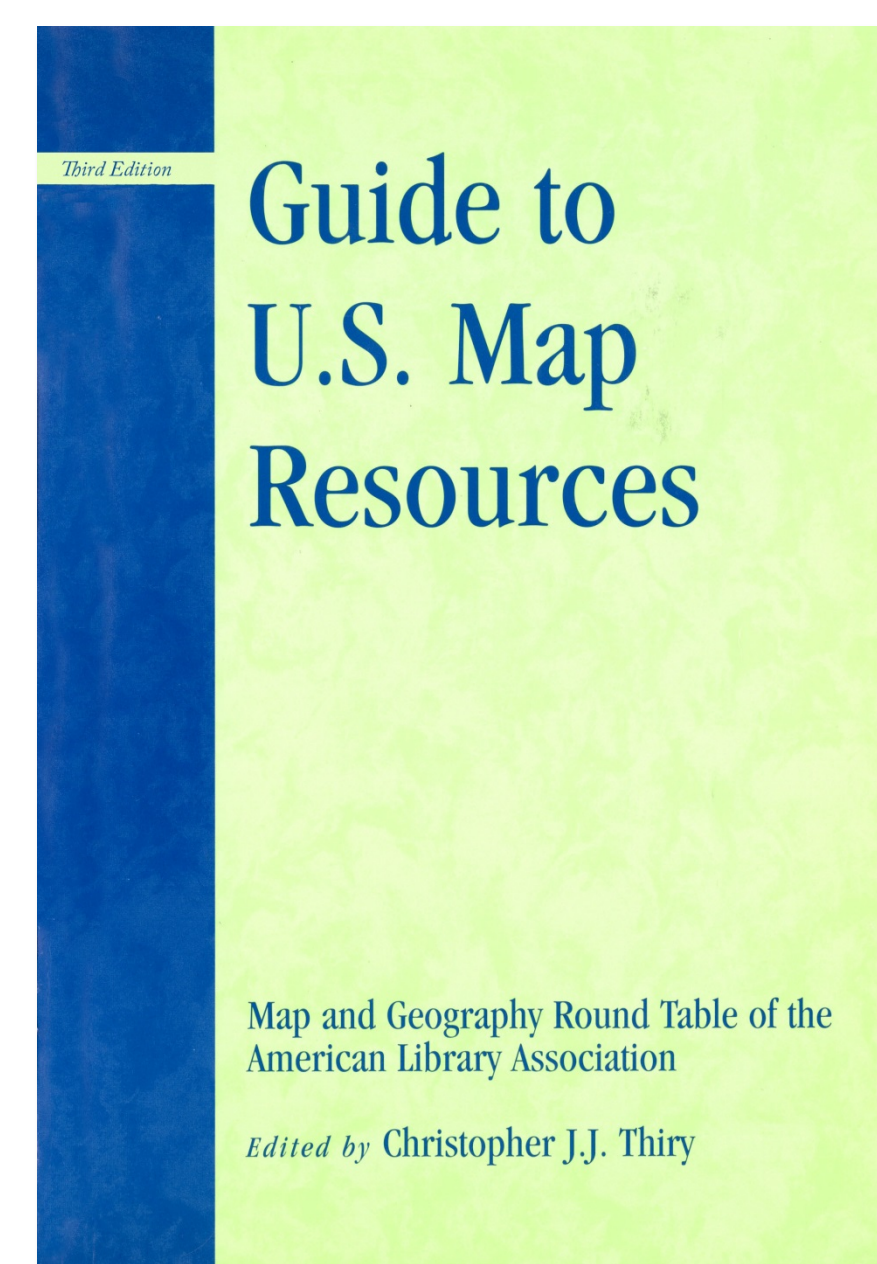
Which Federal Depository Libraries collect and retain maps? MAGIRT wants to know!

The *Guide to U.S. Map Resources* is a detailed directory of hundreds of map collections and cartographic resources in libraries and repositories throughout the country. In the decade since the *Guide* was last updated, there have been many changes in how libraries and other institutions collect and provide access to geospatial information in all formats.

After producing three editions in paper, MAGIRT is taking the *Guide to U.S. Map Resources* online! In addition to serving as the definitive directory to U.S. map collections of all shapes, sizes, and formats, the new *Online Guide* will include a searchable map interface so that collections can be easily identified and located geographically. Like its previous editions, the *Online Guide* will help promote map collections and related expertise, which in turn will promote MAGIRT members and their institutions.

In order to create the *Online Guide*, MAGIRT has created a survey to gather information about map collections in libraries, including those held by Federal Depository Libraries. The data we gather will be compiled and organized into a geospatial-enabled database and map interface that will be launched in the Spring of 2017. MAGIRT needs **YOUR** help to create the new *Online Guide* – take the survey and tell us about your map collection!

HISTORY OF THE GUIDE TO U.S. MAP RESOURCES

Guide to U.S. Map Resources

Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association

Edited by Christopher J.J. Thiry

The first edition of the *Guide to U.S. Map Resources* was published in 1986; it was originally seen as an ongoing publication to be updated every 5 years. In 1989, the survey for the new edition was distributed, resulting in the publication of a second edition of the *Guide* in 1990. After many false starts throughout the 1990s, in 2001 Christopher J.J.Thiry of the Colorado School of Mines agreed to edit a third edition of the *Guide*. From 2001 to 2002, a web survey was developed with assistance from the MAGERT Publication Committee. Institutions had the choice of completing a long or short version of the survey; the results were emailed directly to editor. In 2002, ALA decided not to publish the third edition; it was ultimately published by Scarecrow Press in 2006.

In 2014, members of MAGIRT's Publications Committee began to evaluate the possibility of updating the *Guide to U.S. Map Resources*. A project planning team consisting of Carol McAuliffe (lead), University of Florida, Kathleen Weessies, Michigan State University, and Chris Kollen, University of Arizona, was tasked with examining the process of creating the previous edition and determining what improvements could be made, researching possible formats for a new edition of the *Guide*, and producing a recommendation on what would be needed to successfully produce a new edition. In the Spring of 2015, the project planning team submitted their recommendation to the MAGIRT Executive Board. Their recommendations for a new, online version of the Guide to U.S. Map Resources included:

- A crowd-sourced directory to U.S. map collections, big and small, in libraries, archives, schools, and museums
- A searchable map interface so that collections can be easily located by their geographic location
- Searchable subject specialties using controlled vocabulary
- Links to digital collections (possibly incorporating MAGIRT/WAML Scanning Registry)
- A listing of internships and practicums for LIS students interested in Geographic Information Librarianship

In July, 2016, a project implementation team (Carol McAuliffe (lead), University of Florida, Chris Kollen, University of Arizona, Hallie Pritchett, University of Georgia, Paige Andrew, Pennsylvania State University, and Nichole Kong, Purdue University) began work on the *Guide to U.S. Map Resources*. The project team has designed a survey for collecting information and determined best tool for data collection and survey distribution. They will assist MAGIRT's GeoTech Committee in developing the platform for the *Online Guide's* map interface and searchable database, coordinate outreach and education about the *Online Guide*, and develop a plan for its long-term sustainability. Data will be gathered and analyzed starting in the Fall of 2016; the *Online Guide to U.S. Map Resources* is expected to go live in the Spring of 2017.

TAKE THE SURVEY!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MAP COLLECTION

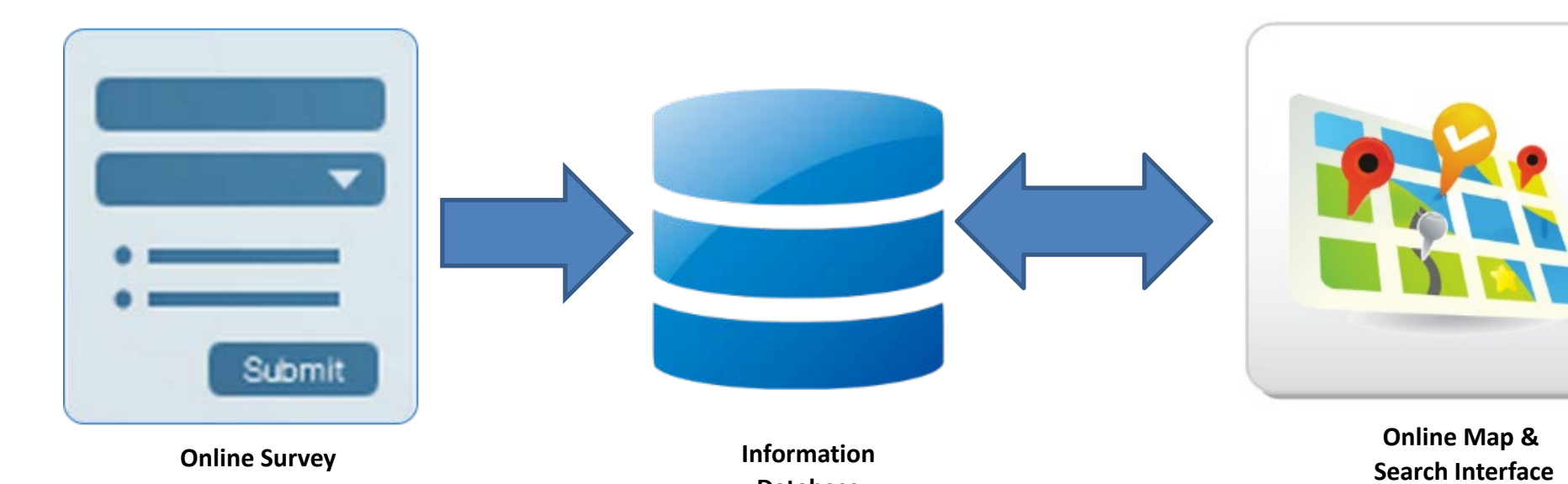To add information about your library's map collection to the *Online Guide to U.S. Map Resources*, please visit:

tinyurl.com/magirtsurvey

Or scan the QR code:

Help MAGIRT create the NEW Online Guide to U.S. Map Resources!

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Online Survey → Information Database ↔ Online Map & Search Interface

Data will be gathered from participating libraries via an online survey using a Google Form. The survey results will be compiled and organized into a geospatial-enabled database and map interface for online publication.

To show your institution on the map, we will use Google's geocoding API to locate the address information from the survey. For best results, make sure the address you enter is an actual street address that can be found on a Google map. We will use other geocoding services such as the U.S. Census Bureau's Census Geocoder or ESRI's Geolocator to resolve unmatchable addresses.

The online interface will provide a keyword search function for users to find relevant tangible or digital map collections. These keywords will come from the description of your map collection. To help users find your collection in the database, please include as many keywords as possible when describing your collection.