

## SUPPLYING GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA AS OTHER TITLE INFORMATION

In accordance with AACR2 and *Cartographic Materials : A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2* (CM) map catalogers are accustomed to supplying geographic coverage area in square brackets as other title information when the title of a cartographic resource does not name the area of coverage. Following are the texts and examples from the applicable rules of AACR2 and CM, respectively:

### AACR2 3.1E2

If the title proper does not include an indication of the geographic area covered by the item and if the other title information does not include such an indication or if there is no other title information, supply, as other title information, a word or brief phrase indicating the area covered.

Vegetation [GMD] : [in Botswana]

### CM 1E6

If the title proper does not include an indication of the geographic area covered by the item and if the other title information does not include such an indication or if there is no other title information, supply, as other title information, a word or brief phrase indicating the area covered. (3.1E2)

Vegetation [GMD] : [Botswana]

C300 [GMD] : [aerial photographs of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles counties, California]

129 [GMD] : [township, Algoma District, Ontario]  
Burnt area [GMD] : [southern Quebec]

1986 CARTLIB [GMD] : digital boundary file : [Canada]

1:2,000,000-scale digital line graph (DLG) data [GMD] : [United States]

PWSB-7 [GMD] : [air-photo flight of Santa Barbara County, California]

These rules show deference to user convenience. They facilitate the tasks of identification and selection for the cartographic format, where geographic coverage area is basic to the identity of the material and titles are frequently not distinctive.

On the other hand, it is evident that adding supplied text to a title transcription creates a tension with the DCRM principle (DCRM(B)/Introduction/Objectives and principles/III.2.2) of precise representation, and with the interest in rare cartographic items as artifacts rather than as carriers of geographic information. DCRM(G) comes out on basically this same issue unequivocally in favor of supplying information to notes rather than to the transcribed title area. Here is relevant rule text from DCRM(G) version 5.1:

**1B6. Insufficiently descriptive or distinctive title**

If a transcribed title does not accurately or adequately describe the nature and content of the item, supply additional information in the note area.

In weighing whether DCRM(C) should preserve the rules of AACR2 and CM on this issue because of the nature of the material or make a change in the interest of DCRM principles, it may be instructive to examine more examples of titles of cartographic materials that lack specification of area of coverage, and see the various categories they exemplify.

First, consider cartographic titles that lack distinctiveness. Often, this is because of the context of their publication. Here is the case of a series title, where each piece in the series has a unique title conveying area of coverage, but the overall coverage area for the series would informatively add to the more general common title that appears on each sheet:

Atlas sheet

Maps that were published as parts of other documents, or that were published to accompany other documents may have indistinct titles:

Map no. 1

Map of the disputed territory

In these cases, in addition to the area of coverage, bibliographic data for the source or accompanying document would be critical identifying information.

Next, consider map titles that may be specific in terms of subject or type of map, but simply do not convey the geographic area portrayed:

Metro system map

Gnomonic projection

Interconnected transmission systems, existing and committed facilities

Annual passage of the herrings

One step further is a cartographic title that may in fact be quite distinctive and even suggest a geographic area without specifying one:

Map of the Philadelphia & Erie Railway and connections

Map of the icy sea in which the several communications with the land, waters and other new discoveries are exhibited

A general chart exhibiting the discoveries made by Captn. James Cook in this and his two preceding voyages : with the tracks of the ships under his command

Carte des variations de la boussole et des vents generaux que l'on trouve dans les mers les plus frequentees

A new sett of maps both of antient and present geography : wherein not only the latitude and longitude of many places are corrected according to the latest observations, but also the most remarkable differences of antient and present geography may be quickly discern'd by a bare inspection or comparing of correspondent maps, which seems to be the most natural and easy method to lead young students (for whose use the work is principally intended) unto a competent knowledge of the geographical science : together with a geographical treatise particularly adapted to the use and design of these maps

The examples given above are actual titles that one can find in OCLC or other online systems. AACR2 3.1E2 was not applied on all these examples; as we know, rules are not applied consistently, mistakes are made, liberties are taken, cataloger's judgment is exercised. Supplied other title information has been stripped from those examples that did include it in order to make clear what the bare-bones transcribed titles look like as they stand alone. But they would really only stand alone in brief search results lists, because the equivalent of CM 7B1 (note on the nature and scope of the item) would be maintained in DCRM(C) no matter what the decision on inclusion of the rule in question.