

LIBRARY GUIDE

MAPS, ATLASES & GAZETTEERS

WWW.GVSU.EDU/LIBRARY/MAPS

About the Map Collection at Grand Valley State University

Grand Valley State University's libraries have a wide variety of maps, atlases and other geographic reference tools to assist patrons in their research and studies. Most of the maps that the library owns have been acquired through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), but the library also has a sizable collection of maps and cartographic resources it has acquired from other sources.

Location of Resources

Most of the library's maps are located on the 2nd floor of the Zumberge Library in Allendale. Maps on CD-ROM or DVD are located at the circulation desk in Allendale. Superseded topographic maps of Michigan, superseded Great Lakes Navigation charts, and other historic or rare maps are located in SEIDMAN House. Atlases can be found in almost all of the university's libraries, but most atlases are located in the Allendale library on the 1st floor in MAIN Reference and in MAIN Maps—Atlases in the northeast corner of the 2nd floor. Almost all gazetteers and place name books are located in MAIN Reference.

Finding Maps and Atlases

While many thematic maps can be found using the University Libraries online catalog, most individual map sheets in the library's collection cannot be found using the online catalog. A given map series may be listed in the catalog, but to determine whether the library owns a particular sheet in that series, you will often need to check one of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) state indexes, which can be found on the east wall of the 2nd floor or in the first drawer of that series. For those individual maps that are located in the online catalog, the map's record in the catalog will tell you in which drawer it is located.

In addition to the USGS map series, the individual Michigan County Road Maps, National Geographic Maps, and many city, state and regional maps that GVSU owns are not in the online catalog. To find individual maps in these series you will either need to check the drawer where that series is located, or you can visit the Map Collection website where you can find a listing of the individual maps in these series <<http://www.gvsu.edu/library/maps/collections>>.

You can determine if GVSU owns an atlas by using the online catalog. If you know the title of the atlas you need, perform a Basic Search for the book's title. If you are looking for an atlas on a particular topic you may want to perform a Guided Search and use the term 'atlas' on one line and whatever topic(s) you are interested in ('Europe,' 'environmental,' 'Rome,' etc.) on the other lines.

Classification of Maps and Atlases

You will find maps, atlases, and gazetteers classified using both the Library of Congress (LC) classification system and the Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) classification system. Generally, if a map or an atlas was acquired through the Federal Depository Library Program it will have a SuDoc number, while items purchased by the library will have an LC call number. For more information on the SuDoc classification system, see the GVSU Library Guide: U.S. Government Documents.

Copying and Printing

Copying and printing at the library costs seven cents per page with a copy card that can be purchased at the library. It is not possible to print from the computers in the library without a copy card. The Allendale and Steelcase libraries both have one color copier, but no color printers. The library currently does not have a copier capable of doing full-scale reproductions of large maps.

Circulation

The majority of the items in this collection do not circulate so that all patrons have the opportunity to access these materials. In special instances, though, certain materials can be checked out for a brief period of time with the permission of a librarian. Some items that do circulate include atlases found in the MAIN stacks and digital maps on CD-ROM and DVD.

Types of Maps at GVSU

Commonly Used USGS Topographic Maps*

Few topographic maps can be found by searching the University Libraries online catalog. To determine which sheet you need to view the area you are interested in, check the index for that state, which can be found on the east wall of the 2nd floor.

7.5 Minute Maps (Drawers 1-133, 192-193)

- 1:24,000 (1 inch = 2,000 feet)
- Maps show and name prominent natural and cultural features. Such detail is useful for engineering, local area planning, and recreational purposes.
- It takes about 57,000 maps to cover the contiguous 48 States, Hawaii, and territories.
- GVSU owns the entire series for every state, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

15 Minute Maps (Drawers 186-191)

- 1:63,360 (1 inch = 1 mile)
- The standard topographic map series covering Alaska.
- The features shown on 15-minute maps are generally the same as those shown on 7.5-minute maps, except that some may be generalized or omitted because of the smaller scale and consequent space restrictions.
- GVSU owns this entire series.

Other USGS Topographic Map Series

County Map Series

- 1:50,000 (Drawers 148-150)
- 1:100,000 (Drawers 134-135)
- GVSU owns this entire series.

1:100,000-Scale Series (Drawers 138-147)

- GVSU owns most maps in this series. You will need to check the index found in the first drawer of this series to determine whether GVSU owns a particular map.

1:250,000-Scale Series (Drawers 181-184)

- GVSU owns this entire series.

State Map Series (Drawer 136)

- Most are at a scale of 1:500,000, but a few have been released at 1:1,000,000 or other scales.
- Most individual maps in this series cannot be found in the Voyager online catalog. To determine whether GVSU owns the map you are looking for you will need to check the drawer containing this series.

Reproducible 8½ x 11" Maps

Maps on File

- *MAIN Reference—Reference Desk, HOLLAND & KCRC G1046 .A1 M16*
- Contains outline maps and thematic maps designed to be copied and reproduced. Maps cover the United States, Canada, and the rest of the world.

Historical Maps on File

- *MAIN Reference G1030 .G46*
- Contains outline maps and thematic maps designed to be copied and reproduced. Covers ancient world through modern-day Europe.

CIA Maps

- *MAIN Reference—Reference Desk PrEx3.10/4:*
- These colored political maps are the same ones that you will find in the CIA's *World Factbook*. Individual maps can be found by performing a Guided Search in the University Libraries online catalog for the term "Central Intelligence Agency" on one line, "Map" on another line and the name of the country on the third line. The CIA may have published larger maps of that country, so you will want to be sure the map you are looking for is located at the MAIN Reference—Reference Desk.

* Descriptions of most USGS topographic maps from: < <http://erg.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/booklets/usgsmaps/usgsmaps.html> >

Other Maps in the Collection

Census Block Maps

- 1990—*Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties* (Drawers 155-157)
- 2000—*Allegan, Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties* (Drawers 151-154)
- Individual maps are not in the University Libraries online catalog. To find a particular map, check the parent map for each county series.

National Ocean Survey Nautical Charts (Drawers 168-169)

- Coverage includes the Great Lakes and parts of the northeast United States.
- Check the University Libraries online catalog to determine whether GVSU owns the map you need.

Michigan County Road Maps (Drawer 158)

- Maps for most counties in the state
- Individual maps are not in the University Libraries online catalog. See <<http://www.gvsu.edu/library/maps/collections>> or map cabinets for individual titles.

National Geographic Maps (Drawers 161-162)

- Assorted thematic maps covering a variety of topics
- Arranged using broad thematic areas: Africa, Americas, Antarctica, Asia, Atlantic, Canada, Central America, Europe, Indian Ocean, Indies, Caribbean, Middle East, Pacific, South America, United States, Universe, World.
- Individual maps are not in the University Libraries online catalog. See <<http://www.gvsu.edu/library/maps/collections>> or map cabinets for individual titles.

Assorted City, State and Regional Maps (Drawers 156-160)

- Individual maps are not in the University Libraries online catalog. See <<http://www.gvsu.edu/library/maps/collections>> or map cabinets for individual titles.

Thematic Maps

- GVSU owns a wide variety of thematic maps on numerous topics ranging from geology to demography. These maps are classified using both the LC and SuDoc classification schemes, depending on whether they were acquired through the FDLP or purchased by the library, and can be found by searching in the University Libraries online catalog.

Atlases

GVSU owns atlases on a wide range of topics ranging from general atlases of the World or United States to thematic atlases that examine environmental issues or historical events. Most atlases are located on the northeast corner of the 2nd floor of the Zumberge Library but there are other atlases located in MAIN Reference and MAIN Stacks, as well as the University's other libraries.

Below you will find a list of standard atlases GVSU owns. To determine if GVSU owns an atlas relevant to your topic, it is usually best to begin by searching in the University Libraries online catalog. If you know the title of the atlas you need, perform a Basic Search for the book's title. If you are looking for an atlas on a particular topic, you may want to perform a Guided Search using the term 'atlas' on one line and whatever topic(s) you are interested in ('Mexico,' 'environmental,' 'Rome,' etc.) on the remaining lines.

Atlas of North America

- *Main Maps—Atlas G1105 .A85 2005*

DK Compact World Atlas

- *Main Maps—Atlas G1021 .D2774 2003*
- Useful for making 8.5 x 11" copies

National Geographic Atlas of the World

- *Main Reference—Reference Desk G1021 .N38 2005*
- 1999 edition is located in *Main Maps—Atlas, Steelcase and Holland G1021 .N38 1999*

Oxford Atlas of the World

- *Main Reference—Reference Desk & Steelcase Reference Desk G1021 .A7545 2004*

Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide

- *Main Reference—Reference Desk G1019 .R22*

Rand McNally Road Atlas: United States/Canada/Mexico

- *Main Reference—Reference Desk, Main Maps—Atlas, Steelcase Reference Desk, Holland & Frey G1201.P2 R186*

Gazetteers

Gazetteers are geographic dictionaries. They usually provide basic information on a locality that often includes latitude and longitude, in what country or state it is located, and a short description of the place. Below is a listing of some of the gazetteers GVSU owns. Other gazetteers can be found by searching in the online catalog. Also, you will often find gazetteers in atlases, and the information you find in a gazetteer can also often be found in encyclopedias and almanacs. There are many excellent gazetteers available on the Internet. Links to many of these can be found on the Map Collection website <<http://www.gvsu.edu/maps>>.

The Columbia Gazetteer of the World

- *MAIN Reference & HOLLAND Reference G103.5 .C65 1998*
- Three vol. set
- Entries provide pronunciation, definition (city, state, etc.), location, latitude and longitude, and a description.

Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America

Abate, Frank R.

- *MAIN Reference E154 .O45 1991*
- Eleven volume set includes nearly 1.5 million places and features in the United States and its territories.
- Entries include the name, type of feature, population and ZIP Code (when a locality), county where located, USGS 7.5 minute topographic map name, latitude and longitude coordinates, and elevation data.

Merriam-Webster's geographical dictionary

- *MAIN Reference G103.5 .W42 1997*
- Entries include pronunciation, location, area, population, and some history.

Gazetteer of the State of Michigan

Blois, John T.

- *SEIDMAN Regional Historical Collection F564 .B65 1838*
- *MAIN Reference F564 .B65 1975*
 - Reprint of 1838 edition.

Michigan Gazetteer

- *MAIN Reference F564 .M53 1991*
- Entries provide ZIP Code, latitude and longitude, a brief description and some historical information.

The National Gazetteer of the United States of America.

- *MAIN U.S. Government Documents I 19.16:1200-US*
- Entries provide name, feature class (populated place, lake, cliff, etc.), county, state, and coordinates to the second.

Place Names

Place name works are similar in many ways to gazetteers, but they differ in that entries generally focus on the origin of a locale's name instead of its location. Below is a select list of place name works. You can find other place name books by searching the University Libraries online catalog.

Illustrated Dictionary of Place Names, United States and Canada

Harder, Kelsie B.

- *MAIN Reference E155 .H37*

Michigan Place Names

Romig, Walter

- *MAIN Reference—Reference Desk & SEIDMAN Regional Historical Collection F564 .R6*

Placenames of the World

Room, Adrian

- *MAIN Stacks G105 .R66 1997*

American Place Names

Holt, Alfred Hubbard

- *MAIN Reference E155 .H65 1969*
- This work differs from the others in that it focuses on accurate local pronunciation of the location.