

Citing Maps

When using maps in your research, you should record a complete citation for each map. In Lesson IV you learned how to write bibliographical entries and footnotes for published works. Citations of maps follow the same general rules but should include additional information.

Following are the categories of information that should be included in the citation of a map: name of the cartographer, if known; name of the map (underscore or write in italics the name of a single published map or the name of an atlas; place within quotation marks the name of a manuscript map or the name of a single map within an atlas); for a published map, the place, publisher, and date; for a manuscript map, the date, if known; scale of the map, if known; indication that the map is in color; number of sheets, if more than one; dimensions of the map; for historical maps, the repository in which it can be found, with such other identifying information as the name of the collection or record group, file or map number, etc.

Examples of bibliographical entries:

Single Published Map:

Corbett, V. P. *Map of the Seat of War Showing the Battles of July 18th, 21st, and Oct. 21st, 1861*. Washington, D.C.: A. Hoen and Co. Balto., ca 1861. 26 x 22 in. Library of Congress, Civil War maps, No. 564.

Map in an Atlas:

"Map of Detroit and Vicinity." *Rand, McNally & Co.'s Indexed Atlas of the World*. Chicago: Rand, McNally, ca 1893. Scale ca 1:24,500. Col. 19 x 26 in.

Manuscript Map:

Sommers, I. A. "Plat of the Contemplated Turnpike Road from Alexandria to Difficult Run by Wileys." 1827. Col. ms. 44½ x 17 in. National Archives, Record Group 77, File 2371-3.

Aids to Finding Localities

Gazetteers. Another useful tool in genealogical research is the gazetteer. This is a geographical dictionary that lists localities alphabetically, giving such information for each as the date the town was formed, the jurisdiction from which it was created, and the county in which it is now located.