the toolkit

QUICK HITS

ONLINE HISTORICAL MAPS

Looking for a pre-1700 map of the Americas as the Europeans found it? Yearning to survey the land your ancestors tilled in Cobb County, Ga.? Old maps can point you in your ancestors' direction, allowing you to locate places, visualize migration routes and see the world as your forebears knew it. And antique cartography is just a few clicks away: On the Web sites below, you'll find thousands of digitized maps. Keep in mind that even if a collection emphasizes another country, it still might contain a map depicting your ancestors' little corner of the world. Learn more about the history of cartography at <www.maphistory.info>. —Lisa Louise Cooke

| Web Site | Number of Maps | Geographic Coverage | Time Span | Downloading and Printing Options | Research Tips |
|--|-------------------|--|---|---|--|
| American Memory Map Collections at the Library of Congress <icweb2.loc.gov ammem="" gmdhtml=""></icweb2.loc.gov> | 12,000 | worldwide; US emphasis | 1500s to present | You can download maps as large JPG files, which you can then print. | Don't miss the Zoom Into Maps introduction at <lcweb2.loc.gov ammem="" features="" maps="" ndlpedu="">.</lcweb2.loc.gov> |
| British Library <www.bl.uk <br="" onlinegallery="">onlineex/mapsviews></www.bl.uk> | 30,000 | worldwide; emphasis on Great Britain; thousands of maps of the Americas | 800s to 1800s | To print a low-resolution map, save the JPG to your computer (right-click the image and choose Save As). Buy high-quality versions at <imagesonline.bl.uk>.</imagesonline.bl.uk> | Use the Integrated Catalogue <catalogue. bl.uk=""> for searches. Sort results by clicking column headings.</catalogue.> |
| Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library <www.libs.uga.edu darchive="" hargrett="" maps="" maps.html=""></www.libs.uga.edu> | 1,000 | United States; emphasis on Georgia and surrounding areas | 1500s to 1900s | Right-click and Save As to download maps in JPG format. For printing assistance, visit uga.edu/hargrett/maprint.html>. | Browse maps by historical era or search at <gil.uga.edu>. For contemporary maps, go to <www.libs.uga. edu="" maproom=""></www.libs.uga.></gil.uga.edu> |
| National Library of Australia <sbdsproto.nla.gov.au <br="">sbdp-ui/island/map></sbdsproto.nla.gov.au> | 300,000 | emphasis on Australia; 180,000 non- Australian, including US | 1000 to present | Right-click and Save As to download maps in JPG format. You can crop and edit maps before downloading. Get help at <nla.gov.au digicoll="" help.html#print_button="" maps="">.</nla.gov.au> | Includes all data contributed to the Open Archives Initiative <www.oaister.org viewcolls.html="">.</www.oaister.org> |
| Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection <www.lib.utexas.edu maps=""></www.lib.utexas.edu> | 25,000 | worldwide; about half US | 1810 to present; atlases throughout history | Maps are available in JPG (Save As to download) or PDF format (click the link to download automatically). | Library's full collection encompasses 250,000 maps. Online collection includes maps produced by the CIA. |
| Visual Connections <www.davidrumsey.com cartography.="" collections="" html=""></www.davidrumsey.com> | 20,000 | worldwide; focus on the Americas | primarily 1800s and 1900s | You have to print directly from the browser (pop-up blockers must be turned off), but the maps are formatted to fit perfectly on standard copy paper. | The Insight browser offers zoomable maps and cross-collection searching. Some materials require a subscription. |