The Map Library collection consists of an estimated 200,000 maps, over 1,000 atlases and geographic reference books, and a growing collection of digital spatial data. The collection provides well-rounded, world-wide coverage. We collect general, historical, and thematic maps, atlases, data at small and large scales, and related reference materials such as gazetteers.

Search

In the Library
- Use Chinook Plus from the Libraries' homepage to begin your search.
- You can narrow your search with the options on the left of the results page.
- Search using a keyword for a place name, starting with the most specific geographic region and then moving to more general geographic keywords, as needed.
- Brainstorm keywords for thematic maps, and use an asterisk (*) as a truncation symbol. For example, a search with the keyword religio* will include religion, religions, religious, etc.
- When looking for a specific type of map (e.g., geologic map), include that information in your keyword search (e.g., Boulder geolog*).
- When a search is limited to the maps format, results will include any relevant maps and atlases. You can include the word “atlases” as a keyword if you want to specifically look for atlases.
- Uncataloged maps are arranged in order by geographic area in drawers that can be browsed. We have a number of indexes and databases in paper and online that we can use to help you find the map you need. Please ask us for help.

Online
- Map Library: Find Maps by Topic
- Google Image search: “reference maps” [placename]
- Historical maps: David Rumsey Map Collection, Colorado Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- National Geologic Map Database (topographic and geologic maps)

Services

Circulation
Maps and books can be checked out for 14 days (except fragile or rare maps and reference books).

Scan, Copy, & Print
The machine in the Map Library scans, copies, and prints in color and in black and white (more info). You can scan an image and have it sent to your email for free. Images up to 11”x17” can be scanned on this device.

Research Assistance
Approximately half of the maps in the collection are cataloged and can be found through the Libraries’ catalog (Chinook). If you have questions about what maps might be available for a particular area, please email (maplib@colorado.edu) or call (303-493-7578) to ask for assistance locating relevant items.