**MAP RECORD MATCH CRITERIA**

**WHEN LOOKING FOR COPY**

# A. Primary match criteria

The following pieces of information on the bibliographic record must match the map in hand (or a surrogate for it) for a map title to be considered a match:

020 ISBN, if present

1xx Creator (also check 7xx)

245/246 Title and/or varying title

250 Edition or revision statement, if present

255 $a Scale

260/264 $c Publication date

If these are a match, continue with:

# B. Additional verification points

260/264 $a$b Place of publication and publisher

300 Number of main maps, in color?, dimensions

500 Notes, ***especially*** relating to type of relief and unique numbers or dates

7xx Added entries for persons or corporate bodies/government agencies

# Things to consider when comparing

Maps often have multiple titles and/or titles that can be read differently

You might find a matching title is given as a variant title (246) instead of the title proper you expected. This does not necessarily mean it isn’t a match.

One cataloger’s creator may be another’s contributor

Some catalogers are reluctant to give a person as a creator unless they are specifically listed as the cartographer (i.e., ‘‘author’’) of the map(s). Additionally, the concept of “creator” can be difficult to apply to maps, especially when more than one agency, person, or company, or a combination of these, is noted as being somehow involved in the creation of a map. Check both 1xx and 7xx for matches.

Descriptive notes can be very helpful in making a final decision

Notes that describe type of relief shown on the map, unique numbers (e.g., a GPO number, the number given on a CIA map, publisher’s codes), additional dates, lists of inset and/or ancillary maps may help clinch your decision.

ISBNs are rare but precise

Maps produced by some private companies may have an ISBN. When a map ISBN matches a record ISBN, it is usually a match. But do compare the “Primary match criteria” given above to confirm.

**Additional resources**

OCLC’s Bibliographic Formats and Standards: *When to Input a New Record*: <https://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/input.html>

Jay Weitz (OCLC): *Cataloging Maps Defensively* presentation

<https://www.oclc.org/en/events/2016/cataloging-maps-defensively.html>

* Ensuring your original catalog record is not merged with another