

## U.S. TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

U.S. topographic maps are part of the Map Collection in the Government Documents Department of the University Libraries, Level 4. Several map series, covering all or selected areas of the United States, are produced by the U. S. Geological Survey, and are described in:

- **USGS Maps** US DOC office [I 19.14/2:M 32/11/995]
- **Manual of Federal Geographic Data Products** MAP COLL–shelves [GA 406 .M3 1992]

### Topographic Map Series

Topographic maps show the shape and elevation of the terrain using contour lines and name prominent natural and cultural features. In the different map series, the scale (the relationship between the distance on the map and on the ground) will vary. Maps of 1:24,000 scale show an area in detail and maps of 1:250,000 scale cover large areas on each sheet. For most U. S. Geological Survey map series, the United States is divided into quadrangles bounded by two lines of latitude and two lines of longitude.

- **7.5- Minute Series** MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.81: ]  
Most commonly used maps and with the greatest detail, at the scale of 1:24,000 (1 inch = 2,000 feet). The Map Collection contains the complete set of over 57,000 map quadrangle sheets covering the entire United States.
- **15-Minute Series**  
Three different series with more generalized features:
  - **Alaska** (standard map for this state) MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.81/2: ]
  - **15-Minute Series** (discontinued) MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.81/2: ]
  - **DMA Maps** (incomplete) MAIN–MAP CASES [LC call number for state]The Map Collection contains incomplete selections of these map series; Special Collections houses complete coverage of the **15-Minute Series** for Arkansas.
- **1:100,000-Scale Series**
  - **U.S. Geological Survey** (incomplete) MAP COLL–CASES [I19.110: ]
  - **Bureau of Land Management (B.L.M.) – Surface Management Status** and **Surface Minerals Management Status** (western states). MAP COLL–CASES [I 53.11/4 or 4-2: ]
- **County Map Series** MAP COLL – CASES [I 19.108: ]  
Only about 20 percent of the Nation’s counties are covered; some at 1:50,000 scale and others at 1:100,000.
- **1:250,000-Scale Series** MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.98: ]  
Originated with the U.S. Army Map Service in the 1950’s; most now updated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

- **State Map Series** MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.102/(1-53): ]  
Usually published as three separate editions: base map (planimetric); highway and contour map (topographic); and shaded-relief.
- **National Park Map Series** MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.106: ]  
Feature a national park, national monument, or other National Park Service unit; most are topographic maps and some are with shaded relief.
- **Antarctica Maps** MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.100: ]  
Incomplete coverage in several series, at scales ranging from 1:50,000 to 1:5,000,000. Maps are topographic, shaded relief or sketch.

### Photoimage Maps

- **Orthophotomaps** (Interfiled with 7.5-minute series.) MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.81: ]  
Photographic image maps that are produced in standard 7.5-minute quadrangle format and show a limited number of names, symbols and patterns found on the topographic maps. Available for selected areas, mostly coastal.
- **Satellite Image Maps** (1:250,000) MAP COLL–CASES [I 19.98 ]  
Photographic-like maps made from satellite data that are printed to simulate color-infrared photography. Most 1:250,000-scale image maps have topographic maps on the reverse side; available for selected areas.
- **Border Maps**  
Color image maps covering the international boundary of the United States:
  - **Ports of Entry, United States – Canadian Border** MAIN–MAP CASES [G3701 .F2 s25 .G38]
  - **Ports of Entry, United States – Mexican Border** MAIN–MAP CASES [G3701 .F2 s25 .G4]

### How to Identify Maps

Topographic maps are organized and classified by series as presented above in this user guide. The map series are identified by call number as noted for each series (e.g., **State Map Series** MAP COLL – CASES [I 19.102/(1-53): ] ). As government documents, most maps are classified according to *SuDoc* call numbers.

Infolinks contains records for each map series. Search for the map series record by **Subject Headings** or **Keywords** (e.g., [state] maps topographic). To identify the call number for a map series, use the *SuDoc* call number found in the **Govt. doc #** field until the Marcive record clean-up is completed. Records of individual quadrangle maps for Arkansas in various editions are available in Infolinks.

### How to Find Maps in the Map Collection

Follow the sequence of steps to find a map:

- Identify the useful map series, and note its location and call number.
- Go to the specified location (on Level 4).
  - **MAP COLL – CASES** (in the Map Collection)
  - **MAIN – MAP CASES** (in the stacks, west side)
- Locate the call number for the map series.
- Find the index map for map series (at top of drawer) and identify map sheets.
- Carefully pull the map sheets from the map case drawer.