



Making Historic Maps of Manchester Freely and Widely Available Online

Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Martin Dodge Department of Geography, University of Manchester

Why (old) maps matter?

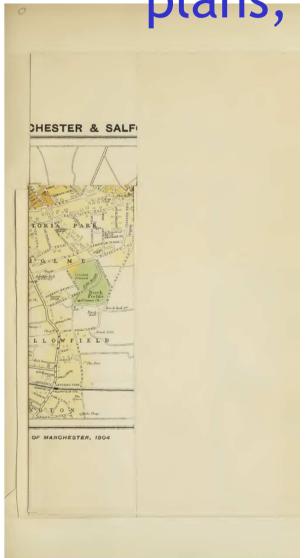
- Fascinating how cartography can connect people to real places
- Old maps as a source of popular interest and distinctive, appealing artefacts
- Aesthetic appreciation ('maps can look pretty')
- Information resource ('maps full of facts')
- Cartography is selective, it captures social values and cultural norms ('maps never lie')
- Value for many students and academics, local historians, genealogists, professions/business
- Maps are conversational, cartography is cool..

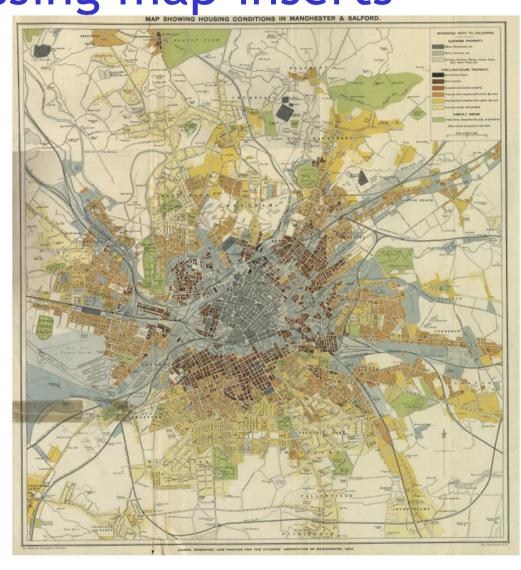
BUT maps are hard to handle

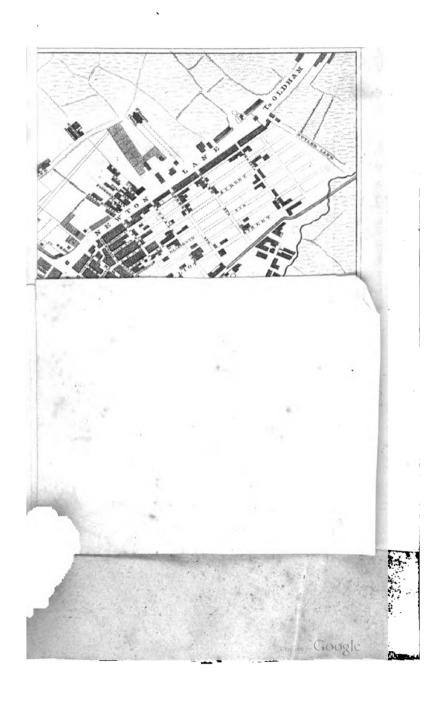


- Interesting challenges for libraries in curating map collections and serving readers
- Storage, retrieval, user access to large flat or rolled maps and plans is problematic
- Poorly catalogued often need to see maps
 to gauge their utility
- Cartography as a Cinderella?
- Often been 'hidden' in Geography departments and under-resourced
- Maps not seen as core library stuff

A frustrated map geek.. foldout plans, missing map inserts







- Lack of resolution, scanned in b/w
- Digital version have benefits but not surrogate for paper original
- Appreciation of whole object, materiality of artefact
- Short term savings of space and staff by disposal of hardcopy

Digitising maps of Manchester

- Understand wealth of maps and plans about places and events in Manchester held in JRUL
- Unlocking (free, public) access by digitising
- Engage local people breaking down 'elitist' perceptions of Rylands Library – its not all biblical fragments and dull book binding - "look we have lots of nice old maps about your city"
- Donna Sherman, UoM map librarian
- Help of Carol Burrows' team in CHICC
- Active collaborations: Central Ref. LSU (Helen Lowe), City Archives (Dave Govier)

Digitised maps on LUNA:

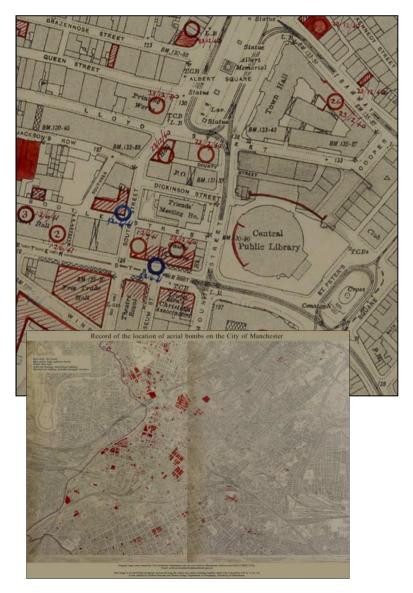
old OS map sheets, Ship Canal plans and

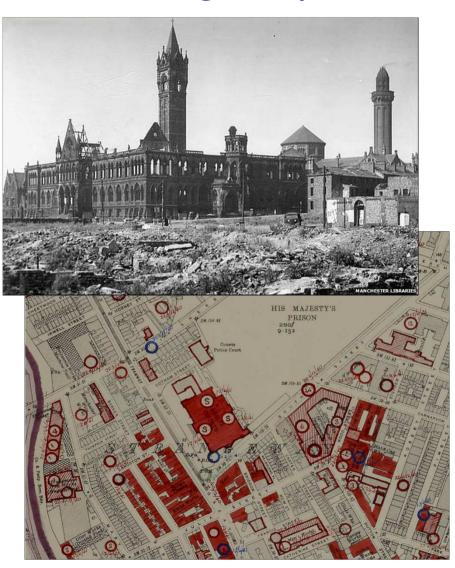
historical sequence of street directory maps



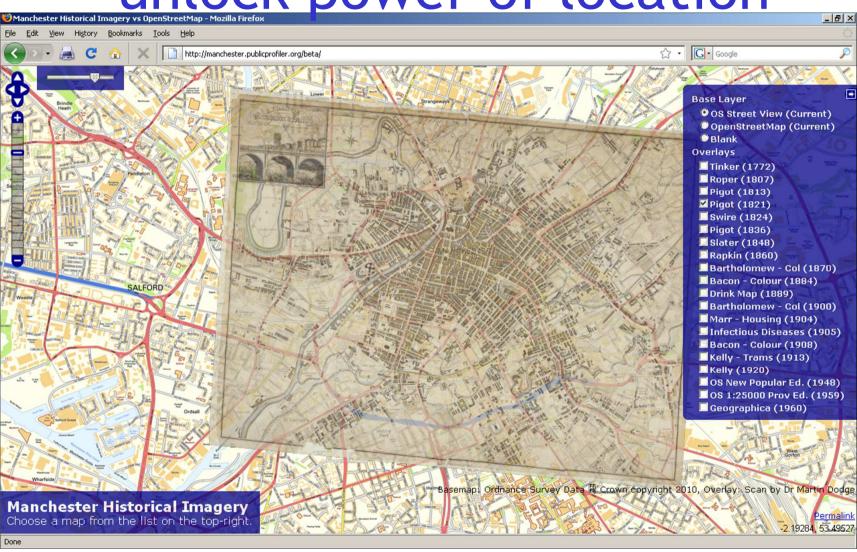
Digitised maps on LUNA:

Second World War bomb damage maps





Maps can be more than image - unlock power of location





ne University Manchester The Un Oxfor Tel

Email: Doroti

"Reproduced by courtesy of the University Librarian and Director, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester".

Application for Reproduction Rights Permission

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS

Your Name and Address	
Your Telephone Number	Your Fax Number
Your email address (please write clearly)	
Your JRUL Library Card Number (if applicable)	
XQUI EU Customer VAT Number (if applicable)	
Address for invoice (if different from above)	
If the work is to be charged to a school or department within The University, please quote the relevant Journal TransferCode	
JRUL Call Number / Pressmark / Manuscript Language & No. of item requested	
Author	Folio
Title	

Image format requested: Photographic print / TIFF (delete as applicable

"It means you can have the maps, all of them if you want, for free, in high resolution.
We've scanned them to enable their use in the broadest possible ways by the largest number of people."



Where to next?



- Make as many maps of Manchester free to all
- Help UoM connect to its city - effective community engagement through cartography?
- Publicly funded institutions can't maintain privileged access to cultural assets in an era online sharing, Open Access, free data

