

# Online Research & Teaching with Africa Maps:

Tips, Techniques, Examples & Resources

**T. C. Weiskel**

Dipl. Soc. Anthropol (Oxon), DPhil (Oxon), MLS, FRGS



# Accessing Historical Maps of Africa for Research and Teaching

Tips & Techniques for Online  
Use & Citation

The Africa Map Circle







The Africa Map Circle

# Why Africa Maps Matter

- The African continent was arguably the first one in the world to be mapped in its full outline.
- Africa maps were largely created by non-Africans.
- ...therefore, Africa maps can only be understood as *multi-cultural documents*.



The Africa Map Circle

- These maps therefore require international and multi-cultural teams of students and scholars to be analyzed adequately.
- Digital technology now makes it possible to share and analyze these maps around the globe.

**The result is that the collaborative study of Africa maps can now provide a new paradigm for international and multicultural teaching & learning.**



The Africa Map Circle

So let's take a look briefly at six different  
online historical map resources on Africa...  
...starting with the



<https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=Africa>



THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**DIGITAL COLLECTIONS**

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?utf8=%E2%9C%93&keywords=Africa+maps#>





Stanford  
LIBRARIES

<https://exhibits.stanford.edu/maps-of-africa>

# Digital Collections

 Collections

[Home](#) / [Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#) / [Maps of Africa to 1900](#)

## Maps of Africa to 1900

<https://digital.library.illinois.edu/collections/8132f520-e3fb-012f-c5b6-0019b9e633c5-f>

Northwestern

LIBRARIES | DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Search

Explore Collections

Browse Items

COLLECTIONS > 16TH-EARLY 20TH CENTURY MAPS OF AFRICA

# 16th-Early 20th Century Maps of Africa

<https://dc.library.northwestern.edu/collections/1c2e2200-c12d-4c7f-8b87-a935c349898a>

.... and finally, one of the most powerful and immediately useful online libraries in the world....



**A F R I T E R R A**  
*The Cartographic Free Library*

<http://www.afriterra.org/>

# So let's take a look briefly at six different online historical map resources on Africa...

Logo	Online Collection	Online Access
	The Library of Congress – Digital Maps of Africa	<a href="https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=Africa">https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=Africa</a>
	NYPL- Digital Collections, Africa Maps	<a href="https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?utf8=%E2%9C%93&amp;keywords=Africa+maps#">https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?utf8=%E2%9C%93&amp;keywords=Africa+maps#</a>
	Stanford University - Maps of Africa Online	<a href="https://exhibits.stanford.edu/maps-of-africa">https://exhibits.stanford.edu/maps-of-africa</a>

# So let's take a look briefly at six different online historical map resources on Africa...

Logo	Online Collection	Online Access
 <p>The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the University of Illinois Digital Collections website. It includes the 'ILLINOIS LIBRARY' logo, 'Digital Collections' with a 'Collections' dropdown menu, and a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / Rare Book &amp; Manuscript Library / Maps of Africa to 1900'. The main heading 'Maps of Africa to 1900' is prominently displayed.</p>	The University of Illinois - Maps of Africa to 1900	<a href="https://digital.library.illinois.edu/collections/8132f520-e3fb-012f-c5b6-0019b9e633c5-f">https://digital.library.illinois.edu/collections/8132f520-e3fb-012f-c5b6-0019b9e633c5-f</a>
 <p>The screenshot shows the Northwestern University Digital Collections website. It features a purple header with 'Northwestern LIBRARIES   DIGITAL COLLECTIONS'. Below the header are navigation options 'Explore Collections' and 'Browse Items'. The breadcrumb trail indicates 'COLLECTIONS &gt; 16TH-EARLY 20TH CENTURY MAPS OF AFRICA', and the main heading is '16th-Early 20th Century Maps of Africa'.</p>	Northwestern University - Digital Collections	<a href="https://dc.library.northwestern.edu/collections/1c2e2200-c12d-4c7f-8b87-a935c349898a">https://dc.library.northwestern.edu/collections/1c2e2200-c12d-4c7f-8b87-a935c349898a</a>
 <p>The logo for Afriterra features a circular emblem with a red dot in the center, surrounded by the text 'AFRITERRA' in a bold, serif font, and 'The Cartographic Free Library' in a smaller, italicized serif font below it.</p>	The Afriterra Foundation	<a href="http://www.afriterra.org/">http://www.afriterra.org/</a>

# Responding to Our Current Circumstance....

- The COVID-19 lockdown has radically altered research, teaching, and learning in African studies at all levels -- from K-12 classrooms through advanced post-doctoral archival research.

# Responding to Our Current Circumstance....

- The COVID-19 lockdown has radically altered research, teaching, and learning in African studies at all levels -- from K-12 classrooms through advanced post-doctoral archival research.
- For the foreseeable future it will no longer be possible to watch a movie together in classroom, nor can groups take field-trips to museums to view important Africa collections, nor will it be possible to assemble in auditoriums to hear from a visiting guest speaker reporting on current circumstances in Africa.



# Responding to Our Current Circumstance....

- Further, while African studies has had to go “virtual” almost overnight, there are, so far, very few online “textbooks” that are accessible to assist teachers to design “virtual” classroom materials and teach under COVID-19 circumstances.

# Responding to Our Current Circumstance....

- Further, while African studies has had to go “virtual” almost overnight, there are, so far, very few online “textbooks” that are accessible to assist teachers to design “virtual” classroom materials and teach under COVID-19 circumstances.
- Fortunately, online African map libraries can help in this circumstance..... Both faculty AND students can begin now to use these online libraries to build new online curricula for learning & teaching about Africa....



[Home](#) / [African Studies Association 2020 Annual Meeting Session Gallery](#)  
/ [Online Research & Teaching with Africa Maps: Tips, Techniques, Examples & Resources](#)

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**Session Title:** (XXI-AN-21)Online Research & Teaching with Africa Maps: Tips, Techniques, Examples & Resources

**Session Type:** AfricaNow!

**Session Chair:** Tim Weiskel, Africa Map Circle, Coordinator

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**Presenters:**

Gerald Rizzo, President, Afriterrra, The Catrographic Free Library

William Worger, University of California, Los Angeles

Henry Lovejoy, University of Colorado Boulder

Paul Lovejoy, Department of History, York University

AndrewApter, Department of History, UCLA

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For further discussion of these issues, please attend the online panel discussion during the African Studies Association 2020 online Annual Meetings.



[Home](#) / [African Studies Association 2020 Annual Meeting Session Gallery](#)  
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