

By Dr. JIJO JAYARAJ A map is a representation of certain boundaries of the earth on a flat surface showing countries, bodies of water, cities, etc.

DEFINITION AND SCOPE

 According to ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science (1983), "a map is a representation normally drawn to a scale and on a flat medium of a selection of material or abstract features on, or in relation to, the surface of the earth or another celestial body." -

DEFINITION AND SCOPE

• The definition given by R.A. Skelton, formerly Superintendent of the Map Room of the British Museum is as under; "A map is a graphic document in which location, extent and direction can be more precisely defined than by the written word; and its construction is a mathematical process strictly controlled by measurement and calculation."

DEFINITION AND SCOPE

 The Library of Congress defines maps in a broad way as "All forms of cartographic materials normally added to the collections of the library including flat maps and charts, collection of maps in atlas form, terrain models, globes, etc."

various types of maps and its uses

- 1. A physical map
- 2. Topographic maps
- 3. A route map
- 4. A political map
- 5. The historical maps

1.A physical map

 A physical map is usually referred to for visual location and identification of the world, country, region, city or town mountain, river, lake, sea, ocean, gulf, bay, desert or any other geographical formation.

2.Topographic maps

 Topographic maps trace details of geological, soil, forest and other basic information and for historical, economic, political or other types of development. They are used to show land use, land ownership, various methods of communications, transportation, etc.

3.A route map

A route map shows roads, rail roads, bridges, etc.

4.A political map

 A political map normally limits itself to political boundaries of different countries, states, cities, towns, etc.

5. The historical maps

 chart the flow of a given battle or event and its progress. It indicates adjustments of boundaries after wars and due to negotiated settlement directly between two countries (China and UK) or under the auspices of international organisation's (UN trust territories).