

Reading the text, walking the terrain, following the map: Do we see the same landscape?

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Outline

- 1 Document vs. landscape
- 2 Map document vs. textual document
- 3 Indications and suggestions

Document or landscape?

- Viewing documents representing landscape
 - *Moving the eyes*
- Seeing the landscape
 - *Moving the eye-head-body system*

Document vs. practice

- Distinction muddled by expressions such as “conceptual map”
- Embodied creatures finding our way

But ...no mapless societies?

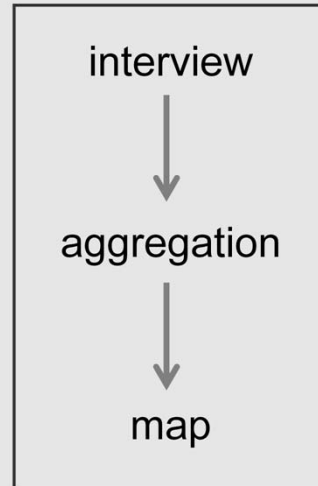
- No maps before 1500 (Wood 2010)
- Wayfinding: words, body, brain, senses, landscape, fellow creatures, ...and recently some maps

*The “History of Cartography” is not discussing maps.
They are discussing things we think look like maps.*

Case study: text vs. map

Schnitler: Scandinavia, 1740's

- From overlapping tax areas to borders between states
- Information gathering
- Common people seen as a source to information based on their knowledge, not on their status



The model and formalisation



Change 64 kilometres to (0,0), (64000,0).

«Fall-off»

What is lost in the process

- Context
- Vagueness
- Under-specification
- Negation
- Disjunction
- ...

- *Making an inventory*

Fall-off, yes, but also add-ons.

Too little and too much

- Too little: What do a map need in order to be made
- Too much: What do a text have to offer

This is what used to be the typology.

Too little: underspecification

“A verbal text describing a spatial phenomenon in a way that can be understood as two or more significantly different phenomena by a competent reader, thus, an ambiguity stemming from a lack of information.”

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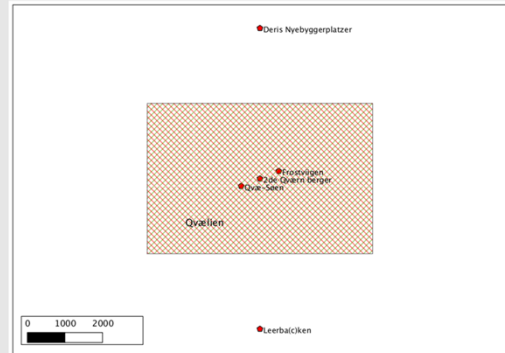
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Definition of under-specification.

Choices must be made.

*The area told as a story. An inquiry into the relationship between verbal
and map-based expressions of geographical information.*

Too little: choices



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Underspecification means that we have to make choices.

A horizontal line segment with endpoints labeled A and B. The segment is drawn with a thin black line, and the endpoints are marked with small black dots. The label 'A' is positioned above the left endpoint, and the label 'B' is positioned above the right endpoint.

“There are no More
Finns Close to the
Borders [...]”



Why do we not see this?

As map

VS.

Onto map

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This is most central for “too little”; too little is said, thus, it is not specified enough.

Even when things are put onto pre-existing maps the same choices are made, but in that case they are usually hidden. But deciding that this map can be used to represent the contents of that text is a choice from which all the smaller choices follows by necessity, except when we say “this do not fit! The map is wrong!”

Media restrictions: How to make maps anyway

- Dynamic
- Completeness definition
- Choices
- Text

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Not only how things are said, also what can be said.
There are workarounds
...but full specification is not used in natural language.

Different media, different experiences

- How things are said
- What is said

``Every medium has the capacity of mediating
only certain aspects of the total reality"
(Elleström 2010)

*...so it is no surprise that wayfinding is
different from both maps and texts*

Wayfinding vs. navigation

- Cognitive map?
- Landscape as a text?
- or...

wayfinding $\neq$ map use $\neq$ reading

If there is a media difference, is that an argument for there being a practice difference?

Thank you!

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