

# Open Access Journal Publication: methods of implementation and copyright issues using the Journal of Maps as a case study

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## Abstract

Issues of copyright are a perennial problem in publishing maps. The Journal of Maps (JoM), a new online journal for the publication of bespoke maps, has provided a mechanism for bringing the debate to prominence. This poster provides an insight into the issues surrounding the publication of maps and the development of JoM within copyright constraints. Open access initiatives are becoming increasingly important in journal publication, however several different methods are currently used. Issues concerning original data copyright, as well as copyright of maps submitted for publication, are central to the use and dissemination of maps within academia.

## Introduction

This poster provides a discussion of open access (OA) publishing copyright issues related to map publication. It is based around experiences gained in the first year of operation of the Journal of Maps (JoM). As a result of the experiences of JoM, a current project is underway, in collaboration with EDINA, to scope the copyright issues relating to digital data repositories.

This poster is **not** meant to be an endorsement/advert for JoM.

## Launching JoM

JoM was established in October 2003 in response to a perceived decline in the publication of research-based maps. For instance, Figure 1 shows the number of fold-out items (including maps, tables and figures) published in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society (later the Journal of the Geological Society) in 5-year intervals from 1921 to 2001.

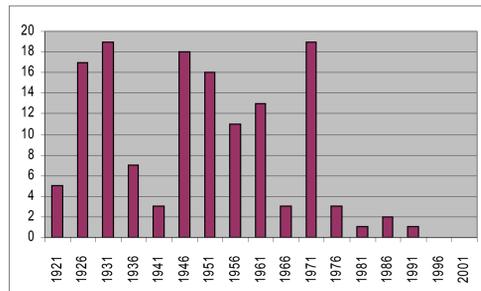


Figure 1 Number of fold-out items published per year (5 year intervals) for the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society.

Decline in map publication is, in part, due to the stereotypical "B&W A4" journal (with the notable exception of *The Cartographic Journal* which is published in full colour). Maps don't fit this mould because:

- they are often large
- they are often in colour

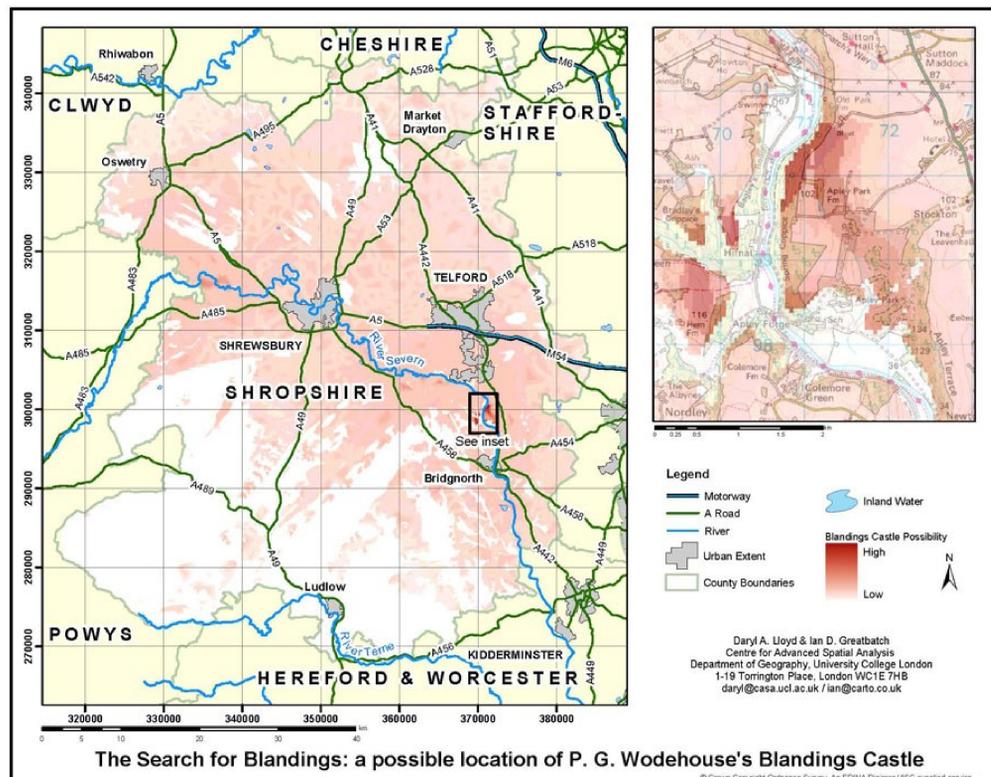


Figure 2 The search for Blandings. An example of a map that can be 'shown' as part of a presentation but NOT published

Maps are also not seen as a publication goal in their own right when the focus is upon the communication of research results. JoM launched in May 2004 and published its first issue in January 2005. There is an anticipated bi-annual publication (next issue October 2005) and the journal accepts maps from *any* discipline with only one rule of thumb: "quality, bespoke maps".

## Open Access publication

The only economic publication route was electronic, as opposed to a traditional paper-based journal format, and we developed our own web-based customer management, submission, peer-review and publication system. This reduced most of the inherent time/costs of journal management. As a result of our low overheads, we decided to self-publish and entrench the ideals of free-access to content by going OA. Open Access can be defined as journal material that is "free at the point of consumption".

Over 60% of university research in the UK is funded by the government (RCUK, 2005). The government (and anyone else) has to then pay journals in order to read the results. Journals provide an important role in peer-reviewing research, **but** they place a financial burden upon academic institutions.

It will never be **free** to publish a journal, however they need to be appropriately funded. The Research Councils will require, from **this year** (RCUK, 2005), all findings from grant holders to be deposited in an institutional repository. A similar move was announced by the National Institutes of Health (USA). OA can shift costs away from institutions to granting bodies and has been endorsed by the British Medical Journals. OA is a **valid** publication model that needs further research (Rightscom, 2005).

### Author Pays

This places the burden of publication costs with the granting body which produces barriers to those with little funding e.g.

- Public Library of Science [www.plos.org](http://www.plos.org)
- BioMed Central [www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com)

### Those that can afford

Immediate and long term viewing is free. Medium term viewing is paid for by the institution. It allows rapid, free dissemination of important research results e.g.

- British Medical Journals ([bmj.bmjournals.com](http://bmj.bmjournals.com))

JoM operates an "author-pays" model to fund its operation. The current charge to authors is £30, enabled by our low running costs. It is payable upon receipt of the manuscript to process the peer-review; it does **not** guarantee publication and is non-refundable.

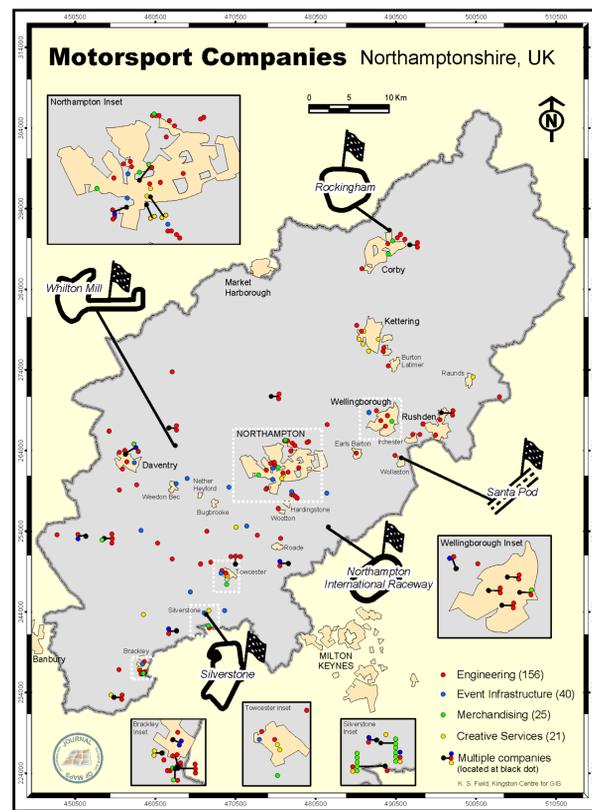


Figure 3 Motorsport in Northamptonshire. A publishable map

It gets worse !!!!

If you **derive** any of your data from an OS data source (e.g. Panorama™) then it **inherits** the same copyright restrictions.

The probability surface in Figure 2 falls into this category.

The vagaries of the copyright restrictions become more baffling when Figure 2 is compared with Figure 3 – a map of the motorsport industry in Northamptonshire. Both are thematic maps and both are of broadly similar proportions – county level maps of the UK. Whilst the map in Figure 3 may therefore appear to be similar to Figure 2, we **can** publish it because the spatial data has been derived from a non-copyright source. The boundary data was sourced from UKBorders with copyright being held by University of Essex and not subject to the same level of restriction as the Blandings map.

There is a fine line between what is publishable and what is not publishable. Understanding the restrictions of particular data sources is crucial.

## Copyright

Two aspects of copyright:

- copyright of material **published by JoM**
- copyright of third party data **incorporated** into material published by JoM

Copyright traditionally falls in to two camps:

- Full Copyright: the owner retains full rights
- Public Domain: the creator retains no rights

What happens if you want to do something "in-between" (e.g. retain copyright, but free distribution)? Creative Commons offers one solution:

This allows the originator to retain the copyright whilst specifying how the material may be used. JoM allows the author to retain full copyright. JoM retains an irrevocable license to publish the material using a CC license.		Sampling
		Public Domain
		By Attribution
		Share Alike
		No Derivatives
		Non-commercial

## Copyright: third party

JoM can only publish maps within copyright restrictions of third party data. Data (in the US) collected at the federal level is typically copyright free (e.g. SRTM, Landsat) which allows unrestricted use within other products.

The predominant supplier of geospatial data in the UK is Ordnance Survey. For HE institutions this is usually supplied by EDINA. Use of OS data in posters and presentations is relatively open. For instance we can legally 'show' Figure 2, which is based on Panorama™, Colour Raster, Meridian2™, Strategis®, as part of a presentation.

However, the map cannot be 'published'. **All** electronic, internet facing maps come with very stringent restrictions based upon:

- maximum size of individual image
- maximum ground area

This varies by product but generally means that any map **larger** than A5 is unpublishable.

## Key issues

Derived data can be categorised as:

- Quantitative: empirical process to derive a new data set from an old one (e.g. buffering a river in a GIS)
- Qualitative: visual interpretation/subjective assessment where "value" is added (e.g. mapping glacial landforms)

*Should this alter the interpretation/restrictions of derived data?*

*Should the OS be less restrictive about publication in non-commercial areas?*

This area is **critical** as JISC investigates the potential for digital geospatial data repositories.

## Conclusions

OA initiatives are an increasingly important publication avenue. Government, JISC and RCs think this is important.

All journals need to be funded; this can be achieved in different ways. JoM is one solution to OA publication.

Within the cartographic domain JoM supports map *and* data publication and *complements* other cartographic journals.

The increased availability of digital data has brought copyright issues to the fore which affects map *and* data distribution.

Ordnance Survey operates an outdated copyright policy. Maps based upon OS data are effectively **not publishable** in any journal.

Electronic, internet facing, distribution is severely restricted (e.g. A5 publication size).

Without some modernisation, such restrictions have important implications for the publication of original *and* derived datasets in map form.

JoM is currently taking part in an EDINA-funded project to identify copyright issues in disseminating data in map form.

## References

Research Councils UK 2005. RCUK Position Statement on Access to Research Outputs. Research Councils UK Report. Rightscom 2005. Business models for journal content. Final report to JISC.

## About the authors

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