

Cartographic Body of Knowledge – still in progress

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Abstract:

The previous Executive Committee decided to form a Working Group for CartoBoK that should collect information from the wide specter of Cartographic knowledge within ICA. The various commissions were expected to be central in this work. The idea was that the ICA commissions cover a wide specter of Cartography. Consequently, the commissions should be able to cover the most important elements in a Cartographic Body of Knowledge (Midtbø et al., 2021).

During the study of other BoKs, the WG concluded that the CartoBoK need to be a dynamic and maintained on a digital platform. It should not be a static document which can be cumbersome to update. It was natural to use a kind of Web-based platform for collection and distribution of the BoK. More details about the initial work in the WG can be found in Midtbø et al. (2023) and at [Wb:CartoBok \(2025\)](#).

The first attempts to collect Cartographic concepts into the Cartographic Body of Knowledge through the ICA Commissions were only partly successful. We received the definition and explanation for a set of concepts. A few of these was elaborated in detail. However, the number of contributions was “not overwhelming”, and together with the present ICA-EC we tried a new approach in 2024. This included direct contact with the Commissions, and as a first step collect definitions on central concepts. It is also a ongoing discussion on if and how artificial intelligence may be used as a tool when establishing the CartoBoK.

At present the CartoBoK is stored and visualized in a Living Textbook structure maintained by ITC ([Web_LivingTextbook, 2025](#)). A better visualization through a “bubble diagram” is also considered.

Based on this we want to present the ongoing work related to the CartoBoK for the Cartographic community.

References

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