

original and primary to subsequent information. Although (nomenclature), and carto-bibliography. This study follows the suggestions made by Stevens [1969], that detailed technical evaluations must be included in comparative cartographic research to assist historians and geographers alike in determining the value of maps as historical source documents.

An attempt is made in this study to contribute to the knowledge of the discipline of cartographic history by using a methodology that incorporates a less subjective approach to the analysis of maps. The addition of the reliability assessment methodology combined with the traditional aspects of historical cartographic research on maps will broaden the field beyond the subjective analysis used in methodologies in many prior studies. Furthermore, the methodology used in this study should increase the usefulness of maps as historical source materials by incorporating a technique for determining the locational accuracy or distortion of features, presenting a method for correcting map projection distortion, and tracking the originality of the map features.

Geographers evaluate and use documents as original source data in historical geographic and historical cartographic research. Among these sources of historical data, early maps and charts are generally assumed to be