

original and primary to subsequent information. Although these accepted assumptions are currently being employed in research, the use of analytical methods in document/data evaluation may reveal characteristics of the sources which are difficult to determine by a subjective analysis frequently used in the past.

Research studies in historical cartography of the early colonial period of America employ the analysis of mother maps² in the middle Atlantic region. Several early explorations in the region resulted in maps and charts that are now accepted as being the progenitor to other mapping sources. Among these maps are the John Smith maps, Augustine Herrman map, Robert Morden maps, John Thornton maps, John Ogilby map, and several others.

Most of the comparative cartographic research in the literature does not employ a methodology that includes a map feature analysis. Comparative cartographic studies frequently look at only the temporal sequence of maps and physical comparisons of the graphics. In the mid-1980's studies began to suggest improvements in the techniques of

² The mother map term has long been used in historical cartography. The use of the term refers to the map as being the source, progenitor, or prototype map. Thus, a mother map is a source map influencing the mapping or geographical knowledge of an area.