

studies. Past research studies have suggested the in the relationships between maps based on their similar tribute to appearance. However, this study bases the relationships on forensic techniques by gathering empirical information of map similarities and best-fit qualities. This study suggests that the variants of the Herrman map may not be as useful as historical documents of original geographic knowledge as has generally been believed. Determining a source document's originality and accessing it's quality is primary to historical and cartographic research. By establishing the Herrman map as the originator of geographical information of the Chesapeake Bay region, this mother map negates the historical value of later maps as original sources for the purpose of cartographic research. Once the map can be established as the original source map, the accuracy of this original source map should be established to determine the map's usefulness in historical and cartographic research. The findings and the discussion of the results from this research adopting an analytical methodology, rather than subjective, can be applied to future historical cartographic research regardless of the geographical area and time period.

The techniques and the additional data provided over that available in previous studies in the field of comparative cartographic research brings a degree of