

features analyzed and evaluated are common in both technical and non-technical approaches to comparative cartography. Whereas, technical evaluation using the computer as a tool, allows other physical manifestations of maps to be examined. Research in comparative cartography now includes evaluating the projections of early maps. This is a tedious and time consuming effort when examined by non-computer techniques. Technical examination of detailed map elements have been adopted from the photogrammetric field of cartographic study. Comparative cartographic concepts have been redefined to include the techniques of aerial photo interpretation and analytical comparison. The examination of photographs and imagery in both analog and digital form by comparative methods helps to redefine the traditional concepts in historical and comparative cartography by the utilization of technology and mathematical analysis.

Before the 1960's, traditional studies in historical cartography were typically those of annotated bibliographies or chronological bibliographies. These techniques usually were descriptions of physical map comparisons and their differences entered in a subsequent bibliography. "The practice of comparing apparently identical copies of old maps in hope of discovering... variations has so developed during the last half century