

was able to evaluate the accuracy of the historical map. The determination of a map's accuracy (or inaccuracy) needs to be confirmed by statistical analysis, and not by "eye-balling" or some other subjective technique which cannot be duplicated.

The outline (shoreline) of the historic world map was visually registered with the shoreline of a contemporary atlas map. "Registration was checked area by area for line elements of approximately the same length of which 15 were chosen at different points on the map. Each section line was sampled at 2 mm. intervals and at each point the deviation between the new and old map was measured." [Yerci, 1989 p.155] Simple standard deviations were computed for each section which indicated the degree of deformity of the old verses new map comparisons. Again, a best-fit technique was employed to determine accuracy or reliability of the old map. The charted relationship between the African and South American continent of the two overlays exhibited remarkable good fit qualities for a map constructed in 1513 compared to a contemporary atlas map.

SUMMARY

The selected recent literature reveals the 'current state-of-the-art' in historical cartographic research, as