

This study supports the comments of Harley and Woodward, but disagrees that maps as historical records do not receive equal attention in comparative analytical methodological research. Reoccurring themes in recent historical cartographic studies emphasize the evaluation of maps as legitimate historical geographic data. Moreover, determining the accuracy of historical maps plays an important role as a topic of cartographic research. Computer database files used in geographic information systems and multi-purpose cadastre systems depend on accurate map information used for multiple inquiries and analysis of these systems. The need for accurate base map information may continue to drive cartographic research in developing new ways in determining map accuracy and determining the originality of geographic information.

The best-fit method, as described in the research literature, serves as the basis for the comparative cartographic techniques used in this thesis. The use of the best-fit method is perhaps the best research technique for determining the reliability of Herrman's 1673 map. Although the literature indicates that the Herrman map is the most accurate map of the seventeenth century, now a method to determine the degree of accuracy is used to establish its correctness and to justify the map's use as