

geographic information. This study uses the mother map as the primary source of geographic information. Historical maps used as original sources can be evaluated for accuracy and distortion. Geographic distortions can then be corrected for locational purposes. An archaeologist, for example, could take coordinates from a historic map, corrected for its distortion, and be able to identify and plot the geographic position of historical or archaeological sites on a contemporary map. Determination of these maps as original sources of information and the accuracy of their content, has been a major concern. This research, however, proposes techniques that can be used to evaluate and correct maps and charts making them more useful as historic documents.

These evaluation techniques include the visual comparison of maps which is aided by adjusting the map images photomechanically or electronically to bring the scales into agreement. Extracting graphic evidence as cartographic features are traced through maps of the geographic area to show the diffusion of these map elements through a spatial and temporal sequence of nearly a century and a half of mapping. Focusing on the best-fit method as a computer mapping technique for establishing the accuracy of mapped features, an evaluation of the maps reliability is made.