

# The Map and Chart Information System



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U. S. Department of the Interior  
Geological Survey  
National Cartographic  
Information Center (NCIC)

A high-speed computer system is now available that can help you find the right map or chart quickly, accurately, and inexpensively.

The system is called the Map and Chart Information System (MCIS), a service of the U.S. Geological Survey's National Cartographic Information Center (NCIC).

MCIS answers one of the longstanding needs in the field of cartography and other fields that rely on maps and charts for information. The need arose from the fact that hundreds of thousands of maps and charts have been produced over the years by Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector, on all portions of the United States.

The maps and charts are compiled at different scales (the relationship of distance on the map or chart to distance on the ground or water), for different purposes, and from different data.

Researching through those maps and charts used to be a laborious task. The researcher had, at least, to consult many mapping agencies of the Federal Government and go through their holdings. There was no assurance that map and chart indexes were either complete or current.



Samples of maps described in the MCIS data base

## How MCIS Works

MCIS is designed to assist the researcher in finding a map or chart in as many different ways as possible. The researcher thus can approach the task of locating a particular map or chart from any one of several starting points.

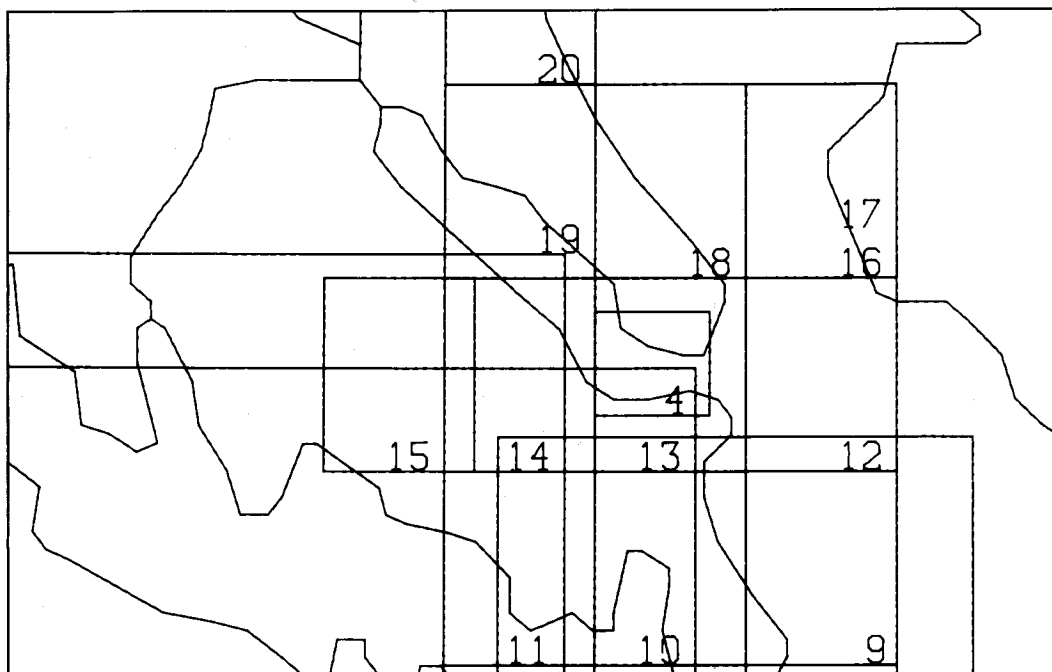
For example, information about maps and charts is entered in the MCIS computer file by the geographic bounds of each sheet, along with the map name, contents, publisher, and dates of original survey, publication, and revision. The file also may contain information about historical editions of a given map or chart, insets, irregular boundaries, and other significant features. Where possible, the computer descriptions include the location of 35-mm roll microfilm copies of the map or chart that have been prepared by NCIC for reference.

NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER MAP AND CHART INFORMATION SYSTEM MICROFILM ROLL FILE CONTENTS												PAGE
ROLL/FRAME	MINOR STATES	PUBLISHED NAME	SCALE	PUBLISHED DATE	ROLL/FRAME	MINOR STATES	PUBLISHED NAME	SCALE	PUBLISHED DATE			
ILLINOIS												2
061 026	IL	TLEUD	1	62500 NOV 1958	061 065	IL	LIGN	1	24000 MAY 1962			
061 027	IL	TLEUD	1	62500 DEC 1958	*****							
061 032	IL	TUSCULA	1	62500 AUG 1964	074 025	IA	SAVANNA	1	62500 SEP 1956			
061 033	IL	TUSCULA	1	62500 JUN 1952	074 062	IA	SILVIA	1	24000 DEC 1949			
061 034	IL	URBANA	1	24000 APR 1972	*****							
061 035	IL	URBANA	1	24000 FEB 1970	*****							
061 036	IL	URBANA	1	24000 APR 1958	*****							
061 060	IL	VIRGINIA	1	62500 OCT 1965	*****							
061 069	IL	VIRGINIA	1	62500 DEC 1936	*****							
061 070	IN KY	WAGASH ISLAND	1	24000 SEP 1955	*****							
061 072	IA KY	WAGASH ISLAND	1	24000 DEC 1953	214 001	MO	PENNY	1	24000 MAY 1977			
061 073	IL	WAGASH ISLAND	1	24000 JUN 1972	214 002	MO	PETERSBURG	1	24000 JUN 1973			
061 074	IL	WAGASH ISLAND	1	24000 SEP 1962	214 003	MO	PINEGROVE	1	24000 SEP 1973			
061 075	IL	WALNUT	1	62500 OCT 1949	214 004	MO	PITTSFIELD	1	62500 JUL 1973			
061 080	MO	WARE	1	24000 APR 1964	214 005	MO	PITTSFIELD SE	1	24000 JAN 1977			
061 094	IL	WAUCONDA	1	24000 JUN 1971	214 006	MO	PLAINFIELD	1	24000 MAR 1974			
061 095	IL	WALTONIA	1	24000 SEP 1962	214 007	MO	PLAINVIEW	1	24000 JUN 1977			
061 096	IL	WALTONIA	1	24000 APR 1972	214 014	MO	PLANO	1	24000 JUN 1973			
061 097	IL	WAUKEGAN	1	24000 JUN 1962	214 009	MO	PLATTVILLE	1	24000 MAR 1974			
061 108	IL	WAYNE CITY	1	62500 OCT 1947	214 010	MO	PLEASANT MOUND	1	24000 MAY 1977			
061 115	IL	WEST CHICAGO	1	24000 OCT 1972	214 011	MO	PLEASANT PLAINS	1	24000 JUN 1973			
061 116	IL	WEST CHICAGO	1	24000 JAN 1964	214 012	MO	PLEASANT PLAINS	1	24000 MAY 1977			
061 117	IL	WEST CHICAGO	1	24000 JUN 1955	214 019	MO	PLAINVIEW	1	25000 FEB 1977			
061 123	IL	WEST KAMARAKEE	1	24000 FEB 1965	214 015	IA	PLATTVILLE	1	24000 APR 1977			
061 125	IL	WHEATON	1	24000 SEP 1970	214 016	MO	PODMAC	1	62500 JAN 1977			
061 126	IL	WHEATON	1	24000 FEB 1964	214 017	MO	PROPHETSTOWN	1	62500 MAR 1973			
061 127	IL	WHEATON	1	24000 MAY 1955	214 018	MO	PUTNAM	1	24000 SEP 1974			
061 136	IL	WHEELING	1	24000 FEB 1971	214 019	MO	QUINCY	1	25000 FEB 1977			
061 137	IL	WHEELING	1	24000 OCT 1964	214 020	MO	QUINCY EAST	1	24000 JAN 1973			
061 138	IL	WHEELING	1	24000 MAR 1955	214 021	MO	QUINCY WEST	1	24000 JAN 1973			
061 139	IL	WHEELING	1	24000 NOV 1948	214 022	MO	RAMSEY	1	62500 MAR 1976			
061 140	IL	WHEELING	1	24000 NOV 1932	214 023	MO	RAMSEY LAKE	1	24000 JUN 1974			
061 141	IL	WHEELING	1	24000 MAY 1928	214 024	MO	RAYMUN	1	62500 JUL 1973			
061 144	IL	WILMINGTON	1	24000 MAR 1970	214 025	MO	REND LAKE DAM	1	24000 APR 1977			
061 145	IL	WILMINGTON	1	24000 MAY 1955	214 026	MO	REYNOLDS	1	24000 SEP 1977			
061 157	IL	WILTON CENTER	1	24000 APR 1955	214 027	MO	RICHMOND	1	24000 AUG 1973			
061 158	IL	WILMESTER	1	62500 APR 1969	214 028	MO	RIDGHT	1	24000 JUN 1974			
061 159	IL	WILMESTER	1	62500 APR 1927	214 029	MO	RISING	1	24000 JAN 1977			
061 160	IL	WILMESTER	1	62500	214 030	MO	RIVER CREST	1	24000 JUL 1973			
061 166	IL	WILMESTER	1	24000 JUN 1969	214 031	MO	RIVER CREST	1	62500 DEC 1976			

Microfilm Roll File Contents Report

The person seeking a map or chart can find it through MCIS by querying the file using any of the map or chart descriptors, including area of coverage. Thus, the researcher can ask for a listing of all maps and charts covering an area centered on particular geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude). Or the researcher might ask for maps of that area but limit the query to maps of a particular scale, time period, or type.

NCIC's customers can obtain the various MCIS microforms, printed reports, and computer tapes for their own use. They also can ask NCIC to query the MCIS data base for map descriptions to satisfy a particular need. Special queries take approximately 2 to 10 hours to run through the computer under normal circumstances, with cost depending on the detail of the request, the speed of the turn-around required, and the time-of-day computer charges.



MCIS Graphic Index

### MCIS Products

The complete computer file of MCIS is available in the following formats:

**Microfiche.** These are available in one format that provides all the information in the MCIS file and in five abridged subsets of the file. The complete format, called the Unit Record Report, contains the full description of all maps and charts, organized by State. The abridged formats are:

- (1) *States Covered Report*, organizing information by State and map name.
- (2) *Latitude/Longitude Report*, organizing information by the southeast corner of the map or chart.
- (3) *Producing Agency Report*, organizing information by the agency producing the map or chart.
- (4) *International Map of the World Report*, organizing map records by the cells of the International Map of the World Series (maps usually of scale of 1:1,000,000 covering cells 4° of latitude by 6° of longitude) on the basis

of which cell the southeast corner of the map falls into.

- (5) *Microfilm Roll File Contents Report*, organized by State, showing the roll and frame numbers of microfilm for the map by name type.

**Paper Copy.** These are printed copies of the selected report format prepared on a custom basis for the user.

**Graphic Index.** This is a map-like display prepared by the computer on the basis of latitude and longitude of the area covered by the map or chart. The index shows all maps or charts that cover the features or locations indicated by the customer. This product is prepared on a custom basis.

MAP AND CHART IDENTIFICATION									
INDEX NO.	PRODUCT ID	SHEET NO.	TITLE AND CONTENTS OF CHARTS	AGENCY	SCALE NATURAL 1 TO	PUBLICATION DATE	REVISION DATE	SURVEY DATE	
1	CB US12233		POTOMAC RIVER CHESAPEAKE BAY	064801	00040000	FEB 1977			
2	CB US12237		RAPPAHANNOCK R.-CORROTTOMAN R	064801	00020000	NOV 1976			
3	CB US12283		ANNAPOLIS HBR MARYLAND	064801	00010000	JAN 1976			
4	CB US12284		PATUXENT R SOLOMONS I AND VI	064801	00010000	MAY 1977			
5	CB US12286		POTOMAC R., PINEY PT. TO LOWE	064801	00040000	MAR 1976			
6	72438000761521197405P1		POINT LOOKOUT	1028	00024000	MAY 1974			1942
	72438000761521197405O0		POINT LOOKOUT	1028	00024000	DEC 1961			1942
7	72438000762221197607O1		ST GEORGE ISLAND	1028	00024000	JUL 1976			1968
	72438000762221197607O1		ST GEORGE ISLAND	1028	00024000	APR 1972			1968
	72438000762221197607O1		ST. GEORGE ISLAND	1028	00024000	JUL 1970			1942
	72438000762221197607O1		ST. GEORGE ISLAND	1028	00024000	DEC 1961			1942
8	72438000763021197801O1		KINSALE	1028	00024000	JAN 1978			1968
	72438000763021197801O1		KINSALE	1028	00024000	MAY 1972			1968
	72438000763021197801O1		YECOMICO RIVER	1028	00024000	OCT 1962			1943
9	72438070761521197303PD		POINT NO POINT	0701	00024000	MAR 1973			1943
	72438070761521197303O0		POINT NO POINT	0701	00024000	FEB 1962			1943
10	72438070762221197704PD		ST. MARYS CITY	0701	00024000	APR 1977			1943
	72438070762221197704PD		ST. MARYS CITY	0701	00024000	MAR 1973			1943
	72438070762221197704PD		ST. MARYS CITY	0701	00024000	FEB 1962			1943
11	7243807076302100000O1		PINEY POINT	1028	00024000				
	7243807076302100000O1		PINEY POINT	1028	00024000				
	7243807076302100000O1		PINEY POINT	1028	00024000	JUN 1972			1968
	7243807076302100000O1		PINEY POINT	1028	00024000	DEC 1970			1943
12	72438150761521197109PD		PINEY POINT	1028	00024000	MAY 1953			1943
	72438150761521197109O0		BARREN ISLAND	0701	00024000	SEP 1971			1942
	72438150761521197109O0		BARREN ISLAND	0701	00024000	JUN 1957			1942
13	72438150762221197701R1		SOLOMONS ISLAND	1028	00024000	JAN 1977	1974		1944
	72438150762221197701PD		SOLOMONS ISLAND	1028	00024000	MAY 1969			1944
	72438150762221197701PD		SOLOMONS ISLAND	1028	00024000	MAR 1962			1944
14	72438150763021196407O1		HOLLYWOOD	1028	00024000	JUL 1964			1963
15	72438150763621197601P1		HOLLYWOOD	1028	00024000	JAN 1976			1963
16	72438220761521197303P1		TAYLORS ISLAND	1028	00024000	MAR 1973			1942
	72438220761521197303O0		TAYLORS ISLAND	1028	00024000	DEC 1961			1942
17	7243822076152400000O1		TAYLORS ISLAND	1028	00024000				
18	72438220762221197604R1		COVE POINT	1028	00024000	APR 1976	1974		1943
	72438220762221197604PD		COVE POINT	1028	00024000	OCT 1970			1943

Plot listing for Graphic Index

**Computer Tapes.** NCIC can provide computer tapes or subsets of tapes on information in the MCIS file. This is not a standard product.

The cost of products and services of MCIS is determined on a per-order basis and will be included in the response to your request.

### Ordering Information

Information about MCIS products and the custom query procedure can be obtained from NCIC. Please send your name, address, organization affiliation, and telephone number with your request to:

National Cartographic Information Center  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 507 National Center  
 Reston, Virginia 22092  
 Telephone: 703/860-6045