BACKGROUND: Map headings are assigned not only to maps and atlases, but also to works about maps and atlases, and to works with both textual and cartographic content in which the cartographic content is secondary, serving mainly to support, illustrate, or explain the textual content. This instruction sheet discusses the assignment of headings to works of this latter type in order to bring out their cartographic content. For instructions on providing subject access to maps themselves, see the Map Cataloging Manual.

1. General rule. Assign the appropriate map heading(s) if at least 20% of the text of a work consists of maps, or discusses maps, even though the primary emphasis of the work is on the textual content. Examples of typical map headings:

   650 #0 $a Aeronautical charts.
   650 #0 $a City planning $z Washington (State) $z Seattle $v Maps.
   651 #0 $a Washington (D.C.) $v Maps.

Assign the heading(s) specified above in addition to the headings that are assigned to designate the textual content of the work. Example:

   Title: The geology of Georgia, with numerous geologic maps.
   650 #0 $a Geology $z Georgia.
   650 #0 $a Geology $z Georgia $v Maps.

2. Incidental maps. Do not bring out the presence of maps in the text if the maps in question are of an incidental or routine nature.