Major Differences between Book and Map Cataloging
(not including Mathematical and Physical Description areas)

Note: AACR2 = Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd ed., revised
CM = Cartographic Materials: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2
MCM = Map Cataloging Manual

I. Fixed Fields

A. All cartographic materials, whether digital or not, are coded Type "e". (Note: 034 and 255 required for all type "e" records). There are five initial determinations to make when beginning to catalog a cartographic item.

Is it an atlas?
Atlases are collections of maps intended to be used like a book and shelve together that can be bound or loose-leaf, flat or folded, in cases, boxes, portfolios, or folders. (CM p.185)

Is it a single map sheet?
Single maps can be printed on two or more sheets (usually less than 12 sheets involved), are published together, have incomplete borders, and, usually have the main title and legend on only one of the sheets (MCM 7.2)

Is it a map set/series?
Map set/series are collections of maps, with common unifying features, often similar sized, with the same scale and relief/symbols. They may form a single map when assembled, often will have a collective title and individual sheet designations. A distinguishing feature from single maps is that map set/series are intended to be used individually as well as together. (MCM 7.2-7.4)

Is it a serial?
Map serials are infrequent, but when they do occur they look very much like regular serials, with the serial title constant from issue to issue and a numbering system which includes issue number and date of issue. (CM p. 177)

Is it a digital map?
When deciding whether a computer file should be considered cartographic materials consult "Guidelines for Distinguishing Cartographic Materials on Computer File Carriers from other Materials on Computer File Carriers." This document can be found at http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc/cfmap.html.

B. 006 for maps, digital maps and atlases. *Optionally* add the following:

  1. 006 for accompanying maps
  2. 006 for book aspects of atlases
     (LC is adding these when there is substantial text in an atlas
     so you'll see it on copy occasionally.)
  3. 006 for computer files aspects of digital maps

C. 007 for maps, digital maps and atlases. Formerly the map 007 was required when using the type code "e". That meant digital maps needed a map 007 and a computer file 006. Now the field is Optional.

D. 008 (fixed fields) (Note that the 006 fields are defined the same as the 008)

1. CrTp (Type of Cartographic Material) – use code "a", Single map, for digital maps per LC.
2. Proj (Projection) - only used if specified on the piece
3. Relf (Relief) - use with relief note
4. SpFm (Special Format Characteristics) - use to indicate whether the map is also something like a wall map, calendar, game, puzzle, etc. (May also bring out more fully these characteristics in the 006)

II. Chief Source

Note: For digital maps, although the type code and fixed fields use the map format, the cataloging rules still instruct that the primary chapter for these materials is Chapter 9 with instructions taken from Chapter 3 as needed. So, only the purely map fields discussed below will pertain to digital maps. For instance, use Chapter 9 for chief source of information for digital maps, not Chapter 3 chief source.

A. No straightforward title page equivalent exists for maps since the chief source is the entire map. (AACR2 3.0B2)

B. Title is chosen on the basis of sequence or layout. If the layout is not clear the most comprehensive title (includes both subject and geographic area) is used. (CM 1B8b and AACR2 3.1B3)

C. The definition of prominence is much different. Prominent is anywhere on the map even in very little type. (AACR2 0.8)

III. Main entry

A. Main entry is based less on prominence and more on who did what.

B. The cartographer has to be more than just the mechanical drawer or tracer to be the main entry.

C. The corporate body must be a map-making body to be main entry. (AACR2 21.1B2f)

D. There is often no statement of responsibility.

IV. Title proper

Major differences are that often there are two (or more) titles to choose from, and, you are encouraged to bracket additional area (place name) information *in the subtitle* if it is not present in the title. (AACR2 3.1E2)

V. GMD

Since LC does not use a GMD in their system, OCLC has asked that contributors to their database also not use it. Many other libraries have decided not to add this locally. Remember for digital maps the GMD will be [electronic resource] since you're primarily using Chapter 9.

VI. Publisher

DO NOT bracket publisher information repeated from elsewhere in the description (e.g., 245 or quoted 500 note) even if it appears only once on the map. (MCM p. 2.6) Note: this does not include the date. If the date appears only once on the map and is transcribed as any other part of the description (such as the title, edition or notes), it is bracketed in the date of publication.

VII. Notes

A. The first notes are unique to maps. They show:

◆ additional content/topic(s) of the map not found in the title,
◆ justification for the date of situation in the call number, and
◆ relief on the main map (AACR2 3.7B1 and MCM p. 3.6-3.12)
     Types of relief include:

contours	bathymetry/isolines
form lines	gradient tints
spot heights	hachures
shading	pictorial
soundings	land forms
rock drawings	other

B. Give the source of the title proper whenever it is not taken from the recto of the map, namely, when it is taken from the verso, cover, panel, or accompanying text or material. (MCM p. 3.14 - p. 3.18)

C. A statement of responsibility note may contain the name of the copyright holder if justification for an access point is needed. (MCM p. 2.2 and p. 5.2)

D. Orientation (MCM 3.23)

500   Oriented with north to the [left, bottom, or right] or,
500   Oriented with north toward [the upper left, the lower right, etc.]

E. Contents

    1. The order of the notes in this area is very specific: recto, verso, cover. (MCM p. 3.30)

    2. There are specific definitions attached to various terms used in these notes. (MCM p. 3.32-3.42)

    3. These notes are general 500 notes, not 505 notes, though true content notes can also be included.