
John W. Hessler

Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society

Senior Cartographic Librarian

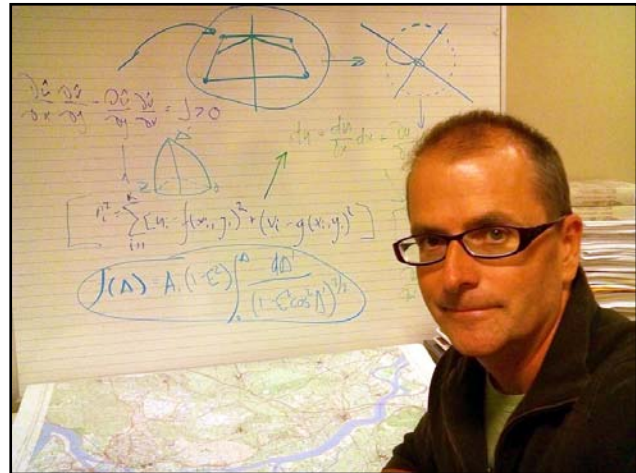
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Formerly of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, where he studied the biogeography of alpine and high mountain lepidoptera, John Hessler is now Senior Cartographic Librarian in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. A Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, he is the recent recipient of a J.L. Heiberg Research and Exploration Fellowship and is studying the melting of the glaciers of the *Mer de Glace* and others in *Parc nationale des Ecrins*, in France. Combining fieldwork with historical data and surveys, along with the latest GIS computer technology, Hessler is at work on mapping the extent of environmental change and melting in these small glacial systems of the Alps.



While at the Library of Congress, much of his research has concentrated on the use of computer modeling, especially radial basis functions and thin-plate splines, in the analysis of Roman, Medieval and Renaissance cartography. The majority of this research is concerned with the problems of mathematically defining the geometric and structural properties of historic map projections and representations and with the problem of georectification of historical maps.



He has written extensively on the history and the mathematics of cartography and biogeography, and has published articles and reviews in many journals including *Applied Physics Letters*, *Complex Analysis and Geometry*, *Imago Mundi*, *Cartographica*, *the Journal of the Washington Map Society* and *Coordinates*. He is the author of a new commentary and translation of Martin Waldseemüller's seminal text, the *Cosmographiae Introductio*, entitled *The Naming of America: Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 World Map and the Cosmographiae Introductio* (January, 2008). Hessler is a member of the Society for Archaeogeography, the Association of American Geographers and the International Biogeography Society. He also runs the historical map analysis blog *Warping History* www.warpinghistory.blogspot.com.
