The Serge A. Sauer Map Library has grown from a small collection of teaching maps in 1966 to a comprehensive collection housing 221,000 sheet maps and 2300 atlases. The map library is one of only a few collections in Canada that is funded solely by the Department of Geography and not the main university library system. We serve the university community as well as the general public. The collection is named in honour of the first curator of the map library who retired after 25 years of service in 1991.

In addition to the typical maps you would expect to find in a map library - road maps, topographic maps, general maps of various countries - the Serge A. Sauer Map Library at the University of Western Ontario has a few collections of special note. Within this group of "treasures" are: Fire Insurance plans for over 380 different Canadian cities; U.S. Soil Surveys for about 1700 counties in various states; almost 1000 current foreign urban plans; 5400 nautical charts for numerous areas of the world; a "time series" of Canadian maps; and all BA, BSc, MA, MSc and PhD theses of the Department of Geography.

However, the largest collection of special material is the Great Lakes Cartographic Resource Centre which was developed between 1983 and 1985. This project was financed by a grant from the University of Western Ontario Academic Development Fund and has become an integral part of the Map Library. The Centre is founded on an extensive cartographic collection, consisting of maps, atlases and air photographs, relevant to the Great Lakes basin. Original charts (1815-1825) by Henry Bayfield and published by the British Admiralty were purchased, as well as facsimile reproductions and photographic copies. Additional charts published by British Admiralty (1866-1904), NOAA (1915-present), U.S. Corps of Engineers (1850-1950), and Canadian Hydrographic Service (1912-present) provide substantial coverage of the Great Lakes basin. This is particularly useful for tracing changes to physical features over time (e.g. Pelee Point and Long Point, Ontario), harbour development, and shoreline variations. Some charted areas have eight or more editions that a researcher may consult. Other map series include: Shoreline Inventory; Great Lakes Flood and Erosion Prone Areas; Petroleum Resources; Oil and Gas Exploration Licences and Drilling Sites; Shore Property Erosion Stations; Ontario Land Inventory, and Hazard Lands. The Petroleum Resources maps 1:30,000 indicate locations and status of oil and gas wells on land and under water; producing, abandoned, pool boundaries, etc. Government reports that used maps of the Great Lakes basin are also in this collection. A limited number of air photos were purchased to cover the shoreline. The depth of coverage inland is determined by topography and other factors. It is scarcely possible to exaggerate the significance of the Great Lakes region. The purpose of the Great Lakes Cartographic Resource Centre is to pull together cartographic material from Canadian and U.S. institutions, academic and governmental, which focus on the Great Lakes. As a result, a course has been developed in the Geography Department entitled "Ontario and the Great Lakes", and
there has been a substantial increase in interest from visiting researchers from outside the university community.

A recent addition to the collection is the development of the Digital Spatial Data Library which allows for digital scanning and transfer of resources and access to maps, remote sensing imagery and spatial data on CD-ROM.

We are very excited about the purchase of a rare set of maps entitled "A copy of the maps and report of the commissioners under the Treaty of Ghent, for ascertaining the northern and northwestern boundary between the United States and Great Britain 1828." There are 7 maps of the western Great Lakes area with this report. There are only 3 other known copies in North America.

A departmental home page that has a section about the map library is at:
http://www.geog.uwo.ca

Cheryl Woods
Map Curator
Serge A. Sauer Map Library
Department of Geography
University of Western Ontario
London, Canada N6A 5C2
519-661-3424
mapref@sscl.uwo.ca