Humboldt Map Index

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Fellow Surveyors,

The latest version of the Garton Index is back on line, so I decided to test it out and was seriously disappointed.

Data input since July 2018 has not been cross indexed properly or Sub-Section indexed at all. I still don't know why there is a constrain/unconstrained radial button selection, it only seems to activate the subsection search or deactivate it which is redundant to closing the subsection feature.

The Sub-Section search feature does not work properly. Every sub-section search I conducted yielded fewer results then is produced through my index. The lack of subsection indexing in the most recent updates does not account for the under reporting of results, even older maps that I indexed do not appear in their results but do appear in my index searches. Some of the searches using the Garton Index yielded half the results of my index, the missing maps seem random. I encourage you to test the two programs side by side to see for yourself, maybe you can figure out what causes the shortage of results.

I still have these questions and comments:

Are there any user instructions?

How do you get a printed report?

How do you search multiple sections?

How can I see what sections a map is cross indexed to?

How can I see what subsections a map is cross indexed to?

How do you download all the images from a search result?

Is there a way to sort search results by something other than date and type?

There should be a date of when it was last updated.

I also noted that there were still no certificates of correction in the map images or descriptions for maps filed since 2015. Newly available GLO plats have not been added to the database. Newly available field note images have not been added to the map images.

I'm still in favor of a version of a map index that is available on-line, however there are drawbacks if the internet is down or slow or the Counties computers are down such as after an earthquake, what would you use when you need it most? Maintaining a desktop index means you don't have to deal with download times for each search.

I still would prefer to see the county maintain my database until at least they can provide a reasonable replacement. And if they decide to go on-line only there should be a way to export new information to my database. My database has a better data inputting interface so in makes more sense to export from my database to the on-line database.

In my opinion the Garton index is diverging quickly from the map index I created into something not suitable for serious surveying research. If there is enough interest in an another update to my index I will work toward releasing one this summer.

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