Atlas of Science: Visualizing What We Know

by Katy Borner

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Review

"Science is a voyage of discovery and Katy Börner has provided its first atlas. This excellent book offers a compendium of all that is best in explaining visual maps of our scientific knowledge." Michael Batty, University College London, author of Cities and Complexity: Understanding Cities with Cellular Automata, Agent-Based Models, and Fractals (MIT Press) *The MIT Press*

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"In today's confusing and fast-changing world, if we are to shape our children's lives for the best, it is essential that we understand what science is thinking, where it's coming from, and where it's going. This fascinating, lucid, brilliantly illustrated book shows us all that."
—**James Burke**, author of *Connections*"Featuring one unique and intriguing visual design after another, *Atlas of Science* illustrates the origin and evolution of science mapping."
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"This book and its complementary online exhibit are recommended as an educational source for getting a broader understanding of scientific visualization...This book is recommended for high school, academic, and large public libraries and it should be on the shelves of those interested in the connection between the graphic arts and the sciences." Nestor L. Osorio Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship *The MIT Press*

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Cartographic maps have guided our explorations for centuries, allowing us to navigate the world. Science maps have the potential to guide our search for knowledge in the same way, allowing us to visualize scientific results. Science maps help us navigate, understand, and communicate the dynamic and changing structure of science and technology -- help us make sense of the avalanche of data generated by scientific research today. *Atlas of Science*, featuring more than thirty full-page science maps, fifty data charts, a timeline of science-mapping milestones, and 500 color images, serves as a sumptuous visual index to the evolution of modern science and as an introduction to "the science of science" -- charting the trajectory from scientific concept to published results.

Atlas of Science, based on the popular exhibit, "Places & Spaces: Mapping Science", describes and displays successful mapping techniques. The heart of the book is a visual feast: Claudius Ptolemy's Cosmographia World Map from 1482; a guide to a PhD thesis that resembles a subway map; "the structure of science" as revealed in a map of citation relationships in papers published in 2002; a visual periodic table; a history flow visualization of the Wikipedia article on abortion; a globe showing the worldwide distribution of patents; a forecast of earthquake risk; hands-on science maps for kids; and many more. Each entry includes the story behind the map and biographies of its makers.

Not even the most brilliant minds can keep up with today's deluge of scientific results. Science maps show us the landscape of what we know.

Synopsis

Science maps that can help us understand and navigate the immense amount of results generated by today's science and technology.

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About the Author

Katy Börner is the Victor H. Yngve Professor of Information Science at the School of Library and Information Science and Founding Director of the Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center at Indiana University. She is a curator of the Places & Spaces: Mapping Science exhibit. Her research focuses on the development of data analysis and visualization techniques for information access, understanding, and management. She is particularly interested in the study of the structure and evolution of scientific disciplines; the analysis and visualization of online activity; and the development of cyberinfrastructures for large scale scientific collaboration and computation. She holds a MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Technology in Leipzig, 1991 and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Kaiserslautern, 1997.

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