ICA CMC Workshop NZ 2012

Decomposing an Exhibition Map

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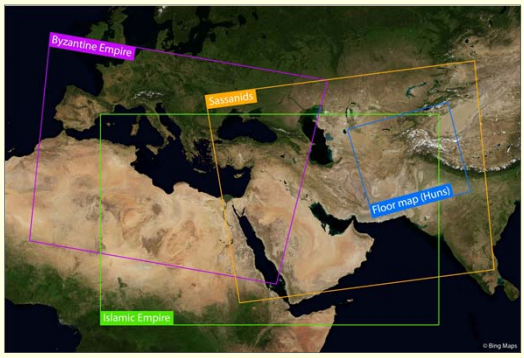
Numismatic Exhibition

- *The Empire of the Huns in Central Asia and India*
- Starting November 2012, Cultural History Museum in Vienna, Austria
- History of coins in the period of 200 A.D. to 900 A.D.
- Geographic extent:
  - Historical empires in Central Asia and India
  - Empire of the Sassanids concentrated in Central Persia
  - Including Byzantium influence

Geographic Extent



Focus of the Exhibition

- The function of the exhibition as a show for the public
- The expectations of the visitor to navigate in exhibition space
- The task of maps and spatial representations as geo-communicators

Geo-Communicators in Museums

- Large scale venue map for exhibition space
- Large to small scale topographic map for orientation in geographic space
- Generalized overview map as Information Graphic
- Map-related expression e.g. aerial pictures, panoramas, reliefs, globes …
- Multimedia, virtual reality - interactive cartographic representation using multimedia sources
- Map as artifact

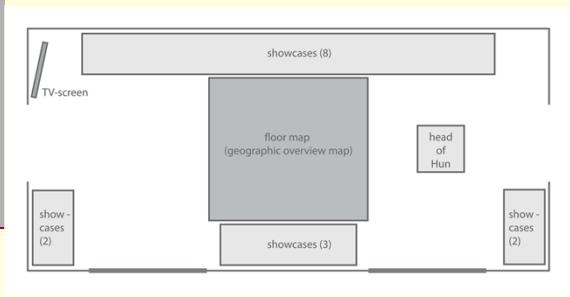
Cartographic Leitmotif

- High quality maps and cartographic visualizations in digital and printed form
- Depiction of geographic space and dependencies in exhibition space
- Multimedia implementations
- Sustainability of exhibition content through online information availability

Cartographic Artefacts

- Walk-on-able floor map 4 x 4 m overview map
- 16 exhibition showcases with objects and regional maps
- Regional maps as connectors between floor map and objects
- Online Exhibition Catalogue Portal for PC, Tablet, Smartphone access for on- and off-site information retrieval
- *Filmlets* for geographic storytelling

Exhibition Space



Decomposing an Exhibition Map

- High quality maps and cartographic visualizations
- Topographic maps act as visual base information
- Cartographic quality assessment for small scale mountain maps within a semi-automated production environment

Numismatic “Where’s and When’s”

- Where and when was the coin minted
- Where and when was the coin distributed
- Where and when was the coin found
- Where is the coin currently located

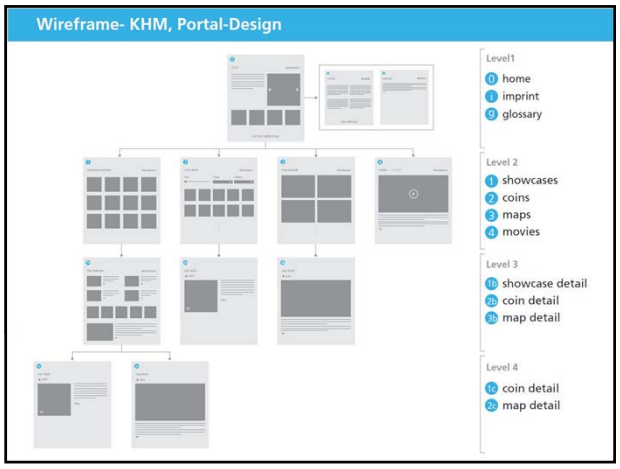
Numismatic Uncertainty

- Time period/span
- Spatial location and distribution

Showcase

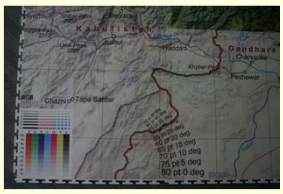
Technical Specifications - Portal

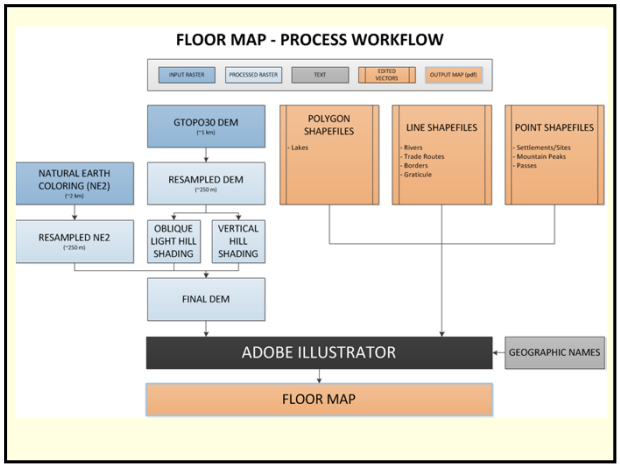
- Hardware independent access
  - smartphone, tablet, laptop, notebook, PC …
- Browser independent access
  - HTML5
  - CSS 3
  - JavaScript
  - Php5
  - MySQL



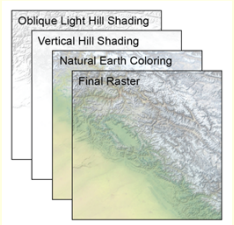
Floor Map – Framework

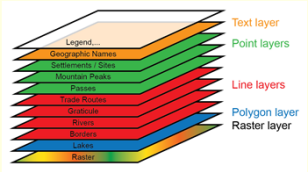
- Interlocking PVC Flooring
- Loosely laid floor tiles for heavy duty applications
- Printing direct onto floor tiles with interlocking attachment system
- Viewing distance > 1.5 m
- Stainproof – Durable
- Walk-on-able

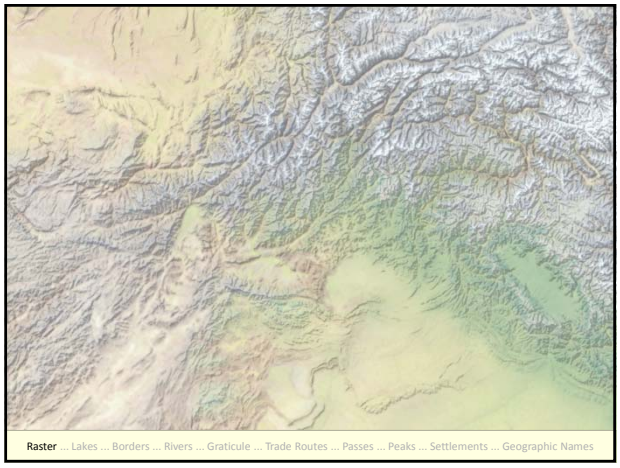


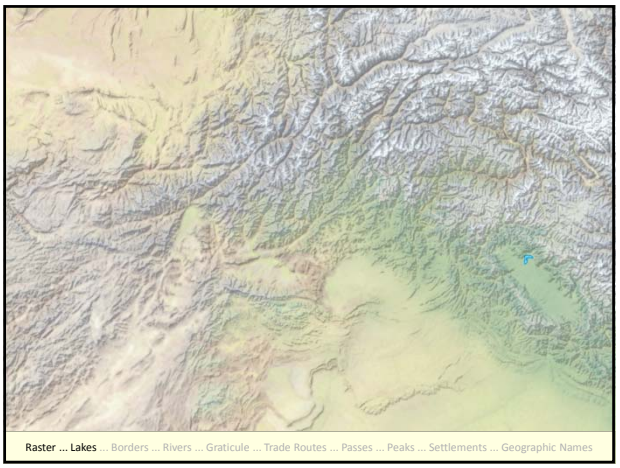


Map Layers

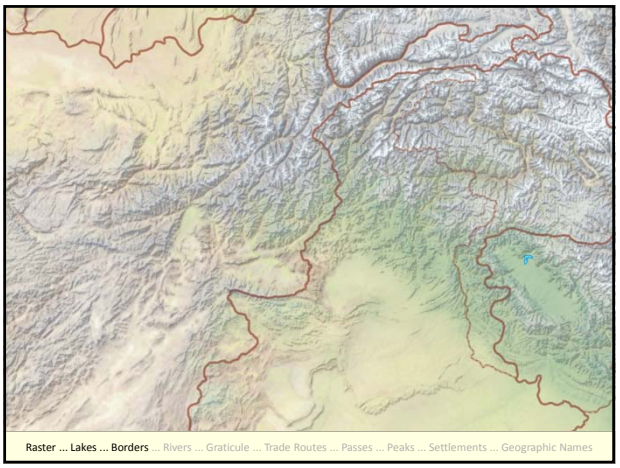








Raster ... Lakes ... Borders ... Rivers ... Graticule ... Trade Routes ... Passes ... Peaks ... Settlements ... Geographic Names



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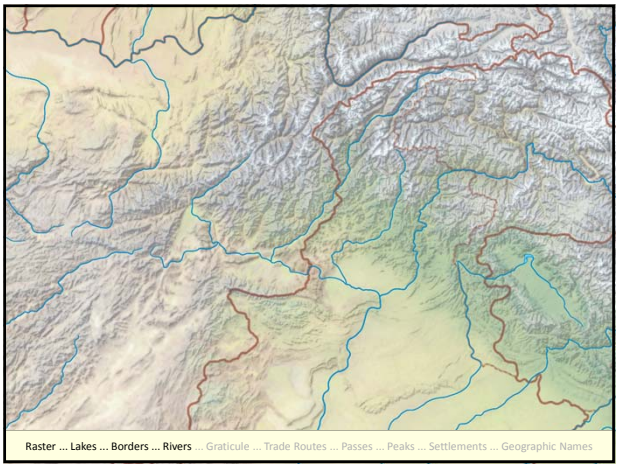

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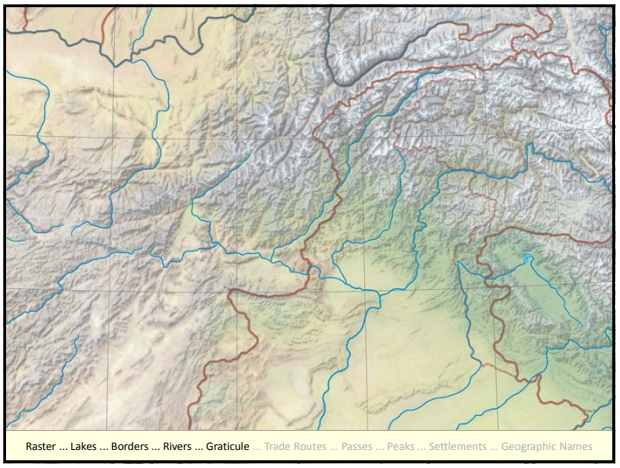

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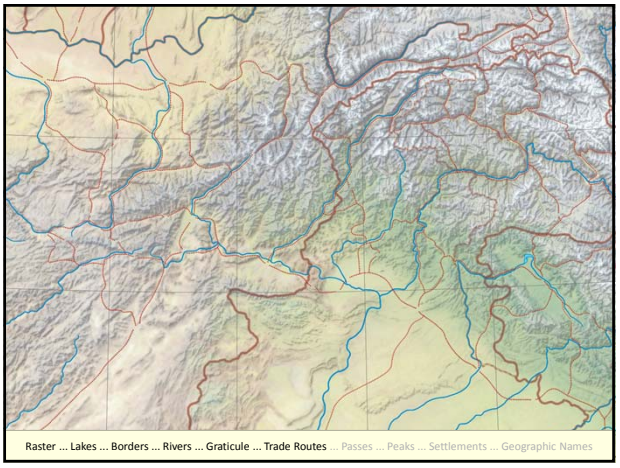

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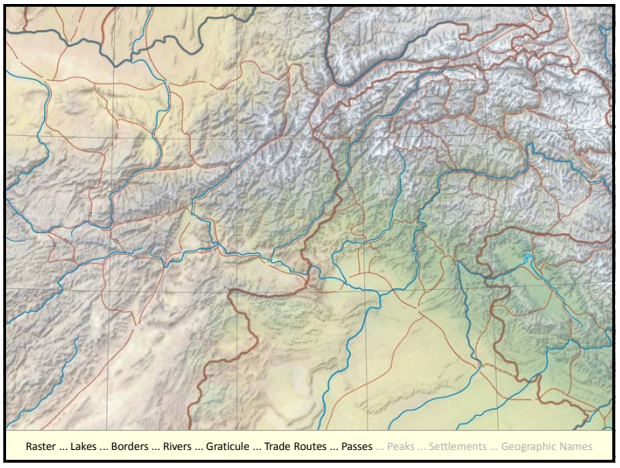

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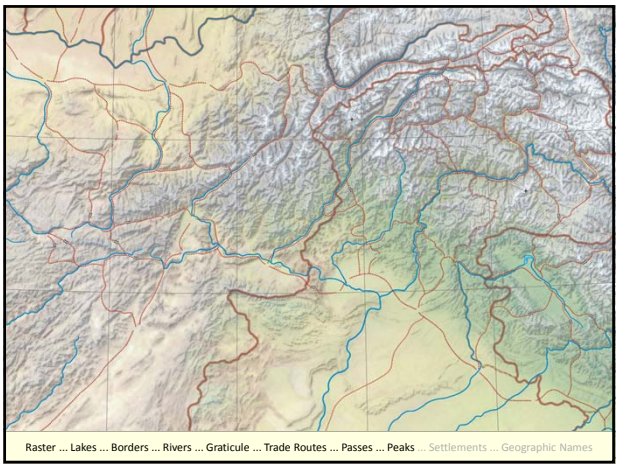

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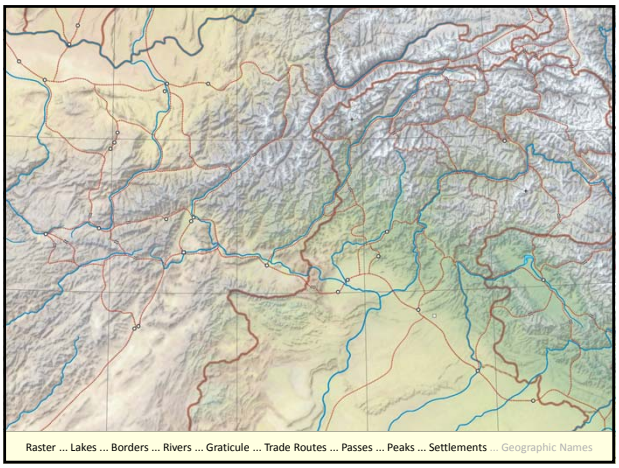

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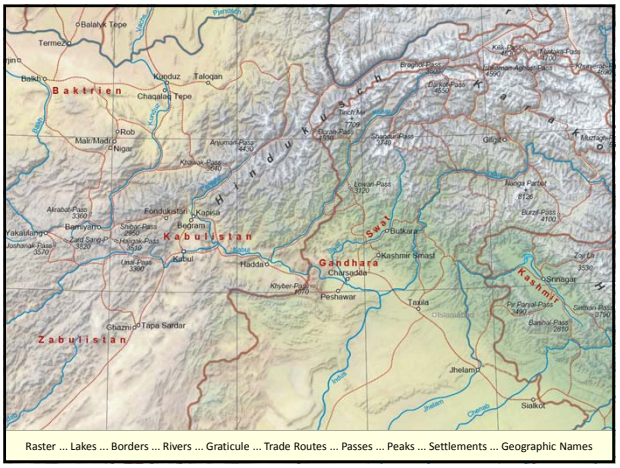

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Cartographic Fine Tuning

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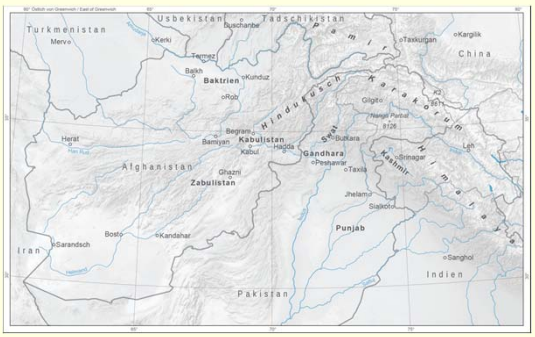
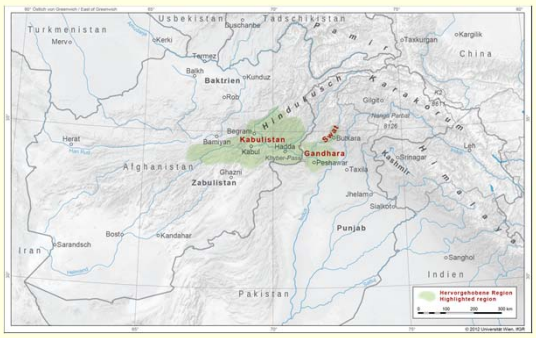
Showcase Map



Showcase Map – Region Highlight



Conclusion

- Enhancing methods of spatial information by means of cartographic communication
- Know-how transfer and collaboration with neighboring disciplines
- Transformation of museums and exhibitions from static presentation forums to interactive scientific platforms

- Acknowledgement
  - Austrian National Research Network *"The Cultural History of the Western Himalayas from the 8th Century"* (NFN S98, 2007-2012), funded by the Austrian Science Fund

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