

Current Challenges in Atlas Cartography

Other Conference Item**Author(s):**

Sieber, René; Losang, Eric

Publication date:

2020

Permanent link:

<https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000457900>

Rights / license:

[Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](#)

Originally published in:

Abstracts of the ICA 2, <https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-abs-2-32-2020>



Current Challenges in Atlas Cartography

René Sieber ^{a,*}, Eric Losang ^b

^a *Institute of Cartography and Geoinformation ETH Zurich, René Sieber - sieberr@ethz.ch*

^b *Dept. Cartography and Visual Communication, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Eric Losang - E_Losang@leibniz-igf.de*

* Corresponding author

Keywords: atlas, storytelling, map design

Abstract:

After decades of prosperity, atlas producers are faced with a serious number of challenges. Those challenges are both external and internal, either due to shifted external conditions or because of internal shortcomings. *Internal challenges* include, inter alia, the missing Web presence and PR, traditional atlas concepts, static GUI design, an overload of atlas features, default atlas contents, and repetitive visualization, whereas *external influences*, such as user behaviour, technological advancement and content that reflects new ideas and methods intensify these challenges.

Three provocative statements – 1) atlases as mere collections of maps, 2) atlases rely on old-fashioned concepts, and 3) atlas map design is unattractive – are then picked in order to demonstrate possible approaches in rejuvenating atlas concepts.