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Cartographic Design

Glacier Project: Part 3 – Ruth Glacier Style Sheet

*A. More Artifact Than Art*

1. Who is your map for?

The glacier map is for audiences walking along the hallway in the Geography Department. No prior knowledge of glaciers or geology is expected; rather, the map will convey changes in glacier surface area between Time 1 and Time 2 with shapes. We label only the necessary features surrounding the area in order to place emphasis on the glacier.

2. How will you know when you’re done?

We will know we are finished making the map when we have one glacier shape from each time period, river lines, and labels. Labels will name the glaciers, rivers, Tokisha Mountain Range, several peaks, and Denali National Park. There will also be two succinct descriptions regarding the types of aerial change we show on the map, important dates for each glacier, and a location direction hint.

3. What’s the point?

This map shows two things. Firstly, glaciers change over time. The shapes will make the difference between Time 1 (1950) and Time 2 (2010) easily discernible. By showing the spatial extent of the glacier in 1950, with the spatial extent in 2010 overlaid on top, the audience will be able to see how it has changed. Secondly, we would like to emphasize the difficulty in showing changes in glaciers due to the inconsistency of historic maps and surveying methods in Alaska. We will show how the glacier shifted slightly uphill and east at Time 2, leaving the viewer to draw conclusions on how technology and perennial snow can affect how we understand glacier changes.

Therefore, the glacier labels will draw the most attention, and the aerial change descriptions will be important, but not stand out too much.

4. Object in the world.

As an object in the world, our map will be one of many in an exhibit designed to show glaciers in North America from north to south. A 12-inch by 12-inch frame fits Ruth Glacier in its entirety at a scale of 1:125,000.

5. All maps are interactive.

The map will sit on a wall in the Geography Department among many other glacier maps. Therefore, we will use a minimalist approach so that the maps do not overwhelm the viewers when viewed along side each other. We will use pale colors for that some purpose. The type face will be readable from several feet away.

*B. Content Variables*

(1) Types of aerial change

Two types of aerial changes will be displayed. First, the breaking off/disappearance of the top portion of the glacier will be emphasized with a description. The toe of the glacier shifts slightly, however, we are not sure if this is due to surveying errors so the change will not be emphasized. Second, we will point out how the glacier shifted uphill and slightly east, noting the potential surveying errors of the historical map, or potential difficulties in distinguishing glaciers and perennial ice.

(2) Scale of cartographic source material

Time 1: Talkeetna (1950) U.S. Geological Survey, 1:250,000

Time 2: Randolph Survey, Alaska, 2010

(3) Duration of time for change

60 years.

(4) Reference features

Rivers, mountain tops with elevation, Denali National Park, and Tokisha Mountains.

*C. Graphic and Typographic Variables*

Glacier (Time 1) – color, C: 28, M: 7 Y: 0 K: 0, opacity = 30

Glacier (Time 2) – color, C: 47 M: 27 Y:22 K 0, transparency = 50

Denali National Park (label) – Georgia Bold, Black, 18 pt, opacity = 15

River (line) – color, C: 15 M: 11 Y:12 K: 0, opacity = 100

River (label) – Georgia Italic, 12 pt

Mountain (symbol) – color, C: 66 M: 18 Y:70 K: 2, opacity=50

Mountain (label) – Georgia, 10 pt, black = 40

Description – Georgia, 10 pt, black, opacity = 40