



<http://archives.csuchico.edu/digital/collection/coll19/id/7>

Hutawa, J. (1863). *Map of Mexico & California / compiled from the latest authorities by Juls.Hutawa. Hutawa's traveling map of Mexico and California.* CSU Chico Digital Collections. <http://archives.csuchico.edu/digital/collection/coll19/id/7>

Item Description

Title	Map of Mexico & California / compiled from the latest authorities by Juls.Hutawa. Hutawa's traveling map of Mexico and California.
Call number	G3301 F35 1863 H8
Scan number	ca_1218
Creator	Hutawa, Julius.
Publisher	St. Louis, Mo., [1863]
Date	ca. 1863
Edition	2nd ed.
Scale	Scale not given.
Physical Description	1 map : handcol. ; 61 x 50 cm. Map shows early political boundries of mexico and Western United States, cities,mountains, rivers, Native American areas, exploration trails, etc.. 1863 stamped on map. First ed. was published in 1848. Lithographed map showing boundary lines and borders in original hand coloring.. Inset: Vicinity of Mexico.
Digital Collection	Historical Map Collection
Digital Repository	Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.
Subject-topical	Political Geography Explorations and surveys Trails Native Americans Political boundaries
subject-location	Western United States Mexico California
Digital file format	tif/jp2
Language	English
Location in Collection	maps
Permissions	or information on the use of the images in this collection contact the Special Collections Department at 530.898-6342 or email: specialcollections@csuchico.edu

Copyright	Use of digital images found on this website is permitted for private or personal use only. This material may be protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code).
File name	ca_1218.tif

Discussion

This image is from California State University, Chico's Historical Map Collection, a special collection of "Several hundred rare and historical maps of the region" (CSU Chico Digital Collections, n.d.). The collection in general and this entry in particular strike a balance of useful but not overwhelming metadata, with the metadata providing good detail to aid in identification and searching while being easy to visually scan and pick out information for context.

The record contains what I would consider to be the most important metadata fields given the collection's theme; that is, even without looking at the map, the user can read the metadata to learn the map's general content, its scale (or in this case, lack thereof), the original's physical dimensions, and who made the map and when. Separate subject fields for topic and location help the user quickly discover not only the geographic area the map covers but also themes and features such as trails and the general locations of Native American tribes. The description field, though just a couple lines long, provides additional valuable information, such as the fact that this map covers the western United States despite its title only mentioning California and Mexico. Meanwhile, fields such as information about the scanner or scanning environment that might not be of interest to the presumed target audience—i.e., people interested in the maps themselves—are left out and so do not present unnecessary clutter.

The record's shortcomings are minor. The map's description field says it's a "lithographed map" but in a collection of historical maps, I would expect to perhaps find this production information in its own field, or maybe included in the physical description field. What the record also lacks is more technical information about the digital file. For example, the file type is listed, but not the file size or resolution, which might be of interest to somebody who wants to download the file or use it for printing or some other purpose where a high-quality image is desirable.

There are a couple small improvements that could be made to existing fields as well. The record contains a blanket copyright statement that appears to be the same for every record in the collection, stating the item "may" be covered under U.S. Copyright Law; copyright information specific to the item would be more useful. Also, I noticed that this item's physical description says the map is "handcol" (meaning, hand-colored), while another item says "hand col" with a space. This inconsistency's impact on search results might be moot, as the collection search feature does not give the user the ability to search the physical description field and a general search for both "handcol" and "hand col" produced zero results; but it, along with other inconsistencies and minor errors such as the initial "F" missing from "For" at the beginning of each (or at least many) item's permissions field, suggest some general sloppiness that could prove a barrier to a user finding what they seek.

References

CSU Chico Digital Collections. (n.d.). *Historical map collection*.
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