

BPL visit day

1. Group 1: Inside the Map Room. Questions to ask of Maps
 - (a) Maps are maps
 - i. What place is represented?
 - ii. To your knowledge, is the place the same today?
 - iii. What kind of projection, view, or angle is used? Why?
 - (b) Maps are visualizations
 - i. How is the information on the map encoded?
 - ii. Which symbols make up the vocabulary of the map?
 - iii. Does it use color? How?
 - iv. How does it use shape and line?
 - v. What does it choose to display that you might not expect?
 - vi. What does it choose *not* to display?
 - (c) Maps are databases
 - i. What kind of information is stored on this map?
 - ii. which information on the map would you classify as “data”, what as “context”?
 - iii. Who made this map?
 - iv. Who gathered the information? Was it the same person?
 - v. Who would *use* this map?
 - vi. Who paid for this map to be made? Why?
 - vii. How and why was it *saved*?
2. Group 2: Getting bearings
 - (a) The Back Bay
 - (b) The BPL
 - (c) Working at the BPL
 - i. SSSSSSHHHHHH
 - ii. Being smart about catalogs
 - iii. Closed-stack libraries
 - iv. Using Special Collections
 - A. Finding aids and **offline** information
3. Building Highlights
 - (a) John Singer Sargent Murals, 3rd floor
 - (b) Lions and stairwell, McKim building
 - (c) WGBH Studios, Johnson Building
 - (d) Digitization fishbowl, Johnson Building