Atlas, what atlas?

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Atlas, what atlas?

- Is there a need to reconsider the concept of the atlas?
- What is an atlas?
- Revisiting the concept
- Challenging the concept

*Is there a need to reconsider the concept of the atlas?*
What is an atlas?

An atlas is a collection of various maps of the earth or a specific region of the earth,
An atlas is a collection of maps
An atlas is a book of maps
Atlas, a collection of maps or charts, usually bound together
Atlas is the term used to refer to a collection of maps, printed in a set order
Atlas definition, a bound collection of maps
An atlas is a collection of consistent coordinate charts on a manifold, where "consistent" most commonly means that the transition functions of the charts are smooth
Atlas definition: a book containing maps
An atlas is a book of maps that go together
An atlas is a type of reference book that contains maps and other geographical information
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Our definition (Kraak & Ormeling, 2010, pp159)

Atlases are intentional combinations of maps or data sets, structured in such away, specific objectives are reached
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- **Structure**
  Netherlands, Europe, World
- **Objective**
  Inform children about their local and global environment

- Structure & objective are the atlas’ narrative
Type of atlases
Atlas functions

• Explain patterns
• Compare and analysis (location, attribute & time)
• Analysis and decision making
• Interface to databases
Digital atlases
But....

- Can we....due to recent technological developments and fading boundaries between all kind of options to display maps accept:

  - Story maps (multimedia atlas)
  - Google Maps/Earth (reference atlas)
  - Tom Tom (road atlas)
  - Dashboards (certain thematic atlases)
  - ...

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On a personal note…
Atlas, what atlas?

Discuss:

Is there a need to reconsider the concept of the atlas?