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Hydrogeological maps of Wallonia (Belgium):
how to manage an ongoing collection of born-digital maps in a library

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Groundwaters are an important natural resource of Wallonia, the southern part of Belgium. In 1999, the Ministry of the Walloon Region (Public Service of Wallonia – SPW) decided to implement a regional hydrogeological mapping program at the 1:25 000 scale. This mapping program, realised in collaboration with some Belgian universities, is still under way. The complete cover of Wallonia will consist of 140 maps. In July 2011, 108 maps has been realised and 32 are available online

(<http://environnement.wallonie.be/cartosig/cartehydrogeo/application.htm>).

When the program started, it was decided that the maps would not be published officially. The consultation of the maps was possible in the Department of Groundwater Resources (Ministry of the Walloon Region) and in the Universities participating to this mapping program. In 2005, the increasing number of consultations led the Ministry of the Walloon Region to give an electronic access to the hydrogeological maps through their website. Some maps are now available online (webGIS application), free of charge and downloadable as an A0 poster.

As the University of Liege participates to this project, the Earth Sciences Library of the University receives a printed copy of the maps. Although these maps are born digital maps, our situation is hybrid between maps only available through a website and published maps. When we began to catalogue this series, we had printed copies with electronic access to some of them. To inform our patrons of the availability of the new hydrogeological maps, we decided to catalogue the printed copy of these maps and to add links to the electronic format when this one exists. We create a unique record for the printed map and the online map.

Some of these sheets have already been updated. Only the most recent version is available online. Our library doesn't keep an electronic copy of the maps. The digital preservation of this material is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Walloon Region. A patron wishing to compare the different "editions" of a same sheet can consult our paper copies or has to consult the Ministry for a printed or an electronic archive.

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