

## **HIG Celebrates One Year Since FIMo Beta Launch**

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HISTORICAL INFORMATION GATHERERS (HIG) is proud to announce the upcoming one-year anniversary of FIMo, first shown in its beta version at the ACRL 2017 conference.

“At the time, the application was still evolving, but was already a useful tool to easily find and use historical fire insurance maps. Conference attendees helped us decide to name it FIMo – Fire Insurance Maps *online*,” said David Hodnefield, president of HIG and the visualizer of FIMo. David leads the team which is constantly working to improve this powerhouse history research aid. “When we released the beta version of our online fire insurance map service at ACRL 2017 in Baltimore, I intended for this subscription service to be utilized by a variety of library and historical society patrons that want a quick and easy way to look up historical maps. These individuals could be anyone from someone dabbling in genealogy, to students or faculty conducting demographic research, to professional engineers and historians working on urban renewal projects.”

David came up with the idea of FIMo while conducting property research for environmental consulting firms. This research often meant spending time in library basements going through old dusty books and reels of black and white microfiche. “I knew there had to be an easier, quicker way to access and use these old maps while providing much higher quality images than what was available online at the time. So, I embarked on a three year endeavor, organizing a team to digitize over half a million maps held by the Library of Congress. Capturing these maps in digital format allowed us to build FIMo for fast and easy research. The project also preserved, in digital format, the incredible details found on the original highly-detailed, full-color paper maps.”

FIMo enhancements over the past year include drawing tools, georeferenced index map overlays, My Project Folder, and map markup tools. Since its full release at the ALA Summer 2017 Conference in Chicago, FIMo has been made available at several public and collegiate libraries including Princeton University and the Minnesota Historical Society.

If you are interested in learning more about a FIMo subscription for your library, or have a collection that would benefit from digitization and incorporation into this great new research tool, please contact David Hodnefield at [davidh@historicalinfo.com](mailto:davidh@historicalinfo.com) or Marla Smith [marlas@historicalinfo.com](mailto:marlas@historicalinfo.com) / 952-253-2004. Learn more at [www.historicalinfo.com/FIMo](http://www.historicalinfo.com/FIMo) or visit HIG Booth 2126 at ALA Midwinter 2018 on January 9-12, in Denver and request a free live demo.

***Historical Information Gatherers (HIG) delivers historical property information used to understand the past. [www.historicalinfo.com](http://www.historicalinfo.com)***

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