

BRITISH JURISDICTIONS PROTOTYPE

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This is a prototype being worked on by the British Reference staff of the Family History Library. While this prototype provides maps only for England, the technology and data could impact the ease with which people do research in the entire world. Before the project will be able to move forward and make this impact, there are two problems that need to be addressed. The product (1) needs a user interface and (2) it is necessary to find an inexpensive method of creating maps with enclosed polygons. This is a proposal to seek the attention and help of those experienced in technology to solve these problems.

BACKGROUND

The England Jurisdictions Project undertaken by the Family History Library is a technologically advanced interactive Internet program using GIS technology that will help the family history researcher determine the jurisdictions for a particular place in a county in England. The program will include county maps showing parish boundaries overlaying ordnance survey maps. It will also include for each parish:

- Type of place-parish, chapelry or extra-parochial place
- Changes to parish or chapelry prior to 1851 (including year parish was created from or combined with another parish)
- Year extant Church of England parish registers and Bishop's transcript's begin
- Non-Church of England (Nonconformist) denominations in the parish
- Civil Registration District
- Hundred, Borough, or Liberty
- Probate Court and decision table giving prioritized listing of courts to be searched for a parish
- Church of England Diocese
- Rural Deanery
- Poor Law Union
- Other jurisdictions, records and information yet to be defined

Such mapping technology will greatly simplify research for each user by consolidating 10-12 sources into one place. Thus the researcher does not need to purchase or go to a library to have access to these sources.

This technology will allow information to be embedded in the program that will allow the user to access catalog entries, indexes, record location information and other such genealogically important finding aids.

RESOLUTION REQUESTS

1. These maps must be put into the ArcView software program in a manner that will allow each place to appear as a closed polygon. This process usually involves drawing the parishes or running the data through a program that attempts to close the polygons, both of which are expensive and lengthy processes.
 - a. **We propose that technology be developed that would create these enclosed polygons without going through a complex and time consuming clean-up.**
 - b. **We solicit your suggestions and assistance in this development.**

2. The ArcView software creates a system where data can be manipulated and used in many ways. This system needs to have a user interface that will allow even the novice genealogist to use it intuitively.
 - a. **We would like to propose that an interface be developed that would open the technology to a world of even novice users.**
 - b. **We solicit your suggestions and assistance in developing such an interface.**