

CHOICE

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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The following review appeared in the March 2011 issue of CHOICE:

48-3824 Q177 2009-48451 CIP
Börner, Katy. **Atlas of science: visualizing what we know.** MIT, 2010. 254p bibl index afp ISBN 9780262014458, \$29.95

This book offers a unique, fascinating collection of maps of science. The lavishly illustrated volume was designed to accompany the *Places and Spaces: Mapping Science* exhibit <<http://scimaps.org/>>. The work stands on its own; Börner (information science, Indiana Univ.), exhibit curator, has assembled an incredibly varied collection of maps and visualizations of science, at scales that range from spans of the disciplines in science to individual subdisciplines. The supporting text helps to illustrate the choice of maps, their production, and the evolution of these visualizations over time. The mini-biographies of the creators of the different maps and visualizations also add depth to this volume. One challenge with a collection of visualizations such as this is that the act of printing forces the images to become static and fixes their scale. Many are quite intricate, and it can be hard to make out some of the details as an attempt is made to balance the big picture and fine detail. The accompanying Web site somewhat attenuates this difficulty. This book has a wide potential audience, including laypersons interested in science, undergraduates, graduate students, and practitioners. It should also adorn coffee tables in science departments around the world. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All academic, public, and professional libraries. -- R. A. Kolvoord, *James Madison University*