Early California Cultural Atlas
Jeanette Zerneke
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Project Summary
The Early California Cultural Atlas (ECCA) is developing a digital atlas to integrate and manage historical resources and enable analysis of historical data related to the colonization and settlement of early California. European settlement in North America and the establishment of missions to Indians initiated dramatic demographic, environmental, religious, and social change. The project seeks to further explore and illuminate these historical developments in colonial California between 1769 and 1850. ECCA is a collaborative research project led by Professor Steven Hackel at UC Riverside in collaboration with Jeanette Zerneke of the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative. With NEH Level I start-up funding, we constructed a website of historical change in the region of Monterey, California and resolved many technical issues. Embedded Google Earth visualizations show changes by year and allow the user to interact with the data layers and time bar. The project has chosen to intentionally address ambiguity, developed an ambiguity characterization methodology, and experimented with methods to visualize characteristic land use patterns. In the process, we encountered significant new historical questions. In Phase 2, we are also partnering with the Stanford Spatial History Lab and the National Center for History in the Schools (NCHS). We expect to refine the mapping technologies to ensure that they show ambiguity, are scalable, and are suitable for a wide range of users then extend the project to include the Los Angeles Basin.

ECCA integrates data from many sources including:
- California Mission records from the Early California Population Project based at the Huntington Library in Pasadena
- Historical maps from the Library of Congress and David Rumsey Collection
- Hand drawn maps, images, and texts from the Online Archive of California

For further information see:  http://ecai.org/nehecca/