Jon Jablonski is a librarian and geographer. He is the head of the Map & Imagery Laboratory at the UCSB Library. At UCSB, and previously at the University of Oregon, the map libraries serve as a spatial data center for campus. The physical collections of maps and photographs are controlled and organized through a variety of information systems. Ultimately these are arranged twice spatially: first as to how the materials relate to the surface of the earth; second as a large mass of physical and digital objects that must be managed as artifacts.

In his research, Jablonski studies how people form Information Places—informal, ad hoc grounds for information seeking and transfer. He is currently attempting to insert these ideas into the implementation of a large new library building. Most specifically, he observes how mobile communications technologies allow more independent travel among Chinese youth, ultimately leading to more personal freedom and political friction.