

# Part II

## Mapping

Inbound change is the change that happens to people. It comes at people from the “outside” world. Forecasting is used to map out the anticipated shape of that change. By mapping out the future landscape, one has a starting point from which to begin planning and working towards one’s preferred future.

Research and scanning support the creation of forecasts. Research provides the basis for understanding the history and context of the topic being forecast. Scanning explores for the signs of change within the topic. Together they create the raw material from which the forecasts can be constructed. The curriculum recommends the creation of a baseline forecast, aka the most likely future, and plausible alternative future forecasts.

- Chapter 5, Research: covers the basics of solid primary and secondary research techniques as tailored to studying the future. Futurists tend to spend more time on secondary research, since there is no actual first-hand information about the future, with primary research being complementary and most often involving the gathering of expert judgment. The aim of research is to teach students a process for quickly learning the basics about a domain or topic they are studying.
- Chapter 6, Scanning: covers how to explore for the signs of change in a domain – or for change in general. The scanner is a lookout for change, searching for signs that change is coming. The signs are weak at this point, and the art of scanning is about developing the ability to recognize and evaluate them.
- Chapter 7, Forecasting: covers the creation of forecasts to describe the anticipated shape of change. Forecasting results in a baseline forecast, which is the extrapolation of present conditions and trends into the future. Knowing where one is most likely headed provides a departure point to talk about the alternative forecasts. The alternatives describe what might happen if the baseline does not.