

Geographical Sources

- Geography is the study of the Earth's surface and its lands, features, inhabitants, and phenomena, people's responses to topography and climate, and soil and vegetation. Geographical sources of information can be of the following types:
 - i) Gazetteer: A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary, an important reference for information about places and place-names, used in conjunction with an atlas. It typically contains information concerning the geographical makeup of a country, region or continent, the social statistics and physical features, such as mountains, waterways, or roads. It also includes information about the location of places, dimensions of physical features, population, GDP, literacy rate, etc. World gazetteers usually consist of an alphabetical listing of countries, with pertinent statistics for each one, with some gazetteers listing information on individual cities, towns, villages and other settlements of varying sizes. Examples include The World Gazetteer, Worldwide Index, etc.

- ii) Guides: According to ALA Glossary of Library Terms, a guide book has been defined as handbook for travellers that gives information about a city, region or country or a similar handbook about a building, museum, etc.
- A guide to the literature assists a user to use literature of a specific subject. It helps to evaluate and introduce literature. It lays emphasis on the literature of a subject rather than its content and covers secondary and tertiary sources. It presents a detailed account of the bibliographical apparatus and tools, basic literature, agencies, etc. through which it is possible to follow the development, status and progress of a subject. It gives the broadest bibliographical view of the subject. A guide to the professional organization gives the address and a brief description of the organizations engaged in a particular field at the national or international level. Guides generally include guides to the literature of a subject, guides to the libraries, guides to organization etc.

iii) Map: A map is defined as “a representation of a part or the whole of the surface of the earth or a celestial body delineated on a plain surface, earth points in the drawing intended to correspond to a geographical or a celestial position”. It represents the outer boundaries of a part of the earth or the earth as a whole on a plain surface. In simple, it is a simplified depiction of a space which highlights relations between components (objects, regions) of that space. Most usually a map is a two-dimensional, geometrically accurate representation, normally to scale, of all or a portion of the three-dimensional earth's surface or of the heavens, or another celestial body. More generally, maps can be devised to represent any local property of the world or part of it. Maps are usually stored in specially designed cases which allow them to lie flat.

- v) **Atlas:** An atlas is a collection of maps, traditionally bound into book form, but also found in multimedia formats. It gives geographic features, political boundaries and some time geopolitical, social, religious and economic statistics. ALA Glossary defines atlas as “a volume of map, plates, engraving, tables, etc with or without descriptive letterpress”. It may be an independent publication or it may have been issued to accompany one or more volume of text. Some cartographically or commercially important atlases include Times Atlas of the World (United Kingdom, 1920-present); Atlas Mira (Russia, 1937-present); National Geographic Atlas of the World (United States, 1963-present); Historical Atlas of China (China). Some other atlases are thematic. Example: The Times Atlas of World Exploration.
- v) **Globe:** A globe is a three-dimensional scale model of Earth (terrestrial globe) or other spheroid celestial body such as a planet, star, or moon. It may also refer to a spherical representation of the celestial sphere, showing the apparent positions of the stars and constellations in the sky (celestial globe).

Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online

Creators/Contributors

Contributor -Cohen, Saul Bernard. Columbia University Press.

- A fully searchable, encyclopaedic database of over 165,000 geographical places and features of all kinds. Lists names, descriptions, and characteristics including information on population, agriculture, industry, services, climate, and relief. Users can search all the information, not just place-names, and segment it.

- This resource's unparalleled coverage extends beyond the country level to states, cities, towns, provinces, counties, villages, hamlets, and neighbourhoods. In addition to a wealth of statistical data, the Gazetteer provides rich, in-depth information about the economic, historical, and cultural context of places.

Bibliographic information

- Beginning date 2001
- Title -Variation Topic of printout: Columbia gazetteer of the world online
- File Characteristics: Electronic data and programs.
- Note -Completely rev. and updated online ed. of: The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the world.
- Access: Access restricted to subscribing institutions or individuals.
- Note: Also available in print.
- Format Mode of access: World Wide Web.

Features

- Gazetteer's entries cover demography, physical geography, and political boundaries; industry, trade, and agriculture; cultural, historical, and archaeological points of interest; transportation lines, longitude, latitude, and elevations; official government place-names and changed or variant names and spellings.
- Historical population figures for selected places
- Interlinked glossary of geographic and geological terms
- Easy-to-use and powerful search and sort functions to find what you need.

Audience

- High Schools—for basic reference and geography
- Higher Academic Institutions—create focused lists of places and attendant downloadable metadata for statistical studies or to document distribution of resources
- Public Libraries—for general reference, business information, travel information, and—most popularly—genealogical research
- Specialty Research Libraries—for research or, for the many news organizations that subscribe, reference and pronunciation of place-names
- Government Agencies—for national security, detailed information on strategic international and domestic locations

The Times Atlas of the World

- Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers
Edition: 15th Revised edition
- Series: Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World
- Published: 13th November 2018
- Language: English

- Our world as it is today in one beautiful volume. Fully updated mapping with over 200,000 place names. New world topics include migration, health and resources.
- The world's most authoritative atlas, beautifully re-designed and fully updated in a new 15th edition. It is a benchmark of cartographic excellence.

- This version (2018) is trusted by governments, media and international organisations as well as being a trusted reference source for households across the country throughout the world. It contains a lot of detailed information, including migration patterns from one country to another which is interesting. The print is a little small. The index is good. It is a massive achievement to produce an atlas in this detail with up to date country boundaries and information on places like Russia and China as well as Europe.

- New features include a double page map of the Arctic Ocean, new maps of sub-ice features in the Arctic Ocean and the Antarctic, and physical maps of all the continents. Major updates include 5,000 place name changes, most notably in Iran, Japan, Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan, and Spain; a beautifully illustrated section on current issues from climate to economy; updated national parks and conserved areas ,the largest conservation zone in the world; and towns and populations in Brazil and Japan. Other updates include the realignment of the international boundary between Burkina Faso and Niger resulting from the International Court of Justice decision; the addition of Brussel as an alternative local name form for Brussels as the city is officially bilingual—now shown as Brussel/Bruxelles; new administrative structures in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Madagascar; and the addition of more than 50 major waterfalls.

Mapsofindia.com

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Since its beginning in 1998 has proved to be essential in various kinds of mapping solutions; be it history, geography, politics, economy, infrastructure, business, social fabric or tourism. Mapsofindia.com provides its users a wide assortment of information covered via descriptive maps, engaging content, fascinating images and utility tools. Mapsofindia.com, the largest repository for all kinds of maps on India, specializes in providing tailor-made maps, created as per the specifications provided by clients. Customized maps solutions created by the Mapsofindia team include highlighting areas/zones, plotting business locations and points, coloring patterns, size, styles, legends, company logos, etc.

- Team comprises of skilled cartographers, surveyors, geographers and writers and are instrumental in producing accurate, competitive and interesting maps of India and its states. 'Nobody covers India as we do', the tag line of MapsofIndia holds true, as the portal has maps for each state, district and city of India.

- Keeping in mind the needs of users, the portal has a utility section providing several search-based tools for pin code, STD & ISD codes, city distance search, national highway search, driving direction, etc. The website understands the importance and need of travel and hence has a successful subdomain - travel.mapsofindia.com. By providing all kinds of information related to Indian travel and hotels, flight and railways schedules, distance calculator between any two cities of India and online hotel and airline booking facility this subdomain provides a complete package deal in terms of travel.

- For the last two years, the portal is also successfully running 'India Quiz', to discover India. India Quiz comprises questions selected from varied fields of India to provide users with a unique opportunity to test their knowledge of India. 'Who's Who' is another popular section, providing feature write ups on well-known Indians - be it freedom fighters, politicians, celebrities, sports persons, media persons, artists, singers, dancers or anyone who has left his mark in various walks of life.

- Mapsofindia.com has recently launched a new web-based game known as Ikaailand. Targeted primarily at school students, this game aims at increasing the player's knowledge of various aspects of Indian geography. The site also offers an application called 'Indian Travel Guide' for Android, iPhone and iPad. Servicing businesses, institutions and individuals across the globe, mapsofindia.com draws over 5.5 million visitors with over 23 million page views per month. At present, Mapsofindia.com is one of the top 300 websites in India as per Alexa, a website which provides information on traffic levels for websites.

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