

Editorial issues

Names in atlas production

- **Wolters-Noordhoff Atlas Productions:**
 1. **School atlases for all levels: elementary – junior high – senior high + history**
 2. **General reference atlases**
 3. **Other cartographic products**
- **Foreign coeditions:**
 - **Dutch-speaking Belgium (3 levels)**
 - **French-speaking Belgium (3 levels)**
 - **France (2 levels + history)**
 - **Sweden (3 levels)**
 - **Denmark (1 level)**
 - **French-speaking Switzerland (1 level)**
 - **French-speaking Canada (1 level)**
 - **Italy (World atlas)**
 - **Democratic Republic of the Congo (1 level)**

Editorial issues

- **Toponymic content** of world atlases
 - Number of names: WA 100,000 – Senior SA 25,000 – Junior SA 10,000 – Elementary 5,000
 - Names from a great number of languages
 - Constraints regarding economy
 - Constraints regarding content
- **Economy constraints:**
 - Limited budget
 - Too time-consuming = too expensive to take thousands of individual decisions
 - Reliable sources required
 - Workable standards indispensable
- **Content constraints:**
 - Real and perceived needs of the publisher's market
 - School atlas dominating the market > names become de facto standard
 - Resistance to change because of interchangeability demands subsequent editions
 - Reason for name changes need to be explained / justified
 - Receptivity to name changes varies with the time (cf. 1995 edition)

Editorial issues

- **The function of names in atlases**

- In general, names are included to label the geographic objects that are considered important.
- On the other hand, in some cases objects are included because their names are considered important, e.g.:
 - Magenta
 - Tordesillas
 - Guernica
 - Chernobyl

Editorial issues

- WN conforms as much as possible to UN-published Toponymic Guidelines.
- Many decisions remain to be taken:
 - Choices between **exonyms** and **endonyms**
 - Which **languages** should we take the names from?
 - What to do with **endonymous generic elements**?
 - Include generic elements at all?
 - How to **transliterate** names from non-Roman writing languages?
 - Which **obsolete names** still to be included?
 - How to render **secondary names**?
 - What to do with **articles** and **definite forms**?

Editorial issues

- **Exonyms vs. endonyms**
 - Gradual reduction of exonyms as recommended by UN
 - Arguments needed to 'sell' exonym reduction to the (conservative) market
 - Exonyms considered part of the national language & cultural heritage
 - Exonyms are emotion – arguments to get rid off them must play the emotional card as well:
 - 'our children must be made ready for global society'
 - 'in their vacations – ever increasing in frequency and range – people are increasingly exposed to endonyms'
 - The enduring cultural value of some exonyms should be taken into account
 - As a compromise, some may be retained as secondary names

Editorial issues

- **Language choice**
 - **In case of endonyms: which language in which area?**
 - **One nationwide official language (Germany, Denmark, France (..), Iceland, Indonesia, Australia)**
 - **Multiple nationwide official languages (Ireland, Greenland, Faeroe Islands, Singapore, Vanuatu, South Africa, Sri Lanka, African countries, Andes countries) – official vs. national languages**
 - **Nationwide official language + (co-)official (national) languages in regions (Netherlands, India, Italy, UK, Spain?)**
 - **Different official languages in different regions (Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Finland, Cyprus)**
 - **Emancipation of regional minority languages (Spain, Germany, UK, Austria, Scandinavia, Canada)**
 - **Balance of weight between competing languages**
 - **Subject to continuous change – monitoring/anticipation required (Spain, New Zealand?)**

Editorial issues

- **Language choice**
 - **Language-border crossing objects :**
 - **Larger, well-known entities: use exonym / Dutch name (continents, seas and oceans, Alpen)**
 - **Objects in international waters: use Dutch name**
 - **Lesser international/border-crossing objects without a Dutch name: take most familiar name (Himalaya, Sahara) or just choose (Sierra/Serra)**
 - **Rivers: different names in each language area: Rhein / Rhin, Rijn**
 - **Passes/mountain tops: both names may be included: Matterhorn / Monte Cervino, Col de Tende / Colle di Tenda, Loiblpass / Ljublj**
 - **International features known by equally well-known different (original as well as translated) names in different countries: consider the subject of the map (Strait of Dover / Pas de Calais; Walliser Alpen / Alpi Pennini; Col de Larche / Colle della Maddelena)**
 - **Names without 'local versions', especially used in education and science: use Dutch name (Beneden-Donauvlakte, Kastiliaans Scheidingsgebergte)**

Editorial issues

- **Compound names**

- In which cases generic elements should be included?
 - Feature type not self-evident (sea, physical area types)
 - Alternative generics for the same feature type (bay/gulf, strait/sound/channel, peak/top/ben/beinn, tanjung/ujung – but: fleuve/rivière, rio/ribeirão; river/creek, pulau/nusa)
 - Specific elements not independent: Gulf of Mexico, Strait of Dover, Selat Bali
 - Specific element is adjective: Long Island, Pulau Panjang, Dugi Otok, Red River, Rio Colorado (but: Colorado instead of Colorado River)
 - Generic and specific elements joined together: Uzunada, Klarälv, Oulujärvi
- In which case generic elements should remain untranslated?
 - Degree of translation dependent on consumer profile
 - Dependent on original language (English, German, French commonly taught; Spanish and Italian frequently exposed – Costa Brava, Lago di Garda)
 - In names consisting of just a generic element and an adjective: Lago Maggiore, Mont Blanc

Editorial issues

- **Compound names**
 - **Partial or complete translation:**
 - Names consisting of just a generic element and an adjective must either stay in the original language or be completely translated: ozero Beloje = White Lake
 - The same for names consisting of two geographically meaningful words: Tuz Gölü = Salt Lake
 - Generic elements may in general be translated: Tanjung Mangkalihahat = Cape Mangkalihahat
 - Cardinal directions may also be translated: Kalimantan Barat = West Kalimantan
 - Familiarity is an important consideration: Canary Islands
 - Inflected/declined specific elements of names in which the generic element is translated or omitted should be restored to their basic/nominative forms: Obskaja guba = Ob Bay; ostrov Aleksandra = Aleksander (Island); Hallands Län = Halland; Uudenmaan kansallispuisto = Uusimaa National Park
 - **Short or long forms:**
 - **Frankfurt vs. Frankfurt am Main**
 - **Hull vs. Kingston upon Hull**
 - **Newcastle vs. Newcastle upon Tyne**
 - **Bogotá vs. Santa Fé de Bogotá**

Editorial issues

- **Transliteration**
 - In principle, UNGEGN-recommended transliteration keys or existing/current keys published through the website of the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems are preferred
 - Reasons to diverge from the UNGEGN keys may be:
 - The consumers' profile (for school use, names should be easy to memorize)
 - Technical limitations: some diacritic combinations don't even occur in common Unicode fonts
 - Full diacritic representation may not be functional for pronunciation (e.g. tonal diacritics)
 - Unwanted differences may occur between countries employing the same language and script (e.g. Arabic countries)
 - Changes may follow each other too often
 - Where UNGEGN keys are not followed, they nevertheless will be used as the base for an internally devised transliteration key.
 - As a general rule, Roman scripts are not transliterated – exceptions to this rule must be based on well-documented reasons (Vietnamese diacritics; Azeri ə; formerly Turkmen)

Editorial issues

- **Obsolete names**

- The more well-known under the discarded / replaced names are usually maintained for one following edition as parenthesised secondary name:

St. Petersburg (Leningrad)

Myanmar (Birma)

Mumbai (Bombay)

Kolkata (Calcutta)

Chennai (Madras)

- As cross-references in the index of names, these as well as the other changed names remain included for a period of 10 years after their change.
- Secondary names are primarily included where the new and the old names differ beyond recognition – i.e. not in cases like:
 - Châlons-en-Champagne (Châlons-sur-Marne)
 - Malmedy (Malmédy)
- Sometimes we know that old names are not valid anymore but have no information yet on the (correct writing of) the new.

Editorial issues

- **Alternate names**
 - **Alternate names may be put on the map in the following ways:**
 - **Exonyms or obsolete names are printed between parentheses and in smaller type behind/below the primary name – Paris (Parijs)**
 - **Co-official names are separated by a slash (/) – Brussel / Bruxelles**
 - **River endonyms may be printed on both sides of a boundary river – Rhin Rhein**
 - **As for the sequence of slash-separated co-official names, ‘Toponymic Guidelines’ are followed where available insofar as they include a general rule about language sequence.**
 - **Where official rules are dependent on a local situation, a fixed language order is defined (e.g. Finland).**

Editorial issues

- **Articles**

- In some languages, geographical names are in general speech and writing (sentences) accompanied by articles. Examples:
 - French names of countries (La France, L'Indonésie) and rivers (La Loire, Le Rhin)
 - Dutch river names ('the river Rhine' = 'de rivier de Rijn')
 - Some English names: The Gambia, The Congo)
- Where this is not a strictly proscribed practice for geographical names, we do not include articles.
- In place names, articles are included if they are an inseparable part of the name: Le Havre, El Paso, La Coruña
- In transliterated names, the omission of articles is integrated in our transliteration system – e.g. Arabic names: Riad instead of Ar-Riyad

Editorial issues

- **Article suffixes and definite forms**

- Where definite articles are post-positional suffixes, we preferably leave them away – for instance Swedish –(e)n: **Klarälv** instead of **Klarälven**
- Sometimes exceptions are made:
 - Following Norwegian custom, the names of islands in Norway are written in their definite form: **-øya** instead of **øy**; likewise **Lofoten** instead of **Lofot**
- Where geographical names exist in inflected definite forms as well as in indefinite forms, we choose for the indefinite form – e.g.:
 - Romanian **Criș** instead of **Crișul**, **vârf** (mountain top) instead of **vârful**
 - Turkish **ada** (island) instead of **adası**
- Our policy concerning articles and suffixes is for each language explicitly defined in our internal toponymic guidelines.

Editorial issues

- **Toponymic guidelines**
 - The needs of an atlas or world map editor exceed the scope of separate national names authorities.
 - For the sake of homogeneity, the compiler of an atlas would rather apply similar rules to all names, regardless of the language they belong to.
 - Although each country/language combination presents its own problems – therefore our internal guidelines are organized per country – it is not impossible to define a set of global toponymic rules, and this is indeed what we do. These global rules serve as a starting point, a general guiding principle, for the rules we define for each country and language..