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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
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agenda\*

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP)  
SYSTEMS; NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

Report on toponymic data files for Austria

Paper submitted by Austria\*\*

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1. Two toponymic data files for Austria are already available:

The Ortsverzeichnis (gazetteer of inhabited places: The Gazetteer of Austria).

The Gebäuderegister (register of buildings); it includes a sub-register of all named streets in Austria.

2. Both the above data files are kept by the Austrian Central Statistical Office.

3. A further data file is now under development by the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy (Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen), entitled GEONAM (Collection of geographical names for digital storage and running).

4. Details are described below.

#### Ortsverzeichnis (Gazetteer of Austria)

5. The names of inhabited places and their statistical data are collected at the time of the Census, which takes place in every first year of a decade. Partly inhabited places are revised also between censuses and their names are partly derived from the official Austrian Map 1:50,000.

6. The Ortsverzeichnis is published after each Census in eight volumes for each "province" (only one volume for Vienna and Lower Austria) and one register-book for all names. The last Ortsverzeichnis was published after the Census of 1981; the next one will be published after the Census of 1991 (i.e. in 1993 and 1994).

7. The Ortsverzeichnis exists in the form of a data file from which not only the published version, but also printed versions for the whole of Austria or parts of it or similar versions on electronic data-carriers (discs, tapes) may be obtained.

#### Gebäuderegister (register of buildings)

8. The Austrian Central Statistical Office runs this register of the 1.8 million buildings including a sub-register for the 73,000 named streets in the cities, towns and other inhabited places. These names are updated and correspond to those in the house-address register of the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy.

#### GEONAM: toponymic data file

9. The Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy, among other duties, carries out the topographical survey and production of official maps. The basic map, at 1:50,000 scale, is maintained at intervals of seven years. In the course of maintenance of these maps, under the working-title GEONAM, the geographical names are collected for digital storage and running of these data. The

following parameters were integrated within the data file during the first (and current) phase:

- All geographical names
- Number of map sheet
- Code of administrative district
- Type and size of script
- Height above sea-level.

10. In a second phase, the following additional parameters are designated for collection:

- Coordinates of situation
- Information about appearance in other maps developed by the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy
- Reference to alterations
- Remarks.

11. The goals of GEONAM are the following:

- (a) Variable possibilities for information according to different order and scale-criteria;
- (b) Easier treatment of names for topographers and cartographers (automatic positioning of script, easier maintenance, consistent spelling in all official maps);
- (c) To be a building block for a topographical information-system.

12. At present 60,000 names have been collected during the first phase of development: these are half the number to be collected. This phase will end in 1995; the beginning of the second phase cannot yet be specified.

13. A further toponymic data file referring mostly to names outside Austria is the "Toponymic data file on Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe of the Austrian Institute of Eastern and South-East European Studies". A separate paper is presented on this subject (E/CONF.85/L.15).

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