

1. CHOICES AND CONSTRAINTS - F) OBSOLETE NAMES

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Obsolete names are names that are no longer official, because they have been officially replaced by other names. As far as replaced names are concerned, it is wise to maintain the most commonly known of these for one more edition of an atlas or map series sheet as a secondary name, in order to let the users get acquainted with the new name, and make them aware of which place the old name has been superseded.

So the 1990 edition of the school atlas produced by Noordhoff referred to the major Russian city on the Baltic as Leningrad, its 1995 edition showed this city as *Sint Petersburg (Leningrad)*, and the 2001 edition just had *Sint Petersburg*. The same 2001 edition has *Mumbai (Bombay)* and the next edition probably only will have *Mumbai*.



In the names index in the atlas, the former name variants will for at least another 10 years still be included with a cross-reference to the contemporary name (so Leningrad – see Sint Petersburg, or Bombay – see Mumbai).

A special problem occurs when it is known that names have been changed, for instance because the official language of a country was changed, but the new name forms are not known as yet. It happened for instance with the Central Asian republics that replaced Russian with Turkmen, Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz etc. as official language in the 1990s. Atlas editors were forced to stick to the Russian names for a transition period, until it was made known what the local language versions of these names were, and how these were to be converted to the Roman alphabet.

For an exercise on this topic see issue 3 of exercise "[Some editorial issues to solve](#)"

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