

1. CHOICES AND CONSTRAINTS - J) RESISTANCE TO NAME CHANGE

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Atlas editors take into account the need for minimising variety in names worldwide, and therefore they would adhere to a local names policy that infers that the official name used locally should be the name version to be incorporated in the maps. In this way name standardisation is stimulated. So if name changes occur because of changes in the official language of an area, these usually are applied as soon as possible.

On the other hand, atlas editors are aware of the fact that some resistance to name changes exists from their customers, that is geography teachers, who have been used to refer to geographical objects with specific names.

- From a user's point of view, name changes are not preferable: in the class-room, different atlas editions may be used simultaneously, and different name spellings for the same geographical object will confuse the issues dealt with.
- Systematic name changes in the atlas - of official language or in transliteration systems - must be well-timed, so that the public at large may link these name spelling changes to real-world changes.

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