

3. GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES DATABASE

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Nowadays each atlas is based on a large operational database. Such databases contain all the geographical names incorporated in one of the many atlases an atlas publisher brings out. In the names database a number of product-oriented attributes are contained, such as the language of the name, the generic class of the named object, and its importance. On the basis of its supposed importance the atlas editor has decided to incorporate the named object on a map with a specific scale. The smaller the scale, the larger the importance of a geographical object must be, in order to be incorporated, together with its name.

The allocation of a geographical object to a generic class can cause complications, because of the existence of:

- Administrative areas of different orders
- Capitals of different orders
- Historic area vs. administrative area

In the spelling of geographical names in the names database, special attention must be paid to the diacritical signs.

In the **Noordhoff** indexing system: two ASCII-sets have been defined to represent the necessary diacritics.

Examples of diacritics coding

10e = é Montr10eal	17s = š Ni17s
10n = ñ Pozna10n	18L = Ł 18L10od10z
10a = á M10alaga	19a = ä S19ao Paulo
11e = è Gen11eve	20a = å Elbl20ag
12a = ä G12avle	21i = ī R21iga
12u = ü M12unchen	22e = è Klaip22eda
13i = î N13imes	23ae = æ L23aes24o
14c = ç Besan14con	24o = ø R24om24o
14s = ş Eski14sehir	25oe = œ Bar25oeul
14S = Ş 14San15iurfa	26a = ä Lule26a
15i = ĩ D16iyarbak15ir	27Th = Þ 27Thorshamn
16l = İ 16Istanbul	28dh = ð Sey28dhi

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