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Toponymic data files and gazetteers (data processing and tools,
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(Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers)

Development of the National Geographical Names Database of the Islamic Republic of Iran and provision of a system for receiving feedback from users and refining information

Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Summary:

For more than 10 years, the National Geographical Names Database has been accessible through the web. The database information is extracted from a map series on a scale of 1:25,000. After verification and correction, the geographical names are completed by adding the transliteration field and are then provided through a web service for geographical names.

In the past, there has been no easy and reliable system for receiving feedback from users about geographical names registered in maps and documents. Through the provision of such a system, users, especially native users, will be able to send their comments to the system administrator. This process will help to resolve errors in spelling and transliteration. In addition, user feedback will help to correct mistakes in the location and type of features for which geographical names have been provided.

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Introduction:

Iran is a vast country with different language territories such as Kurdish, Arabic, Turkish, Turkmen, and.... Geonames in these areas are derived from native languages and the Persian script cannot convey its phonetic properties to the user. In most cases, from the point of view of native people, the Persian version of the name is meaningless, and sometimes even contradictory. Therefore, the exact registration of the transcription in the reference language is important and will prevent the disparity. Standardization of geographical names is not possible without these considerations.

Error registering transcription of geographical names

In the Iranian National Geographical Names Database (INGNDB) error in Persian Writing of geonames are rarely seen, but in the pronunciation of the geonames (transcription), there are many objections that have been reported to the authorities over the past years.

The main reasons that caused this error are:

1 - The absence of a comprehensive Toponymic Guideline for Iran that covers all the phonetic features of the country's linguistic domain.
2 - Lack of familiarity with the native language
3 - Lack of skill in Iran Romanization System in the data collection phase.
4 - Not using modern facilities and methods in the process of data collection

Creating a system for public participation and receiving user feedback and refine the information

The use of public participation, especially local people, in correcting names transcription is a convenient and inexpensive way. Now, users of the National Geographical Names Database can send all comments and corrections about geonames characteristics, such as Persian writing, transcription (sending voice file), features location and type directly to the system administrator with the relevant documents. The information received from users after verification and validation of the documentation by local authorities is applied at the database.