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United Nations  
Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names

Working Paper  
No. 16

Eighteenth Session  
Geneva, 12-23 August 1996

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Item 9  
of the Provisional Agenda

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATA  
FILES AND GAZETTEERS

DIGITAL GAZETTEER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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# Geographic Names Information System on CD-ROM

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## Background

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the Nation's official automated names repository, is now available on CD-ROM. The GNIS contains information for known places, features, and areas of the United States identified by proper names. The GNIS is the official toponymic reference for the Federal Government and was designed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

## Contents

The CD-ROM contains three GNIS data bases:

1. The National Geographic Names Data Base (NGNDB) contains almost 2 million entries for areas in and under the jurisdiction of the United States.
2. The Toponymic Map Names Data Base (TMNDB) is an inventory of all USGS-published topographic maps at various scales.
3. The Reference Data Base (RDB) is a collection of annotated bibliographies of all sources used in compiling information for the NGNDB.

Each record in the data bases can contain a variety of location and description fields. Not all fields however, contain data.

The NGNDB contains 17 fields—State, feature name, feature type, county name, State-county FIPS codes, topographic map names, map reference codes, geographic coordinates, source coordinates, elevation, forest names, variant names, description, history, status, decision list, and bibliographic reference code.

The TMNDB contains seven fields—topographic map name, State, identifying coordinates, map scale, map reference code, county name, and history.

The RDB contains one field—bibliography.

The CD-ROM contains software for searching, sorting, displaying, printing, and exporting the data. The software must be installed onto a hard disk before the data can be used. The CD-ROM is accompanied by a users manual called the GNIS Digital Gazetteer.

## Price

\$57 each.

## Hardware

Requires an IBM PC-XT-AT or compatible microcomputer with 512 kilobytes of memory, with DOS operating system version 3.0 or greater; one 20 megabyte hard disk drive; and a CD-ROM reader with software drivers that read ISO-9660 formatted CD-ROM's.

## Information

For more information about GNIS contact the USGS Branch of Geographic Names, Data Base Administrator, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092, or call 703-648-4544.

For information on ordering the CD-ROM contact any Earth Science Information Center or call 1-800-USA-MAPS.