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**MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATA FILES AND
GAZETTEERS**

The Official Swedish place -names database*

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**Report of Sweden
(Toponymic data files)
Prepared by Annette Torensjö (The National Land Survey)**

The official Swedish place-names database

A particularly important responsibility of the National Land Survey is to make the place-names of the national maps and the place-names database available for other creators of place-names, as well as other persons who are engaged in place-name care and preservation activities in Swedish society. There are about 1,2 million place-names on the sheets in the Swedish national map series, and it is planned to have all of them registered in the Land Survey's place-names database by the end of 2004. Currently, the database contains about 700,000 place-names.

The Land Survey's place-names database will function as a national place-names dictionary. To meet the demand for access to place-name information the Land Survey has on its home page an Internet service (www.lantmateriet.se) called *MapSearch and place-names*, which will give authorities, organisations and the general public easy access to the officially approved place-names.

With this service, users will be able to search for place-names in several different ways, including giving the first or second element in a name or defining the type of object or its administrative attribute. A map extract on which the position of the place-name is highlighted will be displayed together with the results of the search.

The place-names database will also contain place-names in the minority languages (Finnish and Saami) with their officially approved orthography. The Land Survey has decided to introduce South Saami and Ume Saami (North and Lule Saami are already used) in maps and databases. In the place-names database the former so-called map orthography is stored together with the correct Saami spelling. Place-names in the minority languages have in most cases both a Swedish and a Saami or Finnish name in the place-names database. Due to new legislation it is of the greatest importance that the Saami and Finnish place-names are published with the approved spelling.

The toponymic guidelines of Sweden will also be presented at the home page as a link from *MapSearch and place-names*. Together with this service citizens outside Sweden can get a just picture of the existing place-names and by using the guidelines they also can understand the meaning of the text presented in the maps.