Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use*

* Prepared by Bente Holmberg (Denmark), University of Copenhagen and John Jensen (Denmark), National Survey and Cadastre
SUMMARY:

This update includes changes in the administrative structure on the Faroe Islands and in Greenland.
(The Faroe Islands reduced from 34 to 30 municipalities)
(The Greenland reduced from 18 to 4 municipalities)

*) Prepared by Bente Holmberg, University of Copenhagen and John Jensen, National Survey and Cadastre. The first edition of this paper was published in the 4th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 24 August to 14 September 1982 (E/CONF.77/L.14)
TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS FOR INTERNATIONAL USE

DENMARK

WITH APPENDIX FOR

GREENLAND

THE FAROE ISLANDS

2. EDITION 2007
(v. 2.1, March 2009)

PREPARED BY

BENTE HOLMBERG – UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

JOHN JENSEN – NATIONAL SURVEY AND CADASTRE
TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1 LANGUAGES

1.1 GENERAL REMARKS

1.2 NATIONAL LANGUAGES
  1.2.1 General remarks
  1.2.2 The Danish alphabet
  1.2.3 Spelling rules for Danish geographical names
  1.2.4 Pronunciation of Danish geographical names
  1.2.5 Linguistic substrata recognizable in Danish geographical names
  1.2.6 Dialects

1.3 MINORITY LANGUAGES
  1.3.1 General remarks

2 NAMES AUTHORITIES AND NAMES STANDARDIZATION

2.1 NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITY

2.2 PROVINCIAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

2.3 NAMES STANDARDIZATION

3 SOURCE MATERIAL

4 GLOSSARY OF APPELLATIVES, ADJECTIVES AND OTHER WORDS NECESSARY FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAPS

5 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MAPS

6 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

ANNEX A

APPENDIX A. GREENLAND

APPENDIX B. THE FAROE ISLANDS
1 LANGUAGES

1.1 GENERAL REMARKS

Denmark is practically speaking a unilingual country and Danish is the national language. In the
south of Jutland, however, German occurs as a minority language and German name-forms are to
be found on some older maps, mainly such as were produced outside Denmark in the period before
South Jutland was reunited with Denmark in 1920. No account is given of maps covering Greenland
and the Faroe Islands, since these countries, although within the kingdom of Denmark, are self-
governing communities.

1.2 NATIONAL LANGUAGE

1.2.1 General remarks

The national language is Danish. It belongs to the Germanic language group and it is written in the
Roman alphabet.

1.2.2 The Danish alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A a</th>
<th>H h</th>
<th>O o</th>
<th>V v</th>
<th>Å å</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B b</td>
<td>I i</td>
<td>P p</td>
<td>W w</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C c</td>
<td>J j</td>
<td>Q q</td>
<td>X x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D d</td>
<td>K k</td>
<td>R r</td>
<td>Y y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E e</td>
<td>L l</td>
<td>S s</td>
<td>Z z</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F f</td>
<td>M m</td>
<td>T t</td>
<td>Æ æ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G g</td>
<td>N n</td>
<td>U u</td>
<td>Ø ø</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The letters C c, Q q, W w, X x and Z z only occur in loanwords, in personal names or in archaic
spellings. Exceptions are a few place names with new spellings containing the letter x (Nexo,
Gladsaxe and Faxe). In alphabetical indices distinction is not generally made between V v and W w.

The mutated letters Æ æ and Ø ø are always kept apart from A a and O o respectively in
alphabetical indices. On maps from the earlier part of the 20th century Ø ø is sometimes written Ö
ö.

Å å was introduced in 1948 as a symbol for Aa aa. Å å and Aa aa, when representing Å å, are
now always placed at the end of the alphabet.

1.2.3 Spelling rules for Danish geographical names

There are no explicit official regulations for the spelling of Danish place-names, which are expected
to abide the regulations for the spelling of the general vocabulary contained in the orthographical
instructions in Retskrivningsordbogen (The Orthographical Dictionary) 3. ed., published by the

These codify, with particular reference to place-names, the rules for the use of capital letters
at the beginning of words. All names which are written as one word are to begin with a capital
letter. In two-element place-names both elements should normally begin with a capital letter
(Roskilde Fjord, Københavns Kommune). In place-names which consist of three or more elements,
which are written separately, a capital letter is used at the beginning of each element with the
exception of certain small words (prepositions, articles, conjunctions) (Gludsted Østre Huse, Næsby ved Stranden, Frederik den Syvendes Kanal). Hyphens are employed when two place-names are linked together to denote one locality (Holme-Olstrup, Næsbyhoved-Broby).

### 1.2.4 Pronunciation of Danish geographical names

The key does not cover all cases, and it does not include the pronunciation of foreign names/words.

**Pronunciation key**  
*Examples given are place names on Danish maps*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>IPA-alphabet</th>
<th>Pronunciation examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>[ɑ]</td>
<td>Vanløse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ag</td>
<td>[ɑw]</td>
<td>Magleby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au</td>
<td>[ɑw]</td>
<td>Stauning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>av</td>
<td>[ɑw]</td>
<td>Frederikshavn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>[b]</td>
<td>Bellahøj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bb</td>
<td>[b]</td>
<td>Sebbersund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>[s]</td>
<td>Bella Center, Fredericia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>Sankt Clemens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>Christiansfeld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>[d]</td>
<td>Dybbøl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dd</td>
<td>[d]</td>
<td>Bredsten, Odder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>[e]</td>
<td>Ebeltoft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eg</td>
<td>[ɛ:(j)]</td>
<td>Eggeskov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eg</td>
<td>[ɛj]</td>
<td>Bregnerød</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ej</td>
<td>[ɛj]</td>
<td>Ejby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>[f]</td>
<td>Fanø</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>[ɡ]</td>
<td>Gudhjem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gg</td>
<td>[ɡ]</td>
<td>Uggerløse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>[h]</td>
<td>Halskov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hj</td>
<td>[j]</td>
<td>Hjallelse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>[i]</td>
<td>Islev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>[ɛ]</td>
<td>Bregninge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>[j]</td>
<td>Jylland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>København</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>[ɡ]</td>
<td>Virksund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kk</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>Bavnebakke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>[l]</td>
<td>Langeland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ll</td>
<td>[l]</td>
<td>Hellerup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>[m]</td>
<td>Mariager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mm</td>
<td>[m]</td>
<td>Tommerup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td>Nibe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nd</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td>Sandvig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ng</td>
<td>[ŋ]</td>
<td>Dronninglund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2.5 Linguistic substrata recognizable in Danish geographical names

In two of the southern Danish islands there are ten place-names of Slav origin ending in -itse. German versions of the original Danish place-names in South Jutland have not taken root.

1.2.6 Dialects

Several dialects, which differ greatly from each other, are, or were, spoken in Denmark. The dialects which now differ most from the standard language spoken in Copenhagen and the provincial towns are the dialect of Bornholm and the North-, West- and South-Jutlandic dialects.

In their present form the Danish place-names reflect the various dialects to a certain degree. Thus, a final vowel has often been lost from Jutlandic names (Salling, a peninsula in North Jutland, as compared with Sallinge, a village in Funen); -rød (as, e.g., in Hillerød in Zealand) and -rud (as, e.g. in Ubberud in Funen) reflect differing dialectal developments of the same Old Danish appellative rud ‘clearing’. Pure dialect spellings only occur sporadically.

1.3 MINORITY LANGUAGES
1.3.1 General remarks

The mother-tongue of approximately 25,000 Danes in South Jutland is German but German name-forms which correspond to a number of place-names in the region are not found on maps.

2 NAMES AUTHOTITIES AND NAMES STANDARDIZATION

The place-name committee (Stednavneudvalget) is composed of 1 representative from Statistics Denmark, 1 from Danish Language Commission, 1 from the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs, 1 from the National Survey and Cadastre, 1 from Postal Services, 1 from National Forest and Nature Agency, 1 from the National Archives, 1 from Road Directorate, 2 from the regional and local councils, and 3 from the Name Research Section at the University of Copenhagen (including the chairman).

The place-name committee is charged with the task of determining “the orthography of names of localities for which there is a practical (cartographical, postal, local etc.) need for an approved orthographical form”. The term locality embraces a number of natural features, all settlements which consist of at least two independent units, whatever their valuation, and individual settlement-units of a certain size. The committee is also authorized to determine the orthography of names of newly-coined or changed names of the above-mentioned categories of locality. The right to authorize orthographical forms for the names of the above-mentioned types of locality rests with the Minister of Cultural Affairs, under whom the place-name committee belongs. The authorized name-forms must be employed by all state authorities.

The Name Research Section at the University of Copenhagen acts as secretariat for the place-name committee and gives advice on the orthography of names for which no authorized form exists. In addition, the Section can be consulted free of charge on both scholarly and practical problems connected with place- and personal names.

The work of the place-name committee and its relationship to the Name Research Section at the University of Copenhagen are stipulated in Order no. 396 of 14th August 1978 from the Ministry of Education.

Names of public streets, roads, squares etc. belong under individual councils.

3 SOURCE MATERIAL

3.1 MAPS AND INTERNET SERVICES

The National Survey and Cadastre is Denmark’s public authority for maps and geodata, as well as the spatial infrastructure behind Denmark’s growing eGovernment.

Paper maps are no longer among the products it offers. Instead, it collects, manages, stores and distributes topographic data, which public authorities can use as the basis for digital administration, and private companies can use in their products.

The National Survey and Cadastre maintain a comprehensive collection of geographical information about the territories and waters of Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

At its website, [www.kms.dk](http://www.kms.dk) > in English, there is an entrance to Interactive Maps both for current maps and historical maps in various scales. There are search methods for addresses and place-names.
3.2 GAZETTEERS

There are about 25,000 authorised place-names in Denmark. These are registered and managed by a place-name committee whose secretariat is located within the Name Research Section at the University of Copenhagen. Among its responsibilities, this committee distributes information about spelling of Danish place-names.

At the present time, the list for authorised place-names is only available as a PDF-file on http://www.kms.dk/Landkortogtopografi/stednavne/autoriserede/stednavne.htm. An interactive Web Map Service is being prepared.

In its mapping activities, the National Survey and Cadastre requires accurate information about the place-names on its maps. To this end, it have developed a Place-Name and Information Register (SNSOR) that is linked to its topographic data collections. More than 120,000 place-names are included in the register, in addition to approximately 25,000 information tags. These describe locations such as camping sites, museums and schools in greater details.

At the present time there is no access to the Place-Name and Information Register from its website.

4 GLOSSARY OF APPELLATIVES, ADJECTIVES AND OTHER WORDS NECESSARY FOR UNDERSTANDING OF MAPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bautasten</th>
<th>Menhir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bro</td>
<td>Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dambrug</td>
<td>Fish farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivhuse</td>
<td>Greenhouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysse</td>
<td>Barrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebbevej</td>
<td>Ebb causeway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrik</td>
<td>Factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagskole</td>
<td>Technical school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feriekoloni</td>
<td>Holiday camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyveplads</td>
<td>Airfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuglereservat</td>
<td>Bird sanctuary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fyr(-tårn)  Light, Lighthouse
Fængsel  Prison
Færge  Ferry
Golfbane  Golf course
Gravhøj  Burial mound
Gård  Farm
Hal  Sports centre
Helleristning  Rock carving
Herregård  Manor
Hotel  Hotel
Hus  House
Kirke  Church
Kommunekontor  Municipality office
Kraftværk  Power station
Kro  Inn
Lufthavn  Airport
Lystbådehavn / Marina  Yachting harbour / Marina
Mejeri  Dairy
Mindesmærke  Monument
Motorbane  Motor racing track
Olieraffinaderi  Oil refinery
Pelsdyrfarm  Fur farm
Plejehjem  Residential home for elderly people
Redningsstation  Life boat station
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Rensningsanlæg</em></td>
<td>Water treatment plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Runesten</em></td>
<td>Runic stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Savværk</em></td>
<td>Sawmill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Skanse</em></td>
<td>Entrenchment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Skole</em></td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Skovriderbolig</em></td>
<td>Forest supervisor lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Skydebane</em></td>
<td>Shooting range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Slot</em></td>
<td>Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Stadion</em></td>
<td>Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Station</em></td>
<td>Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Stengrav</em></td>
<td>Dolmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sygehus / Hospital</em></td>
<td>Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Teglværk</em></td>
<td>Brickyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Telemast</em></td>
<td>Telecommunication mast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Teletårn</em></td>
<td>Radio/TV tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Transformerstation</em></td>
<td>Transformer station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vandmølle</em></td>
<td>Water mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vandrerhjem</em></td>
<td>Youth hostel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vejrmølle</em></td>
<td>Windmill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Veteranjernbane</em></td>
<td>Preserved railway line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vildtreservat</em></td>
<td>Game preserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vindmølle</em></td>
<td>Wind turbine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ø</em></td>
<td>Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Å / Bæk</em></td>
<td>Stream / Brook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 5 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MAPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABBREVIATION</th>
<th>DECODING</th>
<th>ENGLISH EQUIVALENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gde</td>
<td>Gårde</td>
<td>Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gl</td>
<td>Gammel (-le)</td>
<td>Old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Kirke</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kommk</td>
<td>Kommunekontor</td>
<td>Municipality office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ll</td>
<td>Lille</td>
<td>Little, small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nr</td>
<td>Nørre</td>
<td>North, northern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl</td>
<td>Plantage</td>
<td>Plantation (of trees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rednst</td>
<td>Redningsstation</td>
<td>Life boat station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rensanl</td>
<td>Rensningsanlæg</td>
<td>Water treatment plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restr</td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skovfb</td>
<td>Skovfogedbolig</td>
<td>Forester lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skovrdb</td>
<td>Skovriderbolig</td>
<td>Forest supervisor lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skt</td>
<td>Sankt</td>
<td>Saint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Sønder</td>
<td>South, southern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Big, large, great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stby</td>
<td>Stationsby</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stn</td>
<td>Station</td>
<td>Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tglv</td>
<td>Teglværk</td>
<td>Brickyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trb</td>
<td>Trinbræt</td>
<td>Halt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trsf</td>
<td>Transformer</td>
<td>Transformer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

1 January 2007, a new administrative reform was established, which replaced the 13 counties (amter) with 5 regions (regioner) and reduced the 270 municipalities (kommuner) to 98 larger units, most of which have at least 20,000 inhabitants.

32 of the former municipalities did not merge into larger units, either because they already had a populations larger than 20,000 or because they signed a cooperation agreement with a larger municipality.

REGION NORDJYLLAND (NORTH DENMARK REGION)

Brønderslev
Frederikshavn
Hjørring
Jammerbugt
Læsø
Mariagerfjord
Morso
Rebild
Thisted
Vesthimmerland
Aalborg

REGION MIDTJYLLAND (CENTRAL DENMARK REGION)

Favrskov
Hedensted
Herning
Holstebro
Horsens
Ikast-Brande
Lemvig
Norddjurs
Odder
REGION SYDDANMARK (REGION OF SOUTHERN DENMARK)

Assens
Billund
Esbjerg
Fanø
Fredericia
Faaborg-Midtfyn
Haderslev
Kerteminde
Kolding
Langeland
Middelfart
Nordfyn
Nykøbing
Odense
Svendborg
Sønderborg
Tønder
Varde
Vejen
Vejle
Ærø
Aabenraa

REGION SJÆLLAND (REGION ZEALAND)

Faxe
Greve
Guldborgsund
Holbæk
Kalundborg
Køge
Lejre
Lolland
REGION HOVEDSTADEN (CAPITAL REGION OF DENMARK)

Albertslund
Allerød
Ballerup
Bornholm
Brøndby
Dragør
Egedal
Fredensborg
Frederiksberg
Frederikssund
Furesø
Gladsaxe
Gentofte
Glostrup
Gribskov
Halsnæs
Herlev
Hillerød
Helsingør
Hvidovre
Høje Taastrup
Hørsholm
Ishøj
København
Lyngby-Taarbæk
Rudersdal
Rødovre
Tårnby
Vallensbæk
APPENDIX A

1 GREENLAND

1.1 GEOGRAPHY

Greenland is the world’s largest island with an area of around 2.2 million sq. km, but only some 410,000 sq. km are not covered with ice.

Greenland’s northernmost point is the island of Oodaaq situated about 700 km from the North Pole. The southernmost point is Nunap Isua (Cape Farewell).

1.2 LANGUAGE

Greenlandic (Kalaallisut) is the official language. Greenlandic belongs to the East-inuit family of languages spoken in Canada, USA and Siberia.

Greenlandic is a “polysynthetic” language, which means that words are formed with a root, one or more affixes and a suffix. A Greenlandic word can thus be very long and can mean what corresponds to a whole sentence in other languages.

Danish is used extensively. English is the third language.

Greenlandic is written in the Roman alphabet and consist of 29 letters:

A a  K k  U u
B b  L l  V v
C c  M m  W w
D d  N n  X x
E e  O o  Y y
F f  P p  Z z
G g  Q q  Æ æ
H h  R r  Ø ø
I i  S s  Å å
J j  T t

The letters B b, C c, D d, X x, Y y, Z z, Æ æ, Ø ø, Å å are only used in loanwords.

1.3 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

1 January 2009, a new administrative reform was established.

Greenland are now divided into 3 provinces (landsdele) and 4 municipalities (kommuner).
APPENDIX B

1  THE FAROE ISLANDS

1.1  GEOGRAPHY

The Faroe Islands are located in the North Atlantic, almost midway between Norway, Iceland and Scotland. The 62nd degree of latitude passes through the capital Tórshavn.

The Faroe Islands has a total area of 1,399 sq. km on 18 islands.

The northernmost point of the Faroe Islands is a little rock with the name Flesin just to the north of Cape Enniberg, the highest vertical cliff in the world. The southernmost point is the rock Sumbiarsteinur about 6 km south of the town Akraberg.

1.2  LANGUAGE

Faroese (Føroyskt) is a West Nordic language related to Norwegian and Icelandic, but in phonetic development it is closest to the West Norwegian dialects.

Faroese is written in the Roman alphabet and consists of 29 letters:

A a  Í í  S s
Á á  J j  T t
B b  K k  Ú u
D d  L l  Ù ù
Ð ð      M m  V v
E e  N n  Y y
F f  Ó ó  Æ æ
G g  Ò ò  Ñ ñ
H h  P p  Ø ø
I i  R r

Ð ð, can never come at the beginning of a word, but can occur in capital letters in logos or on maps such as SUÐUROY (Southern Island).

Ø ø, can also be written Ō ö in poetic language, such as Föroyar (the Faroe Islands).

Ü ü, W w and Z z, can occur in family and Christian names.

1.3  ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Faroe Islands are divided into 6 regions and 30 municipalities.

Some municipal-mergers can be expected. The aim is that in 2015 there will be only 7 or 9 municipalities left.