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TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

Digital Gazetteer of the United States of America

Paper submitted by the United States of America**

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Digital Gazetteer of the United States of America

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The Digital Gazetteer of the United States of America has been available since September 1993. The second version was issued in February 1995 and the third version in July 1996. Each successive version included more than 200,000 additional entries resulting from the activities of the National Geographic Names Data Compilation Program (please refer to paper of that title). The fourth version is scheduled for early 1998, and will include a separate section containing the Antarctic geographical names file.

The attached product announcement describes the particulars of the compact disk which includes software for searching, arranging, displaying and exporting information as well as a digital version of the accompanying user's manual.

Geographic Names Information System on CD-ROM



Background

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the Nation's official automated names repository, is now available on compact disc read-only memory (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 Topographic 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 NGNDB and TMNDB can contain a variety of location and description fields. All can be displayed, and some can be searched. Not all fields, however, contain data. The RDB contains one field—bibliography.

The following fields in the NGNDB can be searched: State, feature name, feature type, county name, topographic map name, variant name, forest name, geographic coordinates, source coordinates, elevation, and bibliographic reference code. The fields that can be displayed only are: State/county Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code, history, description, status, decision list, and record entry date.

The following fields in the TMNDB can be searched: State, topographic map name, reference coordinate, map scale, map reference code, county name, 7.5-by 15-minute map name, and history. There is one field that is for display only—percent of map in county. The data contained in this field, however, has not been verified and should be used for reference only.

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 entitled the GNIS Digital Gazetteer.

Price

\$57.00 each, plus \$3.50 handling charge per order.

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.