Preparing for fieldwork: what should we collect and what forms should we use?

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Fieldwork ... Many different approaches to fieldwork
Aims of field collection

• To verify existing names on maps
• To collect and record “new” names, as used locally – by local authorities, by individuals, on signage ....
• To identify type of place/feature that is named and its location
• To gather other information about the names or the places/features
• To do this carefully and consistently (with notes and maps) for follow up in the office; authorization
Different users need different data

- Small scale maps/atlases
- Large scale maps
- Local municipalities
- Time tables (e.g. bus); health centres; school locations; planning
- Google Earth; tourism

*Difference in type of names; density; language*
What do we need to collect?

• What do we need to know about a name?
  – What are your suggestions?

• Before in the office; in the field; back in the office

• What is basic for inclusion in a “gazetteer”?
  – Name, type of feature, coordinates, admin. unit, map #
  – Previously used names – cross-referenced
Data fields (elements)

- Toponym
- Variants
- Feature type
- Administrative unit
  - 1st and 2nd levels
- Geographical coordinates
  - What to record?
    - latitude and longitude
  - How to select coordinates?
- Location narrative
- Map sheet references
- Status of name
- Date of approval of name
- Data source
- Other fields?
  - geodetic reference
  - meaning of name
  - language
  - historical names
  - pronunciation
  - images of place

Which of these should we collect in the field?
Data fields (elements)

- **Toponym**
- **Variants**
- **Feature type**
- **Administrative unit**
  - 1st and 2nd levels
- **Geographical coordinates**
  - What to record?
    - latitude and longitude
  - (GPS)
- **Location narrative**
- **Map sheet references**
- **Status of name**
- **Date of approval of name**
- **Data source**
- **Other fields?**
  - geodetic reference
  - meaning of name
  - language
  - historical names
  - pronunciation
  - images of place

Are these what we should collect in the field?
British Columbia – Nisga’a names (Canada)

Giwinkeshkow
Pronounced: "Git-wim-stik"
Feature Type: Community
Latitude: 55°11’9"N
Longitude: 129°13’30"W
Clan/Chief: Tsimshian
Relative Location: N side of lower Nass River, below Ksi Sii Aks (Treat River), Cassiar Land District

Return all features within 5Km proximity
View geographical name location on a 1:250K mapsheet

Audio Accompaniment you will need: 

Language Notes and History


Sources: BC place name cards, or correspondence to BC’s Chief Geographer or BC Geographical Names Office

Spelled Extravagantly on Geological Survey sheet 69A, Route Map of Part of Nass River, 1912; numerous other spelling variations throughout the years, including Giwentshelshke and Givenshihkew.

Sources: BC place name cards, or correspondence to BC’s Chief Geographer or BC Geographical Names Office

Giwinkeshkow means “people of the kahiu’s habitat” [Giw people of, wi’u (derived from wi’u washal) ... where situated, or inhabited by, kahiu’ salmon.] The salmon, a lizard-like animal, once inhabited the bay area of the community, however, in the 1970’s a volcanic eruption caused lava flows to bury the two neighbouring communities of Wi’u Lax’k’ahat and Lax Kahun; since that time the kahiu’ (salmon) has either disappeared from the area or become extinct.

Sources: Nisga’a Tribal Council / Arofok Nisga’a Department, Arofok BC

http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/bcnames/g2_nl.htm
Forms for collecting data

- There are many different forms developed for collecting data ... they must be suitable for the information you need

- **Individual sheets for each named feature**
- Sheets for collection of many named features on one page

- Depends how much detail you need for a name
  - (computer collecting may allow for more data fields)
  - can we determine the extent of the feature?
Sample fieldwork sheets

Field worksheet and map
-use number references

Example from N. Quebec, Canada
Name form - Indonesia

Has instructions attached about the different items of information.
Basic form for collection of data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Geographical name</th>
<th>Source*</th>
<th>Type of feature</th>
<th>GPS/Coordinates</th>
<th>Comments/variant names/meaning, etc.</th>
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* Source could be street sign, building sign, local government office, individual, etc.
Name form used in Brazil?

In Portuguese

And what about indigenous languages?
PROJETO XPTOXPTOXPTO

ÁREA PESQUISADA: ________________________  EQUIPE DE CAMPO: ________________________  DATA: __________

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Nome geográfico fornecido pelo informante</th>
<th>Variante fornecida pelo informante</th>
<th>Nome geográfico (do insumo de origem)</th>
<th>Variante (do insumo de origem)</th>
<th>Condição (do nome ou insumo de origem)</th>
<th>Nome Antigo</th>
<th>Categoria EDGV</th>
<th>Classe EDGV</th>
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História, motivação e significado do nome

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Give special attention to details ... 

Record what is there – do not judge on right or wrong

Develop instructions for field collection

- for general use of toponymists
- perhaps for surveyors’ use e.g. Cyprus
- perhaps for specialized collection e.g. Indigenous communities
Happy field collecting!