

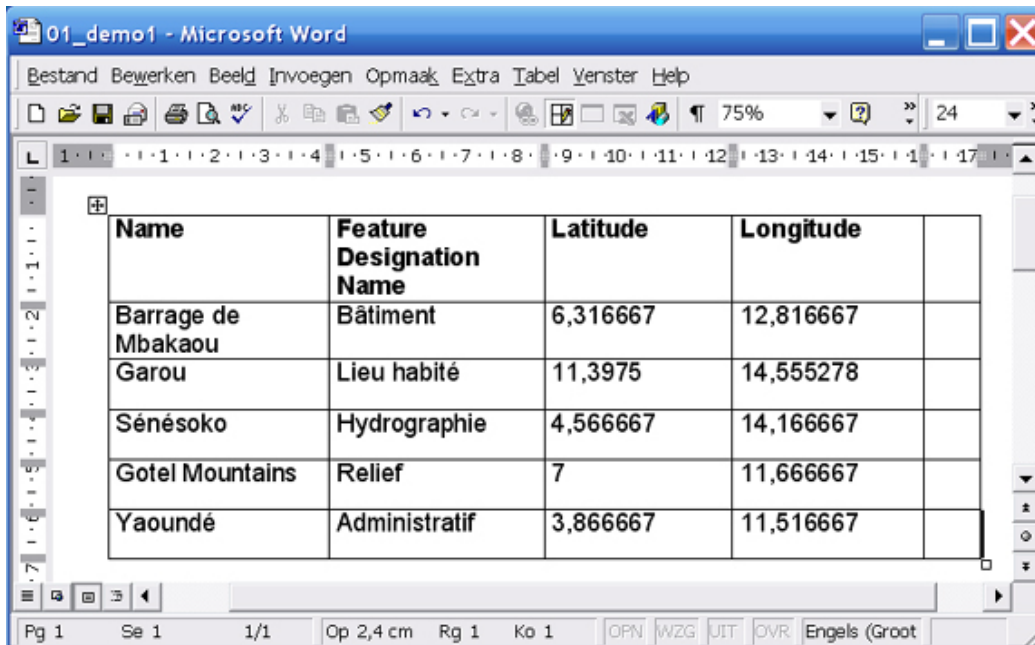
INTRODUCTION

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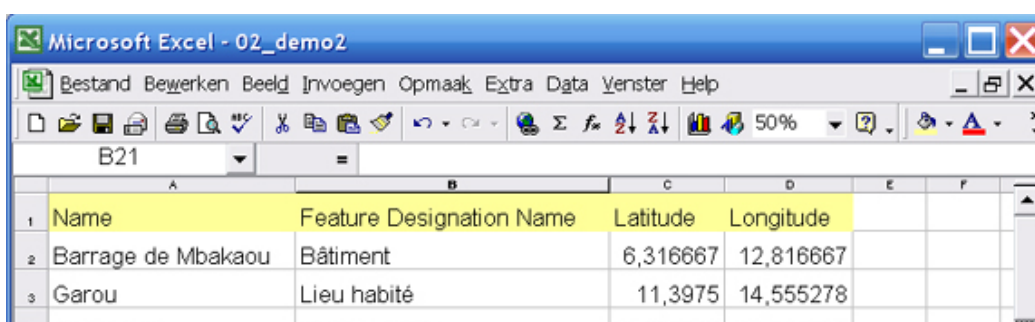
After the name information has been gathered in the field, this information has to be stored and prepared for dissemination. Several methods exist for storing the data, from the paper cards being an old-fashioned but proved media, to the advanced digital techniques using databases.

For storage of names information in a digital format, one has several options: Text file such as Microsoft Word or spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel are easy to handle, but the methods have very limited capabilities in digital processing. Databases such as Microsoft Access are more complicated, but the data can be connected with other databases such as GIS repositories, and it can be processed in many ways.

Small demo tables in MS Word, MS Excel and MS Access (01_demo1.doc, 02_demo2.xls, 03_demo3.mdb) are part of the ZIP-Archive 'S15_demotables.zip' and can be downloaded [here](#), or see below for previews.



Name	Feature Designation Name	Latitude	Longitude	
Barrage de Mbakaou	Bâtiment	6,316667	12,816667	
Garou	Lieu habité	11,3975	14,555278	
Sénésoko	Hydrographie	4,566667	14,166667	
Gotel Mountains	Relief	7	11,666667	
Yaoundé	Administratif	3,866667	11,516667	



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Name	Feature Designation Name	Latitude	Longitude		
2	Barrage de Mbakaou	Bâtiment	6,316667	12,816667		
3	Garou	Lieu habité	11,3975	14,555278		
4	Sénésoko	Hydrographie	4,566667	14,166667		



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4	Sénésoko	Hydrographie	4,566667	14,166667	
5	Gotel Mountains	Relief	7	11,666667	
6	Yaoundé	Administratif	3,866667	11,516667	
7					
8					

Gered NUM

Microsoft Access

Bestand Bewerken Beeld Invoegen Opmaak Records Extra Venster Help

03_demo3_New : Database

Objecten Tabel maken in ontwerpweergave

demo3 : Tabel

Name	Feature Designation Name	Latitude	Longitude
Barrage de Mbakaou	Bâtiment	6,316667	12,816667
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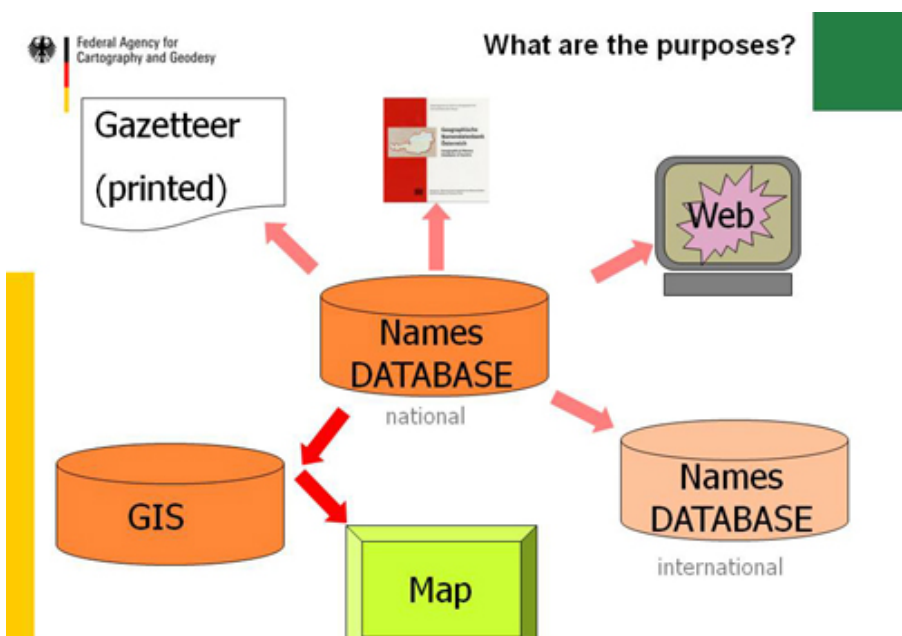
Record: 1 van 5

Gegevensbladweergave

It has to be considered that for proprietary database software solutions high license costs might be needed whereas open source software products such as MySQL, PostgreSQL/PostGIS are free, but some maintenance and updating skills are required.

When creating a database, one has to consider very carefully the layout and the structure of the database tables. Usually, the core table will hold one row for each geographical name. The definition of columns (fields) may vary considerably from country to country, but there are general rules that apply to most databases of geographical names. Typical fields associated with a geographical name are feature type, coordinates, variant names, textual description, source of the name information and status of the name.

After the database tables have been defined and data from the field collection has been typed in, there are many options to process the data.



Examples in practice:

To search for geographical names several web services and applications can be used. Some of them are listed below:

- **EuroGeoNames (EGN)**

This project combines geographical names from the National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs) across Europe to create a unique service and data set. It is now being implemented by EuroGeographics (the European association of NMCAs) and its partners for an increasing number of countries in Europe.

link: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/eurogeonames>

link: <http://www.eurogeonames.com:8080/RefAppl3/ReferenceApplication/ReferenceApplication.html>

- **UNGEGN database**

The geographical names database of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) supports multilingual and multiscriptual geo-referenced geographical names. Through the web, database users can access short and full names of countries (192 UN member states), their capitals, and the major cities (population over 100,000) for many countries. Authoritative city endonyms are provided mainly by national name authorities and sound files are being added to assist users with pronunciation.

link: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/Default.aspx>

- **GeoNym (African gazetteer application)**

This African GeoNyms gazetteer application is a free tool to create names databases, particularly within the context of an African spatial data infrastructure.

This project as an initiative of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) provides African Countries with open source solution for capturing and validating geographical names (toponyms).

link: <http://geoinfo.uneca.org/geonyms>

- **Asia South East Pacific South West Division gazetteer**

In 2009 CGNA, on behalf of UNGEGN, completed the production of a fully revised regional map and gazetteer of Asia South East, Pacific South West.

link: <http://www.icsm.gov.au/cgna/ungegn.html>

- **Geonames.org**

The GeoNames geographical database is available for download, through a number of webservices and a daily database export free of charge under a creative commons attribution license. GeoNames is integrating worldwide geographical data such as names of places in various languages, elevation, population and others from various sources.

link: <http://www.geonames.org/>

- **Gazetteer of Australia Place Name Search**

The Gazetteer provides information on the location and spelling of more than 332.000 geographical names across Australia as at January 2011. Copyright of the Gazetteer data resides with the relevant state, territory and Australian Government agencies which are custodians of the data. The Gazetteer of Australia 2010 release is available for download.

link: <http://www.ga.gov.au/place-name/>

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