

Notes for the presentation

The Brazilian base maps are composed of mappings made em different time frames, along which many changes in spelling rules occurred. Also, the mappings were carried out by different institutions, frequently using different methodologies. In addition to that, we must consider the dynamic nature of geographical names. So, inconsistencies were generated, which we are now resolving, so that each feature has only one name, with the same spelling in all base maps.

The main aim of this harmonization is to integrate the cartographic bases with the Brazilian Geographical Names Database, so that we can have the geographical names updated, standardized and harmonized among the different mapping scales. Thus, it is expected that these databases will be as convergent as possible and with known and justified divergences.

The process occurs in two phases.

Knowing that geographical names are transversal to mapping scales and cartographic products, the methodology of compatibilization uses in the first phase topological validations and comparison algorithms which allow the evaluation of the degree of similarity between the geographical names of the analysed cartographic bases and the assigning of a unique identifier for each geographical name.

The second and most time consuming phase involves detailed research by toponymists to decide the most adequate name for the feature in each divergency pointed out in phase one. Some involve names which establish administrative boundaries of municipalities, districts and others.

The non preferred names are stored as names that have already been used for that particular feature.

The preferred names receive "validated" status.

At the moment, the work is focused on hydrography and localities.