INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ON TOPONYMY

MODULES

DAY 3

19 - 23 JUNE 2023

BALI, INDONESIA
Module 5
Geographical Names Collection

- Field data collection methods
- Preparation of field data collection

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Module 5

A. Geographical Names Collection
Collection of Geographical Names

Why collect geographical names?

- To record what geographical names are being used
- Replenish existing geographical names inventories
- To check for name change
- For societal inclusion
- For research
Collection of Geographical Names

How are geographical names collected?

- Field work
  - Active name-collection in the field
- Collection campaigns
  - Asking public to submit material
  - Collect geographical names at events
- Archival research
  - Extract geographical names from maps
  - Replenish geographical names inventories with historically recorded examples
Collection of Geographical Names

● How are geographical names collected?
  ○ Field work
    ■ Active geographical names collection in the field
    ■ Collection of forms based on knowledge of informants
    ■ Recording geographical names (in preprinted forms) and their location (on large-scale maps)
Collection of Geographical Names

Aims of field collection

- Collect and record “new” names, as used locally
- Verify existing names on maps
- Identify type of place/feature that is named and its location
- Gather other information about the names or the places/features
- Done carefully and consistently (with notes and maps)
  - Follow up in the office
  - Authorization
Collection of Geographical Names

What do we need to collect?

● What we need to know about a name!
  ○ Suggestions?

● What are the basics for inclusion in a “gazetteer”?
  ○ Name, type of feature, coordinates, admin. unit, map #
  ○ Previously used names – cross-referenced
Collection of Geographical Names

Different uses, different data
- Small scale maps/atlases
- Large scale maps
- Central administration
- Local government planning
  - Timetables (bus, train)
  - Health centers
  - School locations
- Google Earth; tourism
Collection of Geographical Names

Other means of collecting geographical names?

- Collection campaigns
- Archival research
Collection of Geographical Names

Other means of collecting geographical names?

○ Collection campaigns
  ■ Public asked/encouraged to submit material
    ● Collection material (forms and maps + return postage) sent on request
    ● Requestee/informant information noted in dedicated registry
    ● On material return, material archive registered with note to informant registry
Collection of Geographical Names

● How are geographical names collected?
  ○ Archival research
    ■ Extract geographical names from maps
      ● Use geography to find modern counterpart
      ● Take note of age, maker and language used
    ■ Replenish geographical names inventories with historically recorded examples from:
      ● Charters, historical legal documents
      ● Geographies, historical accounts
      ● Cadastres, taxation registers
      ● Censuses, congregational records
Map by Senarat Adahassin of Candy, c 1615, Rigsarkivet, Denmark
Charter of 26. May 1293 from Aga, Norway. Special Collections,
Questions?
Module 5

B. Field data collection methods
Field Data Collection Methods

● Manual collection
  ○ Interviews in the field with informants
  ○ Paper maps for recording the named place
  ○ Paper forms for recording geographical names and attribute information

● Digital digital
  ○ Interviews with informants, on-site or remote
  ○ Integrated digital application
    ■ Digital map interface for recording the named place
    ■ Digital form for recording geographical names and attribute information
Field Data Collection Methods

Fieldwork objectives

- Identify local landmarks referred to by people in day-to-day conversation
- Record all names and variant name forms for these landmarks in the area
  - Single out which are well-established (majority) name forms, and which have name forms in minority and indigenous languages
- Record the nature, location and extent of these features
- Check against maps whether previously recorded
- Check if map names are still in use
Field Data Collection Methods

Fieldwork instructions

- Collect names in current use
- Ascertain their proper spelling through pronunciation (and meaning)
  - Collection can include pictures, sound and video recording
- Indicate position of location, and (if possible) extent of named object
- Check validity of previously collected names
Field Data Collection Methods

What is current use?

- Is the recorded form in current use or is it historical?
- Does the spoken form correspond to written form?
- Is local use different from official use?
Field Data Collection Methods

Certainty of a geographical name

- How many informants know the name and can locate it?
  - At least 3-5 informants?
- Is it in general use by all?
  - Culture/language?
  - Gender?
  - age groups?
- Do people know of other names for the same object?
  - Which variant version is used more or most?
Field Data Collection Methods

Name inventory form, known names
- ID number
- Coordinates of the named feature
- Feature code or type
- Name as given on this map series (previous edition)
- Name according to previous map series
- Name according to Cadastral maps
- Name according to local inhabitants
- Name according to public administration
- Attribute data (nr. of inh., height, language, meaning, pronunc.)
- Name as proposed by topographer
- Name as determined by names commission
- Remarks
Field Data Collection Methods

Name inventory form, new names
- ID number
- Coordinates of the named feature
- Feature code or type
- Name according to local inhabitants
- Pronunciation of name (phonetic transcription, or ID of recording)
- Name as proposed by recorder
- Remarks
Collection of Geographical Names

Collection process
- Planning from the office
- Fieldwork/field collection
- Processing collected material back in the office
Data fields (elements)
- Geographical name
- Variants
- Language
- Pronunciation
- Perceived meaning/narrative
- Feature type
- Administrative unit
  - 1st and 2nd levels
- Geographical coordinates
  - Points (latitude/longitude)?
  - Lines (open-ended multipoint)?
  - Polygons (closed multipoint)?
- Where to set geographical location?
- Historical name forms (processing)
- Images of place
Collection of Geographical Names

Means of collection: Fieldwork forms

- There are many different forms developed for collecting data
  - Must be suitable for the information needed
- Individual entries for each named feature, one named place per:
  - Paper sheet, if manual collection
  - Database entry, if digital collection
- Amount of collected data depends on actual need for detail
Manual collection
NUNA-TOP PROJECT

Native (aboriginal) Name: Inujjuap Kuunga
Syllables: /nujjuap kuunga/
Word segments: /nujjuap kuunga/
Translation: Giant Person’s River

Entity: River

Official name(s): Innuksuat, Rivière
Other names: Qallunaap Kuunga*

Background:
* “White person’s river” referring to the first permanent settlement here (Port Harrison)
Inujjuap Kuunga widely known.

Expert’s name: JP
Interviewer’s name: LM
Place of interview: Inukjuak
Date of interview: 25 April 1984

(Address and phone number of responsible institution and survey coordinator)
location

collector

phonetic writing

ordinary writing

remarks
Example from Indonesia
Digital collection
Digital collection

- Create application or use preset template
- Go through the functions and see if all necessary ones are present
- Make sure the application adheres to standard set up
- Test
  - Data entry functionality
  - Data capture
  - Map functionality
  - Download functionality
An example: EpiCollect5
Digital collection (teaser)
Questions?
Module 5

C. Field data collection preparation
Field Data Collection Preparation

- Office preparation
- Sourcing good informants
  - Problems with names provided by informants
- Mental preparation
Office fieldwork preparation, digital collection 1/2

- Check linguistic research for overview of language situation of area
- Orient yourself on maps of fieldwork.
  - Note existing geographical names
- Compare and list the names occurring on previous maps
- Make a list of the generics (and their languages) used there
- Note down the administrative hierarchy
Field Data Collection Preparation

Office fieldwork preparation, digital collection 2/2

- Study the characteristics of the area
  - Geography
  - Geology
  - History
    - Identify the important topographical features in the area
    - Note events important for naming (e.g. population changes)

- Make calls and appointments
  - Local authorities and identified informers*

- Prepare announcements in local press/twitter
Mental preparation

- Envisage problems to be anticipated:
  - Prepare for communication and translation problems
  - Prepare for transportation problems
  - Prepare for problems in finding informants and keeping appointments
  - Prepare for animosity on behalf of local population

Finding good informants

- Local residents with in-depth knowledge
- Local authorities long established in the region with up-to-date knowledge, and religious officials, public notaries, school- and postmasters that know the area well
Field Data Collection Preparation

Sourcing good informants

- Born and bred local residents with in-depth knowledge
- Local authorities long established in the region with up-to-date knowledge of developments in the area
- Other official persons that know the area well: religious officials, public notaries, schoolmasters and postmasters
Field Data Collection Preparation

Problems with names provided by informants

● How to deal with alternative information from informants? (different places of origin, age groups, race, gender)
  ○ Reference to the object must be clear (name and its feature type must be clear)
  ○ Established named places may not correspond with named places of informants of other cultures/ethnicities
    ■ different spatial concepts
    ■ differences in sustenance
    ■ no existing names owing to lack of need in culture
  ○ Name changes and spatial changes over time
Questions?