



# Geography: A Guide to Selected Resources

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This is a list of selected information resources in the field of geography available at Owen Library or electronically. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Please consult a reference librarian for advice on the best sources and search strategy for your specific topic.

## **Dictionaries**

*AGI GIS Dictionary*

[www.geo.ed.ac.uk/agidict/welcome.html](http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/agidict/welcome.html)

This dictionary of GIS terms is a product of the University of Edinburgh's Department of Geography and the Association of Geographic Information. It is searchable alphabetically, by category, and by acronym.

*Dictionary of Abbreviations and Acronyms in GIS, Cartography, and Remote Sensing*

<http://lib.berkeley.edu/EART/abbrev.html>

This is an online dictionary maintained by the University of California, Berkeley's Earth Sciences & Map Library.

*Dictionary of Concepts in Physical Geography*

Reference GB10 .H82 1988

*Dictionary of Human Geography*

Reference GF4 .D52 2000  
Available online through PITT*Cat*

*Dictionary of Physical Geography*

Reference GB10 .D53 2000  
Available online through PITT*Cat*

*Longman Dictionary of Geography: Human and Physical*

Reference G63 .C56 1985

This dictionary contains approximately 8000 entries in one-volume.

## **Encyclopedias**

\*Located under "Find Articles" by clicking "Looking for a particular database."

*Encyclopedia of Geomorphology*

Reference GB400.3 .E53 2004

*Encyclopedia of World Geography*

Reference G63 .E556 2005

*Europa World\**

This database is the online version of the *Europa World Year Book*. It is a comprehensive resource for information world affairs. It contains over 250 surveys of countries and territories, as well as international organizations. It offers directory information, statistics and an overview of government and history.

*The World Factbook (CIA)*

[www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.html)

*World Geographical Encyclopedia*

Reference G63 .E5213 1995

This five-volume encyclopedia is published by Italian geographers as an English translation of *Enciclopedia Geografica Universale*. Arranged by continent, region and country. Includes a survey of each country, including the environment, history, economy, and culture. Contains lengthy entries on world geography, statistical population and economic tables by country. Includes an index in volume 5.

## **Gazetteers**

*The Columbia Gazetteer of the World* Reference G103.5 .C65 1998  
This three-volume gazetteer includes entries for more than 160,000 places, political and geographic features. Includes cross references for name changes. It is more comprehensive than most gazetteers.

*The GEOnet Names Server (GNS)* <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>  
The National Geospatial Intelligence Agency produces this database of foreign geographic names, including more than 5.5 million feature names approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

*Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names On Line*  
[www.getty.edu/research/conducting\\_research/vocabularies/tgn/index.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/tgn/index.html)

*MapQuest* <http://www.mapquest.com>  
Provides location maps almost anywhere in the U.S. utilizing a TIGER-based application.

*U.S. Gazetteer: 2000 and 1990* [www.census.gov/geo/www/gazetteer/gazette.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/gazetteer/gazette.html)  
This site from the U.S. Census Bureau contains the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Gazetteer Files.

*USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)* <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic>  
This database created under the U.S. Geological Survey, contains information on the physical and cultural geographic features in the U.S. and its territories. It also provides a link to its location on an online map.

## **Maps and Atlases**

*The Atlas of Canada* <http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/index.html>  
This site offers a compendium of maps and other related information resources on Canada.

*Atlas of Pennsylvania* Reference G1260.A86 1989 [Atlas Table]

*Middle East Maps* <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~46/>  
This site, hosted at Dartmouth, has over 45 historical/political maps related to the Middle East.

*National Geographic Atlas of the World* Reference G1021 .N38 1999 [Atlas Table]

*Oxford Atlas of the World* Reference G1021 . A7545 2004 [Atlas Table]

*Pennsylvania Color Landform Atlas* [http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/pa\\_0.html](http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/pa_0.html)

*Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection* <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>  
Provides access to the University of Texas' collection of worldwide online maps.

*The Times Atlas of the World* Reference G 1021 .T5644 1999 [Atlas Table]

## **Census & Data Information**

*American FactFinder\**

This database from the U.S. Census Bureau includes the 1990 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Economic Census, and the American Community Survey. It provides access to statistics about population, housing, business and industry. The *American FactFinder* allows users to locate specific products of the U.S. Census Bureau (online), create thematic maps and search for specific data on topics of interest.

*Census 2000 Gateway* [www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html](http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html)  
This is the starting point for accessing online the United States Census 2000. Many helpful information links are included.

*Census 2000 Geographic Terms and Concepts* [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-2-a.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-2-a.pdf)

*Energy Information Administration* [www.eia.doe.gov/](http://www.eia.doe.gov/)

*Guide to Census Tract Resources* [www.census.gov/geo/www/tractez.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tractez.html)  
This web site from the U.S. Census Bureau is an excellent resource for understanding the use of census tract resources and locating information on them online. It focuses on the 1990 and 2000 census tract resources.

*[U.S. Dept. of] Housing and Urban Development* [www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)

*An Introduction to Census Resources* <http://disc.wisc.edu/pubs/census/census.html>  
This site from the Data and Program Library Service at the University of Wisconsin-Madison provides a very useful description of Census resources, how they are organized and links for further information. This is an important overview to understanding census materials.

*National Environmental Data Index* [www.nedi.gov/](http://www.nedi.gov/)  
This site from NOAA offers a guide to information about environmental data from a number of U.S. government agencies. Users specify what to search: text, publication(s), regulation or legislation, and/or metadata.

*Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access* [www.pasda.psu.edu/](http://www.pasda.psu.edu/)  
This is Pennsylvania's official site for geospatial data. It is a project of the Pennsylvania Geospatial Information Council and Pennsylvania State University.

*Pennsylvania State DataCenter* [www.pasdc.hbg.psu.edu](http://www.pasdc.hbg.psu.edu)  
This is the official state of Pennsylvania site for demographic and economic data.

*Population Reference Bureau* [www.prb.org/](http://www.prb.org/)

*State of the Nation's Cities* <http://policy.rutgers.edu/cupr/sonc/sonc.htm>  
This site, maintained by the Center for Urban Policy Studies at Rutgers University, provides data on 77 cities and suburbs. A compilation of more than 3,000 variables, it allows for comparability of indicators on demographics, housing and land use, economic development, health, income, and much more.

## **Geographical Information Systems**

*ARCData (ERSI)* [www.ersi.com/data/download/index.html](http://www.ersi.com/data/download/index.html)  
This site offers free downloadable GIS data including Census 2000 TIGER/Line Data and USGS NED Shaded Relief Imagery Data. Other data is available for a fee.

*The Geographic Information Systems FAQ!* [www.faqs.org/faqs/geography/infosystems-faq.html](http://www.faqs.org/faqs/geography/infosystems-faq.html)  
This web site offers answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding GIS.

*GIS and Public Health* [www.cdc.gov/nchs/gis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/gis.htm)  
Maintained by the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the National Center for Health Statistics, this web site includes maps and a wealth of GIS news and information for the researcher.

*GIS Café.com* [www.giscafe.com/](http://www.giscafe.com/)

*GIS Guide to Good Practice*

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/gis/>

This web site offers guidance to those involved in the development, maintenance, use and preservation of GIS-based digital resources. Though the primary focus of the site is on archaeological data, the information is applicable to a broad spectrum of disciplines using GIS data.

*Spatial Odyssey: GIS Literature Database*

<http://libraries.maine.edu/spatial/Gisweb/>

This database provides table of contents access to GIS journals, information on how on searching commercial databases for their abstracts, listings of GIS conference proceedings, and full-text access of some of these. It is maintained as a project of University of Maine's Raymond H. Fogler Library and the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis.

## **Indexes**

\*Locate under "Finding Articles" by clicking "Looking for a particular database."

*Academic Search Premier\**

This is multi-disciplinary database indexes many scholarly journals in a wide variety of academic fields. It includes full-text access to many journal articles back to 1990. Indexing coverage is from 1984 to the present.

*Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts\**

This database indexes literature covering all aspects of marine, brackish, and freshwater environments. Indexing is from 1971 to the present, with some links to full-text.

*GeoRef\**

This database includes indexing and references to publications of the U.S. Geological Survey. It includes links to full-text publications. Coverage is 1785 to present on North America and 1933 to present on remaining part of the world.

*National Technical Information Service (NTIS) \**

This site indexes U.S. government-funded technical reports on all subjects and provides a bibliographic citation.

*Online Geographical Bibliography (Geobib)*

<http://geobib.lib.uwm.edu/>

The online bibliography includes access to *Current Geographical Publications* from 1984 to the present. This database is maintained by the American Geographical Society Library at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

*Selected Water-Resources Abstracts*

<http://water.usgs.gov/swra/>

A database on the subject of water resources derived from several resources.

*Sociological Abstracts (SocioFile)\**

This database indexes literature related to the field of sociology. It covers original research, reviews, books, case studies, conference papers and dissertations. It is the electronic version of *Sociological Abstracts*. It provides citations with abstracts. Coverage is from 1974 to the present.

*Statistical (LEXIS-NEXIS)\**

This database combines three different print statistical indexes: *American Statistics Index*, *Statistical Reference Index*, and the *Index to International Statistics*. Indexes and provides links to the full-text of selected publications.

*Web of Science \**

This database provides access to three citation indexes. Among these is the Institute of Scientific Information's *Social Science Citation Index*. It may be searched electronically back to 1992. The most unique and valuable feature of a citation index, is that it allows you to search for additional publications

that have cited a source you have already found on your topic. Also allows searching by author, title and keyword. Some full-text links available.

### **Other Useful Web Sites**

*National Climatic Data Center* [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html)

*NOAA Drought Information Center* [www.drought.noaa.gov/](http://www.drought.noaa.gov/)

*Hydrologic Information Center: Drought Conditions* [www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hic](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hic)

*National Wetlands Inventory* [www.nwi.fws.gov/](http://www.nwi.fws.gov/)  
This site from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provides a wealth of information on the U.S. wetlands.

*Resources for Earth Science and Geography Instruction* <http://webs.cmich.edu/resgi/>

*U.S. Soil Moisture Monitoring* [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/soilmst/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/soilmst/)  
Site maintained by the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center. Provides very useful information related to soil moisture, evaporation, runoff and drought indicators.

*NCDC Climate Monitoring* <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/monitoring>  
Maintained by the NOAA National Climatic Data Center, this site provides moisture status reports on the lower 48 states and nine regions.

*Volcano World* <http://volcano.und.edu/>  
This is a useful web site for information on volcanoes, from the University of North Dakota.

*Water Watch: Current Water Resources Conditions* <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/>  
This web site from the USGS offers access to real-time maps of stream flow compared to historical stream flow, based on USGS data from location stations.

### **Professional Associations and Organizations**

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping [www.acsm.net/](http://www.acsm.net/)

The American Geographical Society [www.amergeog.org/](http://www.amergeog.org/)

American Geophysical Union [www.agu.org/](http://www.agu.org/)

American Planning Association [www.planning.org/](http://www.planning.org/)

American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) [www.asprs.org/index.html](http://www.asprs.org/index.html)

Association of American Geographers [www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org)

Congress for the New Urbanism [www.cnu.org/](http://www.cnu.org/)

Geospatial Information & Technology Association [www.gita.org/](http://www.gita.org/)

National Council for Geographic Education [www.ncge.org/](http://www.ncge.org/)

National Geographic Society [www.nationalgeographic.com/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/)

Renewable Natural Resources Foundation [www.rnrf.org/](http://www.rnrf.org/)

Urban Data Management Society

[www.udms.net](http://www.udms.net)

The Urban Land Institute

[www.uli.org/](http://www.uli.org/)

### **International Organizations**

European Union

<http://europa.eu.int/index.html>

International Geographical Union

[www.igu-net.org/](http://www.igu-net.org/)

International Monetary Fund

[www.imf.org/](http://www.imf.org/)

North American Treaty Organization

[www.nato.int/](http://www.nato.int/)

Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development

[www.oecd.org/](http://www.oecd.org/)

United Nations

[www.un.org/english/](http://www.un.org/english/)

The World Bank

[www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/)

World Trade Organization

[www.wto.org/](http://www.wto.org/)

### **Local and State Organizations**

Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chamber of Commerce

[www.johnstownchamber.com/](http://www.johnstownchamber.com/)

Johnstown Area Heritage Association

[www.jaha.org/](http://www.jaha.org/)

Johnstown Area Regional Industries

[www.jari.com](http://www.jari.com)

Johnstown Redevelopment Authority

[www.johnstown-redevelopment.org](http://www.johnstown-redevelopment.org)

Pennsylvania Geographical Society

[www.thepgs.org/](http://www.thepgs.org/)

Southern Alleghenies Conservancy

[www.saconservancy.org](http://www.saconservancy.org)