

GAZETTEERS

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- *The term gazetteer has two meanings. It can be either the index to an atlas or a separately published reference work providing information about places of the world, of a particular country or region.*

Definition and Scope

- The ALA glossary of Library and Information Science (1983) defines it as "a geographical dictionary". Rather it has been called "Dictionary of Places".
- Gazetteers, the most recently revised and the old ones - both are important depending upon the purpose for which they are looked up on when the information sought is of current nature, it is the recent edition that are looked up on.
- For places whose names have undergone change, the older editions come to our rescue Old edition also contain certain historical facts which might have been dropped from revised editions.
- The scope of the gazetteers, differs depending on whether they are international, national or district, etc. 16 Sources-Part 2

	Gazetteer	Index to an Atlas
1)	The information available about each place name in the gazetteer is much more in detail.	It gives factual details about longitude, latitude and the page number of the map on which the place name is marked.
2)	It enlists many small places of less importance.	It includes only important places. However big may be the maps, they can not accommodate all small places.
3)	It may be published in a single, handy volume or multi-volume.	It is usually available in larger size as it contains big maps to include all important places and it is heavy as maps are printed on thick art papers.

Uses

- Information about a place in a district or town is generally sought through gazetteers. The usual delay in their revision compared to atlases often renders them unsuitable as a source of recent information.
- As a reference source, a gazetteer provides historical, social, cultural, political, industrial, demographic and administrative details about a place in a country or about a whole country.

Evaluation

- The most important points in the evaluation of a gazetteer are accuracy and up-to-dateness of the information.
- Accuracy is gauged by the reputation of the compiler and the publishing firm. Other important considerations, like any other ready reference book, are scope, arrangement and special feature if any.

Types and Examples

- Gazetteers are grouped by their scope of coverage as
 1. International,
 2. National and
 3. Local.

International Gazetteers

1. Websters New Geographical Dictionary. Springfield, Mass: Merriam - Webster, 1984.
2. Chambers World Gazetteer: An A to Z of Geographical Information/ ed. by David Munro ed. 5. Cambridge : Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1988.
3. The Statesman Year Book and World Gazetteer. ed. London: Macmillan, 1979:
4. Times London Index gazetteer of the World. London: Times Publishing, 1965.

National Gazetteers

1. CIS Foreign Gazetteers U.S. BGN(microform). Washington: Congressional Information Service, 1987.
2. National Gazetteer of the United States of America: United States since 1990. Washington: U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1990.
3. Bartholomew Gazetteer of Places in Britain/ comp. by Oliver Mason. Rev ed. Edinburgh: J.Bartholomew,1986
4. Imperial Gazetteer of India
5. The Indian Union/Central Gazetteer Unit, Government of India. Delhi: Publications Division, 1965 – 1978. 4 volumes.

District Gazetteers

- Most of the districts in India have gazetteers now. They could be called miniature encyclopaedia's for each district.
- These district gazetteers include comprehensive information with all necessary background data, statistical particulars and ancillary details on the historical; archaeological, political, administrative, economic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, sociological, cultural, and other aspects of the district and the life of the people of the area with maps, charts, tables and list of sub- division, taluqs and villages.

Imperial Gazetteer of India

- Between 1881 and 1907; three different editions were published. In addition the same volumes on individual provinces were also published.
- First edition edited by W.W. Hunter in 9 volumes, 1881.

Gazetteer of India:

- The Indian Union/Central Gazetteer Unit, Government of India. Delhi: Publications Division, 1965 – 1978. 4 volumes. Developed on the pattern of the first four volumes of the Imperial Gazetteer, the volumes are titled as:
 - V.I Country and People
 - V.II History and culture
 - V.III Economic structure and Activities
 - V.IV Administration and Public Welfare