

Home Page

Welcome to the *Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online*, the renowned geographic encyclopedia. To get started, you can type the name of a place or phrase in the quick search box and search place-names or the full text of Gazetteer articles.

Click on Search above for advanced search options, such as searching by type of place, state or province, country, continent, population or even geographic coordinates. Post-search options include downloading search results metadata to spreadsheet or XML files.

Places in the News

[Refugee Crisis](#)
2015 and 2016 have seen a deepening refugee crisis, sparked in part by people fleeing the destruction of the Syrian civil war. Millions of people have fled war-torn

Featured Place

[Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#), hosts the 2016 Paralympic Games between September 7th and 18th. With a population of over six million, Rio is the second-largest city in Brazil and its cultural capital. The city will host Olympic events at locations throughout the city and its waterfront during the eleven days of the Games. Rio was the first [South American](#) city to host the Olympics with the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in August.

[Read more...](#)

Logo
URL

<http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/main/Home.page>

Subject

Gazetteers

Accessibility

On subscription basis

Language

English

Publisher

Columbia University Press

Brief History

First published in 1998, the Gazetteer now features new entries and extensive revisions to reflect recent administrative divisions in countries around the world.

Scope and Coverage

The scope of this online resource is very vast. A researcher can find limited maps and stats for locations all over the world and can also find basic news updates for certain locations. With over 170,000 entries, the Columbia Gazetteer of the World is an authoritative A to Z encyclopedia of geographical places and features. The

170,000-plus entries cover political, physical, and special places, including monuments and historic sites. There are over 40,000 entries on the United States alone. The Columbia Gazetteer covers:

The political world-countries, provinces, regions, states, counties, capitals, cities, towns, villages, and neighbourhoods.

The physical world-continent, oceans, seas, lakes, lagoons, rivers, bays, inlets, channels, and streams, along with islands, archipelagos, peninsulas, atolls, mountains, mountain ranges, canyons, deserts, valleys, and volcanoes.

And special places-national parks and monuments, historic and archaeological sites, harbours, ports, airports, nuclear plants, canals, and destinations of interest.

Kind of Information

The entries include information on many of the following: demography; physical geography; political boundaries; industry, trade, and service activities; agriculture; cultural, historical, and archeological points of interest; transportation lines; longitude, latitude, and elevations; distance to relevant places; pronunciations; official local government place-names and changed or variant names and spellings. Their length varies from a brief notation on a small village to an essay on a country or region.

A simple search on “London” will bring up place names in Arkansas, California, Canada, Jamaica, Kentucky, Ohio, South Africa, as well as England, providing population, coordinates, and often other interesting facts, archaeological points of interest; transportation lines, longitude, latitude, and elevations. Historical population figures are available in some listings.

Each entry is qualitative and accurate, current, authoritative controlled as well as appropriate.

Quality and Accuracy:

The information provided comes from censuses conducted all over the world. As most censuses are conducted by the government, the information can be considered reliable. With smaller nations, it is harder to produce quality, accurate information. Therefore, information is limited on the Database.

Currency:

The stats and information are as current as possible. Most larger nations provide current updates to information. However, smaller countries data may be a bit older due to the lack of actual accurate published information.

Authority:

The Columbia University Press is a well known publishing house. It is well known within academic circles. That basis in combination with the censuses most often provided by government entities leads to strong authority for this database.

Appropriate:

This is a very appropriate resource for the public library. Like the Counties USA Directory, the Gazetteer provides basic stats and map information for many locations. Unlike the Counties USA, the information is more up to date and extensive. This resource is great for both research and interest.

Special Features

- ❖ It also contains new maps, population figures, and an expanded glossary of geographical and geological terms and almanac.
- ❖ Important and current news occurred in a place is displayed in home page.

Arrangement Pattern

This database is fairly easy to use. To begin, one clicks on the search button and type in basic location information. The information is then organized in a detailed ordered manner. If people are browsing, they click on the browse button where a list of locations organized alphabetically appears.

Remarks

The Columbia Gazetteer of the World serves also as a unique guide to the ways in which names offer insight into the political, cultural, religious, and aesthetic features of a particular environment. The Columbia Gazetteer of the World is a useful and easy to use tool. Despite some inconsistencies, it is a worthy addition to libraries' electronic database collections. Since it is fairly new, updating frequency has not been established, nor has methods of submitting error reports, yet it remains a quality product.

Comparable Tools

- National street gazetteers (<http://www.thensg.org.uk>)
- Global gazetteers (<http://www.fallingrain.com/world/index.html>)

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