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## Sources of Local Geographic Information

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# SOURCES OF LOCAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Darrell Napton  
South Dakota State University

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Sources of Local Geographic Information  
Darrell Napton  
South Dakota State University  
c. 1996

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# SOURCES OF LOCAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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South Dakota State University

This guide is a tool to help you find local information. The list is not comprehensive, but is to give you some starting points on your search. The information available will differ from community to community. The premise of this guide is that you will generally find the information that you want if you ask the right PEOPLE, find the right PUBLICATIONS, and look in the right PLACES. This three pronged approach will help you find information that you never knew existed. Sometimes you will be fortunate and find the information that you seek on the first phone call or visit to an office. Other times a more extensive search will be necessary. Enjoy your search!

## PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU: FINDING EXPERTS { TC "PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU: FINDING EXPERTS" \F C \L "1" }

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county employees often are experts in rural geography. Listed under United States Government, Department of Agriculture, this agency administers farm commodity, conservation, and disaster programs.

Members or officers of associations, from the Archaeology Society to the Zoo Associates. Americans like to join organizations, which often have expert employees. Many states publish a directory of associations; check your local library to see if your state has one.

Chamber of Commerce employees or volunteers are community experts who may be able to assist you or direct you to other local experts.

City, county, and regional planners are professionals whose job is to be knowledgeable about local geography, to keep abreast of changes, and to help the community plan and adapt to the changes. The data they collect and use are normally available to the public.

League of Women Voters often publishes special reports on specific local issues.

Librarians try to link patrons with the information that they need. There may not be a published guide to local experts, but an experienced librarian has tremendous knowledge about who knows what and would be willing to share it.

Newspaper reporters try to find experts to interview for their articles. Veteran reporters become local experts and may share their insight with a curious geographer.

Political lobbies, from Bread for the World to the National Rifle Association, often have local members who are willing to work with teachers or students.

Real Estate professionals make their living from knowing what appeals to home buyers. An experienced real estate professional may know the economic and social geography of an area better than anyone else.

Natural Resource Conservation Service officials may know the physical geography of a local area better than anyone else, especially if they work in the same office for several years. Listed under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, in the phone book.

University faculty and Extension agents may have an intimate knowledge of the local area and may be aware of other experts and information sources that would not be available in most libraries.

Extension agents are listed under county offices in the phone book.

## GENERAL SOURCES{ TC "GENERAL SOURCES" \F C \L "1" }

- Almanac of American Politics. Biennial. National Journal, Washington, D.C. Provides a succinct geographical description and political analysis for each state and House district.
- American Library Directory. New Providence, NJ: R.R. Bowker. Annual. Has information about geographic location, subject matter collected, and names of department heads.
- American Statistics Index. Annual. Washington: Congressional Information Service. Has information about available statistics and a geographic index at many scales.
- National Center for Health Statistics, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 1-44, Hyattsville, MD 20782; (301) 436-8952. Has an annual report that includes local and county data.
- Census. Data Users Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233; (303) 763-4100. County and city data for agriculture, construction, energy, governments, housing, manufacturing, mining, population, retail trade, service industries, transportation, wholesale trade, and more.
- City Data: A Catalog of Data Sources for Small Cities. Stephen J. Carroll, ed. 1980. The Rand Corp. This guide lists 270 sources of quality of life data for small cities.
- Climates of the States. 3rd ed. 1985. Detroit: Gale Research Company. Contains an roster of climatologists and information about local climate data.
- Community Researcher's Guide to Rural Data, A (revised edition). Priscilla Salant and Anita J. Waller. 1995. Island Press, Washington, DC. Describes how to get county-level census and other information.
- County and City Data Book. Every 5 years. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Data on agriculture, bank deposits, business, climate, crime, electric bills, employment, government finances, health care, housing, income, population, vital statistics, and more.
- County Soil Surveys. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and in many libraries. Local history, environment, and economy; county maps, detailed air photos, and data about crops, trees, wildlife, recreation, engineering, landscaping, and town planning.
- Current Geographical Publications: Additions to the Research Catalogue. Milwaukee: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, American Geographical Society Collection. Lists articles by region and state as well as by topic. Ten issues per year.
- Directory of Federal Statistics for Local Areas: A Guide to Sources. 1978.
- Encyclopedia of Associations: Regional, State, and Local Organizations. Susan B. Martin, ed. First edition 1988-89. Detroit: Gale Research Inc. This multi-volume guide lists name, address, and phone number of a contact person for about 50,000 nonprofit organizations.
- Encyclopedia of Geographic Information Sources: U.S. Volume. Gale Research Company: Detroit. Lists over eleven thousand publications and agencies; sections devoted to the entire nation, each state, and over three hundred cities and regions.
- Federal Depository Libraries. The federal government is the world's largest publisher; it stores documents in about 1400 Federal Depository Libraries. Contact your local library or the Federal Depository Libraries, Office of the Public Printer, Washington, DC 20401.
- Flying the Colors Series. Irregular. Clements Research, Inc. State summaries (50+ pages) followed by 5-page county profiles. About half of the nation has been covered (1994).
- Government Giveaways for Entrepreneurs. Matthew Lesko. 4th ed. 1994. Kensington, MD: Information USA, Inc. The first part of this book has an excellent discussion on how to get information from government experts. It also has a listing of libraries in each state.

- Guide to U.S. Government Statistics. Documents Index, Inc., McLean, VA.
- Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. A two volume compilation from the U.S. Statistical Abstract. Though its tables seldom focus on local areas, this is an invaluable guide to the historical geography of the U.S. Its list of sources may lead you to the information that you need.
- Lesko's Info-Power II. Matthew Lesko. 2 ed., 1994. Detroit: Visible Ink Press. If you own only one guide to information, this is the one to have; it lists over 8,000 topical experts who may be able to guide you to a local source or an expert in your community.
- The Library of Congress. Washington, D.C. Also, check to see if your state of interest has a state list of publications. State Executive Directory. Carroll Publishing Company, 1058 Thomas Jefferson Street NW, Washington, DC 20007; (202) 333-8620.
- The National Directory of State Agencies. Washington, DC: Information Resources Press.
- Places Rated Almanac. Boyer and Savageau, Prentice Hall, Inc. (See Places Rating section).
- Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide. Annual. Chicago: Rand McNally and Company. National maps with county data, and state maps of topics such as population change, manufacturing, trading areas, railroads, college population, 3 digit zip code.
- Region and Regionalism in the United States: A Sourcebook for the Humanities and Social Sciences. 1988. New York: Garland Publishing Co.
- State Administrative Officials Classified by Functions. Council of State Governments, 3560 Iron Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578; (606) 231-1939.
- State and Local Statistics Sources. 1993 (or most recent). M. Balachandran and S. Balachandran, eds. Detroit: Gale Research. 1912 pp. This book provides a subject guide to statistical data on states, cities, and locales, with an annotated list of sources. Appendix A contains an annotated bibliography of nonprint sources of statistics, specifically data bases and data centers not included in the main body of the text.
- State and Metropolitan Area Data Book. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Provides state, metropolitan, central city, and 738 component county statistics.
- State Bibliography. Varying coverage, quality, and publisher. For example, the Bibliography of Missouri Geography (Walter A. Schroeder. 1977. University of Missouri-Columbia Extension Division) is narrowly defined for geography, while South Dakota: Changing, Changeless (Sue Laubersheimer, South Dakota Library Association) is quite broad.
- State Data and Database Finder. Irregular. Kensington, MD: Information USA, Inc. Includes a description of databases maintained by state agencies.
- State Executive Directory. Carroll Publishing Company, 1058 Thomas Jefferson Street NW, Washington, DC 20007; (202) 333-8620.
- State handbooks and almanacs. These non-official, privately published publications range from tourist narrations to elaborate compilations of county and local data. The Texas Almanac published by the Dallas Morning News is one of the best examples.
- State statistical abstracts. For a complete list see the statistical abstract appendix of the Statistical Abstract of the United States.
- State Yellow Book: Who's Who in the Executive and Legislative Branches of the 50 State Governments. Monitor Publishing Company, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011; (212) 627-4140 Semiannual. Addresses and phone numbers for state personnel, as well as a list of intergovernmental organizations and a subject index.



Statistical Abstract of the United States. Annual. Government Printing Office. About 1,400 tables of data with sources listed. Often one can call the source and locate an expert on the particular topic. An appendix lists all state statistical abstracts.

Topographic Maps. United States Geological Survey (USGS). The experienced user can glean much from these maps. See the Maps section for more information.

Travel Guides. Well-written reference books and travel guides (e.g. Fodors, AAA) are often the best introduction to a region with which you are unfamiliar.

Who Knows: A Guide to Government Experts. Irregular. Washington Researchers Publishing. This publication has a specific subject index.

World Chamber of Commerce Directory. Annual. Loveland, CO. Local chambers, economic development agencies, and tourist bureaus often publish local economic profiles.

## **AGRICULTURE, FARMING, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES{ TC "AGRICULTURE, FARMING, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES" \F C \L "1" }**

Agricultural Statistics Board. U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Agriculture Building, Room 5809, Washington, DC 20250; (202) 720-7017. This agency collects data on all aspects of American crop and livestock production. The Agricultural Statistics Board Catalogue has a complete list of reports and contacts in the 45 field offices.

Census of Agriculture. Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233; (301) 763-4100. This census has county level farm and agricultural data collected at five year intervals. The Graphic Summary is actually a national agricultural atlas.

Consolidated Farm Services Administration (formerly Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service). Information Division, P.O. Box 2425, Washington, DC 20013; (202) 720-7962, or check your telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. This agency administers farm commodity, conservation, and disaster programs. There are offices in every state and most counties. The offices have information about farm programs; they also have large-scale air photos.

A Community Researcher's Guide to Rural Data. Priscilla Salant. 1990. Rural Economic Policy Program of the Aspen Institute. Washington, DC: Island Press. This guide clearly describes how to use available census publications to derive and analyze county-level census information. The text is clear and the numerous examples are useful.

Cooperative Extension Service. Look in the local phone book under county, state, or federal for your nearest office. There is a federal-state-local extension office in each of the nation's counties. Increasingly, extension service programs are targeted toward urban audiences and often deal with natural resource and quality-of-life issues.

Cooperative State Research Service. Aerospace Building, 901 D. St., SW, Washington, DC 20224 (202) 401-4268. The Cooperative State Research Service coordinates research at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations. This research has a state and often, a local orientation. Many of the results of this research are transferred to local Cooperative Extension Service offices to be made available to the public.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service). For the nearest office, check a phone book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. Some of the staff may be experts in local resource issues. The office may also have satellite photos or detailed maps of local areas, as well as a local county soil survey. Most surveys include brief discussions of the county's history, geology, environment, climate, and economic conditions. Surveys also include one or more county maps, detailed air photographs with soils information overlaid on them, and various tables and text descriptions that provide information about the usefulness of each soil in the county to support crops and pasture, range land, recreation, engineering, gardening and landscaping, and town and country planning.

State Agricultural Experiment Stations. Contact Cooperative State Research Service, Aerospace Bldg., 901 D. St., SW, Washington, DC 20224. Experiment Stations are located at land grant universities and conduct agricultural, natural resource, and rural community research in each state. The variety of research is amazing; some of it may apply to your area and much of it is not directly agricultural.

State agricultural office addresses. These are available from Lesko's Info Power (2 ed., 1994, Matthew Lesko. Detroit: Visible Ink Press) or the State Yellow Book (see the Finding Experts section).

State Land Grant University or College. Each state has one or more universities affiliated with the Federal Land Grant program. These universities normally issue a variety of agricultural and natural resource publications at a variety of geographic scales. These publications range from simple to technical. The focus is generally farming, natural resources, or rural communities. County

Extension offices stock some publications. For additional information, contact the land grant university reference librarian.

Business Directories - Commercial firms often publish lists of local businesses. For example, American Business Directories (P.O. Box 27347, Omaha, NE 68127, (402) 552-4600) publishes the South Dakota Business Directory, which lists businesses by city and yellow pages category. Businesses can be found by city and SIC code, major employer and public works contractors, and business counts by county and 3-digit ZIP code.

Business Research Centers - Many business schools have affiliated research centers that conduct various economic research. The Texas A&M reports often contain recent county demographic and economic estimates. For example, the University of Texas at Austin, Bureau of Business Research, published the Atlas of Texas (1979).

County Business Patterns - U.S. Bureau of the Census. Annual list with the title number, date and business activity in each county, organized by state.

Editor & Publisher Market Guide - New York Editor and Publisher. An annual assessment of the demographic, retail sales, and accessibility of each county, with other market data in the nation.

Employment & Earnings Statistics for Texas & Areas - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Financial Districts Guide, Federal District Insurance Corporation (FDIC), 450 17th St., NW, Room 7-418, Washington, DC 20419, (800) 843-1469. This agency can provide data on bank assets and deposits in a county or metropolitan area.

Local Area Personal Income - U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Annual. Published by the Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

Local Economic Development Office - These offices have information they use to provide business to move to the community. For a listing of local economic development offices see the World

Chamber of Commerce Directory, Annual, Louisville, KY. Chamber of Commerce, Room 1600, 100

County - This standard reference provides regional market maps with county, local area, large scale state maps, and extensive economic and population information.

Regional Economic Forecast Analysis Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 K St., NW, Room 308, Washington, DC 20530, (202) 475-4910. Provides economic analysis and projections by county, MSA, state, and region.

Regional Federal Reserve Bank - Each regional Federal Reserve bank has a staff prepared to provide reports on the region's economy. List of bank and local area regions, contact for major

metropolitan areas, but they provide an extensive regional contact list of address, contact your county or see Listers Info-power II, p. 1-34, Midland-Lubbock County, V.I. & Co. Press.

State and Metropolitan Management - The International Council on the Development of the State and Metropolitan of a National, State, and Local Government.

State Economic Development Office - Many state offices or economic development or chambers of commerce publish directories of firms. These vary in sophistication, but they usually have a geographical index, SIC code, names and addresses, market area, and contact information.

State Economic Development Office - For a list of 50 states and their publications see Government

Directories for Employment and Unemployment, 1994, Kensington, MD, Information USA.

Local Information Centers - In these offices varies from state to state. It might include employment in various SIC codes, workers in the hotel industry, by city, demographic projections of each city and county, and reports by city and county.

**BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION** { TC "BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION" \F C \L "1" }

**Business directories.** Commercial firms often publish lists of local businesses. For example American Business Directories (P.O. Box 27347, Omaha, NE 68127; (402) 593-4600) publishes the South Dakota Business Directory, which lists businesses by city and yellow-page category, manufacturers by city and SIC code, major employers and publicly-traded companies, and business counts by county and 3-digit ZIP code.

**Business Research Centers.** Many business schools have affiliated research centers that conduct various economic research. The research reports often contain recent county demographic and economic estimates. For example, the University of Texas at Austin, Bureau of Business Research published the Atlas of Texas (1976).

**County Business Patterns.** U.S. Bureau of the Census. Annual. Just what the title implies: data on business activity in each county, organized by state.

**Editor & Publisher Market Guide.** New York: Editor and Publisher. An annual assessment of the demographics, retail sales, and accessibility, of each daily newspaper market area in the nation.

**Employment & Earnings Statistics for States & Areas.** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Financial Disclosure Group, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC),** 550 17th St., NW, Room F-518, Washington, DC 20429; (800) 843-1669. This agency can provide data on bank assets and deposits in a county or metropolitan area.

**Local Area Personal Income.** U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Annual. Published by the Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

**Local Economic Development Office.** These offices have information they use to persuade businesses to move to the community. For a listing of local economic development offices see the World Chamber of Commerce Directory (annual, Loveland, CO).

**Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide.** Annual. Chicago: Rand McNally and Company. This standard reference provides several national maps with county level data, large scale state maps, and extensive economic and population information.

**Regional Economic Forecast Analysis Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce,** 1401 K St., NW, Room 308, Washington DC 20230; (202) 523-0946. Provides economic analyses and projections by county, MSA, state, and region.

**Regional Federal Reserve Bank.** Each regional federal reserve bank issues both periodic and irregular reports on the region's economy. Few of these will focus on local regions, except for major metropolitan areas, but they provide an up-to-date regional context. For a list of addresses contact your library or see Lesko's Info-Power II (2 ed., 1994, Matthew Lesko. Detroit: Visible Ink Press).

**Sales and Marketing Management.** The Jul/Aug and Oct/Nov issues of this respected magazine have estimates of population, retail trends, and local "buying power."  
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**State company directories.** Most state offices of economic development or chambers of commerce publish directories of firms. These vary in sophistication, but they usually have a geographical index, SIC code, names and addresses, market area, and employment data.

**State Economic Development Office.** For a list of offices and their publications, see Government Giveaways for Entrepreneurs 4th ed. (Matthew Lesko. 1994. Kensington, MD: Information USA, Inc.) Information gathered by these offices varies from state to state; it might include employment in various SIC codes, reports on the hotel industry by city, demographic projections of each city and county, and occupations by city and county.

**State Offices.** These offices vary from providing little information to providing a great deal. Most will provide asset information by bank. These offices generally collect information about all types of lending institutions in the state.

**Telephone Yellow Pages.** These can be surprisingly useful sources of information about the economic structure of a local area (especially the CD-ROM versions, which allow you to count industries of particular kinds in particular areas).

**Year Book: The Encyclopedia of the Newspaper Industry.** New York: Editor & Publisher. An annual publication that provides information about every newspaper in the nation.

### COASTAL AREAS (C/OA)

Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1335 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 713-1463. The National Sea Grant program links the federal government with over 300 participating colleges, universities, and research organizations in coastal oceanic and Great Lakes research.

National Sea Grant Program, Office of Oceanic Research Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1335 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 713-1463. This is a clearinghouse for all Sea Grant research.

Office of Marine Policy, Strategy, and Environmental Protection, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1100 2nd St. SW, Room 1414, Washington, DC 20591-0001 (202) 474-7318. This office has environmental information expertise in the Pollution Response Branch and the Office of Marine Environmental Response.

Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment, U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1225 National Mall, NW, Washington, DC 20540 (202) 485-4487.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Geospatial Information Services Office, 1823 Concourse West, NW, Room 14, Washington, DC 20540 (202) 485-4487. This bibliography includes web documents.

## **CENSUS INFORMATION{ TC "CENSUS INFORMATION" \F C \L "1" }**

State Data Centers. These centers furnish data products and technical assistance. There is at least one center in each state; most states have more than one. To obtain information or a current list of centers, contact the Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-8300, (301) 763-4100.

U.S. Census Bureau. Data Users Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233; (303) 763-4100. The breadth and depth of Census Bureau publications cannot be easily summarized. Many of the Bureau's products provide county and city data for agriculture, construction, energy, governments, housing, manufacturers, minerals industries, population, retail trade, services industries, transportation, wholesale trade, and more. The Census bureau also publishes a variety of maps including county maps that show county subdivisions and U.S. and state maps that show county (or equivalent) subdivisions.

Census Catalog and Guide. Annual. Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233; (301) 763-4100. Data for Communities. U.S. Bureau of the Census Factfinder for the Nation series. Number 22. Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233; (301) 763-4100. Census 80: Continuing the Factfinder Tradition. U.S. Census Bureau. Chapter 13, "The Use of the Census of Population and Housing by Geographers," provides information about using census information to learn more about local areas.

## **COASTAL AREAS{ TC "COASTAL AREAS" \F C \L "1" }**

National Sea Grant College Program. Office of Oceanic Research Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1335 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301) 713-2465. The National Sea Grant program links the federal government with over 300 participating colleges, universities, and research organizations to conduct coastal, oceanic, and Great Lakes research.

National Sea Grant Depository. Pell Library Building, University of Rhode Island, Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882; (401) 792-6114. This is a clearinghouse for all Sea Grant research publications. The library staff will conduct on-line searches to find the material that you need.

Office of Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation, 2100 2nd St., SW, Room 2104, Washington, DC 20593-0001; (202) 267-0518. This office has environmental information, especially in the Pollution Response Branch and the Office of Marine Environmental Response

Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessments, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 6001 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852; (301) 443-8487.

Marine Debris: Status Report and Bibliography. Available free from the National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, Room 724, Washington, DC 20235; (202) 606-4158. This bibliography includes state documents.

## **DISSERTATIONS, THESES, OTHER UNIVERSITY RESEARCH{ TC "DISSERTATIONS, THESES, OTHER UNIVERSITY RESEARCH" \F C \L "1" }**

University libraries often have compiled a list of theses and dissertations completed on their campus; many of these deal with local issues. Departments also maintain lists of major research papers, theses, and dissertations completed by their students.

Bibliography of Dissertations in Geography on Anglo-America, 1962-1972, A. Dean R. Hodson. 1974. Monticello, IL: Council of Planning Librarians, Exchange Bibliography, no. 583-584. This bibliography arranges its entries by region.

Bibliography of Master's Theses in Geography: American and Canadian Universities. Merrill M. Stuart. 1973. Tualatin, OR: Geographic and Area Studies Publications. This bibliography has a regional index.

Comprehensive Dissertation Index. Annual. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms International. This is an index based upon disciplines and key words in titles. For instance, in the "Geography and Regional Planning" chapter one could look for Denver to find any dissertations that had Denver in the title. Physical and human geography are in different volumes.

National Faculty Directory (Three volumes). Annual. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. An alphabetical listing of teaching faculty members at junior colleges, colleges, and universities. If you know the name of a faculty member this directory, will provide that person's current affiliation and address.  
L 901 N3

## **ENERGY{ TC "ENERGY" \F C \L "1" }**

Electric Power Data. Electric Power Division, Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), 1707 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20585; (202) 254-5419.

Energy Information Administration Publications Directory: A Users Guide. National Energy Information Center, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Room E1-231, Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-8800. The National Energy Information Center is the focal point for U.S. Department of Energy publications.

Energy Information Directory. National Energy Information Center, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Room E1-231, Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-8800.

Energy Use Data. Office of Energy Markets and End Use, Energy End Use Division, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Room 2F-065, Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-1122. This agency conducts research on regional energy uses and demographic breakdowns. Call or write for more information.

Rural Electrification Administration. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Room 4051, Washington, DC 20250; (202) 720-952. This agency lends money to the 1,000 rural electric cooperatives. They can provide a list of local cooperatives. These utilities may have histories, annual reports, and planning documents that will provide local information.

Solar and Wind Energy. National Climatic Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Federal Building Asheville, NC 28801; (704) 259-0682. This is the place to obtain sun and wind data.

State Energy Offices. For a complete list see Lesko's Info-Power II 2 ed., 1994. Matthew Lesko. Detroit: Visible Ink Press.

Utilities. Electricity companies are publicly regulated and many are publicly owned. This means that a vast quantity of information is available in the form of annual reports, planning documents, and proposals to change rates.



## **ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES, AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY{ TC "ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES, AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY" \F C \L "1" }**

ACCESS EPA, 401 M Street, SW., PM-211B, Washington, DC 20460; (202) 260-5922. This publication provides information about gaining access to all Environmental Protection Agency publications, libraries, data bases, and information services.

Climates of the States. 3rd ed. 1985. Detroit: Gale Research Company. This major, two volume book provides extensive climate information for states and local areas. The information is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and includes a 3-5 page narrative of the climatic conditions for each state, maps of the weather stations and substations in each state, maps of temperature and precipitation for each state, tables of climatic data for each weather station and substation, a guide to federal information sources in weather and climate, and an overview of state climatologist programs.

Climatological Data: (your state). The title and issuing agency have varied over the years; the current one is National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Federal Building, Asheville, NC 28801; (704) 259-0682. This is the world's largest climate data center. The staff can answer some questions over the phone and will provide a list of data.

Endangered Species of North America, The Official World Wildlife Fund Guide to., 1990. John R. Matthews and Charles J. Moseley, eds. Washington, D.C.: Beacham Publishing, Inc. A multi-volume guide that provides two pages of information about each endangered plant and animal species in North America, including a location map and a bibliography.

Ref. QL 84.2. O35 1990

Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). Special Programs and Analysis Division, Office of Federal Activities, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 401 M St., SW, Room 2119, Washington, DC 20460. Also, depending upon your region, contact the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Energy Administration, Forest Service, National Park Service, or your state natural resource department or governor's office. An EIS must be prepared when any project with federal funding or interstate scope may alter the environment. The purpose is to insure that promoters of the project consider all relevant information and try to minimize environmental damage. A good EIS can be a treasure trove of local geographic sources and information, but some were done sloppily, and some were conducted to reach a predetermined conclusion. An EIS has several sections of interest to geographers:

- 1) A discussion of the environmental, cultural, and economic conditions of the site and possible changed conditions based upon alternative courses of action.
- 2) A list of federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals who testified or were consulted -- concerned folks; many are experts with access to local information.
- 3) An extensive bibliography, much of it on local geographical topics.
- 4) Specific site maps and maps of general environmental and economic conditions.

Finding the Environmental Data You Need. National Environmental Data Clearinghouse. NEDRES Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, Room 412, Washington, DC 20235 (202) 673-5548. A clearinghouse for environmental data sets.

Hydrologic Information Unit (HIU). Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, MS 419, Reston, VA 22092; (703) 648-6817. Provides general water information, answers to questions, and referrals to other offices when necessary.

Mining and Geology Schools and Agencies. State geological surveys, bureaus of mining, and schools related to mining and geology often publish maps and information guides to the geology and natural

resources of local areas. The New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology (Socorro, NM), for instance, publishes a series of nontechnical guides that include climatic, historical, and land use information along with a geological focus.

National Environmental Data Referral Service. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, Room 412, Washington, DC 20235; (202) 606-4548. Provides a database of climatic databases. Publishes the North American Climatic Data Catalog.

Nature Conservancy. 1815 North Lynn St., Arlington VA 22209; (703) 841-1283. Has a national data base of plants and animals and their distributions.

Rolling Rivers: An Encyclopedia of America's Rivers. 1984. Richard A Bartlett, ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Company. Brief (3-4 page) essays on 125 U.S. rivers. Each essay provides sources for additional information. The focus is on history.

U of MN ref. GB 1215 R 64 1984

Provides information on the Belle Fourche, Cheyenne, James, Niobrara, and Missouri rivers.

Roadside Geology of (your state). Mountain Press Publishing Company P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, Montana 59806. Each volume provides an introduction to the state and describes in words, maps, diagrams, and photographs, the geological features along selected roads. Each volume also contains a bibliography. Nearly half of the states have been covered.

Soil Survey of (your county). Provides detailed information about soils, slope, drainage, wildlife, farm ponds, and more. A typical soil survey includes a synopsis of information about the local climate, geology, historical land uses, land use changes, and economy of the county. Soil information provided includes information about the ability of each soil to be used for a variety of purposes including crops, housing, roads, septic systems, and wildlife. To obtain a copy contact your local Soil Conservation Service office. The local office may also have copies of satellite photos and detailed maps drawn for local projects.

State Agricultural Experiment Stations. These research units connected with each state land grant university often produce local and state climate profiles, hydrological analyses, and other research related to a state's natural resource base.

State departments of agriculture, energy, fish and wildlife, geology, health, mining, natural resources, parks and recreation, water. (See Places to Look section, State Government heading for information on locating these offices).

State Environmental Libraries. Most states have a state environmental library that is supported by the EPA to assist in sharing environmental information between the EPA and the states. Other states do not have an environmental library, but are willing to provide environmental information upon request. For a complete listing contact the EPA Information Access Branch, Information Management and Services Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

State Geological Offices. Most states have an agency that conducts some geological research and cooperates with the U.S. Geological Survey. These offices often sell U.S.G.S. publications and may have a state-oriented earth sciences library. For a complete list see Lesko's Info-Power II (2 ed, 1994, Matthew Lesko. Detroit: Visible Ink Press).

The Truth About Where You Live: An Atlas for Action on Toxins and Mortality. Benjamin A. Goldman, 1991. New York: Random House. A national atlas with county data, extensive text, a partially annotated bibliography, and a list of concerned organizations.

U.S. Geological Survey: Earth Science Information Center. 507 National Center, Reston, VA 22092; (800) 872-6277. This is the first stop to learn about maps, reports, air photos, satellite imagery, and other geological and earth-science information. The office can provide you with a list of regional centers. Another route to the same agency is through the Public Inquiries Office, 503 National

Center, Room 1-C-402, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 22092; (703) 648-6892. This office assists the public in finding the appropriate topographic, geologic and water resource maps and reports. The office also provides catalogs and bibliographies, conducts reference searches, and provides a contact with state and other federal offices.

U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA 22203; (703) 358-2171.

Water Data Exchange (NAWDEX). Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, MS 421, Reston, VA 22092; (703) 648-5677. A division office in each state provides the public with water information and answer water questions for that state. Types of information include surface water resources, water supply and use, ground water quality and resources. The state centers also publish a calendar of water-related activities for the state. Contact the Washington office for assistance and for a list of the state centers.

Weather Almanac, The. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. Provides information and data on weather, climate, and air quality for U.S. cities. The wide variety of weather and climate related information makes up for the limited geographic focus upon cities.

Weather Handbook, The. McKinley Conway and Linda L. Liston eds. 1990. This book provides a summary of climate and weather for selected U.S. and world cities.

## **ETHNICITY AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY { TC "ETHNICITY AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY" \f C \l "1" }**

- Atlas of the North American Indian. 1985. Carl Waldman. New York: Facts on File Publications.  
Ref. E77 W195 1985
- Atlas of Religious Change in America: 1952-1990. 1994. Peter L. Halvorson and William M. Newman.  
Atlanta: Glenmary Research Center. This beautiful atlas presents denomination information at the county level.
- Encyclopedia of American Religions 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 1993. J. Gordon Melton. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. Essays and directory listings for religious groups in the U.S.  
Ref. BL 2530 M443 1993
- The Native North American Almanac. 1994. Duane Champagne, ed. Detroit: Gale Research Inc.  
Ref. E77 N38 1994
- Peoples of the World: North Americans. 1991. Joyce Moss and George Wilson. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. This book covers "the culture, geographical setting, and historical background of 37 North American peoples." This eclectic mix ranges from information about ancient Americans (Anasazi) to religious (Quaker), and ethnic groups (Polish American).  
Ref. E49 M67 1991.
- Statistical Record of Native North Americans 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1995. Marlita A. Reedy, Ed. Detroit: Gale Research Inc. Nearly 1,000 tables of information about Native Americans. Includes a ten page source listing.  
Ref. E98 P76 S73 1995
- We the People: An Atlas of America's Ethnic Diversity. James Paul Allen and Eugene James Turner. 1988. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company. This beautiful atlas depicts the ethnic history and diversity of America. Numerous national maps show county level data for the 1980 census. Historical maps show a variety of ethnic groups at various times in the nation's history. The appendix shows the number of persons from each ethnic group for each county in 1980. The bibliography is extensive.

## **HISTORY AND HOUSING{ TC "HISTORY AND HOUSING" \f C \l "1" }**

- Church histories and other Anniversary (e.g. centennial) publications. These documents may provide an insight into patterns of ethnic settlement and migration and other facets of a community's changing face.
- Hospital and nursing home plans and histories. These documents may provide insight into the community's past or future.
- Local, city, county, and state museums and historical societies.
- The Census Bureau releases original census documents 100 years after they are collected. These may provide insight into a community's historical geography.
- Voluntary Organizations. Fraternal organizations and volunteer societies often publish histories of their activities.
- American History Source Book. Joel Makower, ed. 1988. Prentice Hall Press, New York. This geographically organized (by state) guide to 3,000 historical organizations and collections also includes an extensive bibliography.

American Housing Survey. Census Bureau. Provides county and metropolitan data from samples on housing characteristics, and neighborhood quality, financial characteristics, households that have moved and energy characteristics. This survey provides more housing information than the census, but focuses on selected urban areas.

Bibliography of American County Histories, A. P. William Filby, compiler. 1985. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. List of county histories, which may be available in local or state libraries; sometimes these are in manuscript or private printed form.  
Ref. E180 B1 1985 or Z5311 F55

Census of Housing. Census Bureau. Contains data on housing characteristics by local area, census tract, and city block.

Directory of Historical Organizations in the United States and Canada. 14th ed. Mary Bray Wheeler, ed. 1990. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History. This book is issued every three years. It includes the historical and genealogical societies in the U.S. and Canada, a guide to historical organizations by state and city, a guide to state history offices, and a thematic index that lists specialized museums and associations.

Historical Atlases. Many counties have atlases that have been issued since the mid-19th century. Contact the local library or historical society.

Historic American Buildings Survey, (your state). Cambridge, England: Chadwyck-Healey.

Historical Geography of the United States: A Bibliography, Excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Douglas R. McManis. 1965. Ypsilanti: Eastern Michigan Press. Includes state and local historical society publications. Arranged by region, state, and topic.

National Register of Historic Places: (Your state). Teaneck, NJ: Chadwyck Healey. This extensive microfiche collection compiled by the U.S. National Parks Service has photographs as well as written descriptions.

Scholar's Guide to Geographical Writing on the American and Canadian Past, A. Conzen, Michael P., Thomas A. Rumney, and Graeme Wynn, 1993. Geography Research Paper 235. University of Chicago, Chicago. This remarkable bibliography may lead you to sources that you never knew existed, many at the local level.

WPA Guide to (your state). The Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration supported the publication of forty-eight state guides that have not been surpassed for their clean writing style and devotion to detail. These 1930s publications offer an intriguing contrast to the present. Each guide includes several tours of the state that often provide significant insights and details about places along the route. Many of these guides have been reissued in paperback form in recent years.

## LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE{ TC "LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE" \F C \L "1" }

Building Inspector's records. These supplement and update the tax assessment records and may also include occupancy characteristics of buildings.

Local real estate board. Occasionally the detailed descriptions of properties put up for sale are maintained for several years. Ask for the Multiple Listing books.

Plat books. These county or township atlases provide detailed maps of land ownership. Plats are often compiled and published by private firms. See the local library or county appraiser's office for information.

Tax and assessment records. State property tax board. These include data on ownership, size and type of building, property uses, assessed value, condition, recent improvements or additions, and records of recent sales.

The Real Estate Handbook. Maury Seldin, ed. Dow Jones-Irwin, Homewood, IL. See chapter 20, "Housing Market Analysis."

State offices: Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Cooperative Extension Service, Fish and Wildlife Department, Parks and Recreation Department.

U.S. government offices: Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency.

Fire Insurance Maps. Fire insurance maps depict urban land uses at various times. See the Maps and Related Tools section for more information.

Land Use and Land Cover Maps. U.S. Geological Survey, Distribution Branch, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Building 810, Denver Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225; (800) USA-MAPS.

National Resources Inventory. A national sample of land uses in each county, with results accurate at the state level. State maps show Major Land Resource Areas in each state.

## LOOKING FOR YOURSELF { TC "LOOKING FOR YOURSELF" \F C \L "1" }

The most enjoyable way to learn about a local area is to go out and look. The list below only hints at the richness of the literature about all aspects of the visual (and sometimes not so visual) landscape.

- Close-Up: How to Read the American City. Grady Clay. 1973. New York: Praeger Publishers.
- Cultural Geography of the United States, A Revised Edition. Wilbur Zelinsky. 1992. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Discovering the Vernacular Landscape. John Brinckerhoff Jackson. 1984. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes, The. D. W. Meinig, ed. 1979. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Look of the Land, The. John Fraser Hart. 1975. Foundations of Cultural Geography Series. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
- Reading the Landscape of America, Revised and Expanded Edition. May Theilgaard Watts. 1975. New York: Collier Books. St. Croix
- U.S. 40: Cross Section of the United States. George R. Stewart, maps by Erwin Raisz. 1953. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Literally thousands of local guides, such as Border Country. Harry Swain and Cotton Mather. 1968. Prescott, WI: Trimble Press.

## MAPS AND RELATED TOOLS{ TC "MAPS AND RELATED TOOLS" \F C \L "1" }

There are many fine guides to map sources. This abbreviated listing will help you get started.

Possible local map sources including the following:

County clerk, county engineer, state highway commission, state league of municipalities, state board of water resources, state division of recreation and parks, state conservation services, state department of economic development (planning division) regional planning commission, cooperative extension service, state library and libraries of the state universities, state conservation commission, local abstract offices, and private engineering firms.

An Index to Topographic and Other Map Coverage (your state) and Catalog of Topographic and Other Published Maps (your state). Earth Science Information Center, United States Geological Survey (USGS), 507 National Center, Reston, VA 22092; (703) 648-6045. These free publications provide a current listing of USGS topographic maps.

Atlas and Gazetteer (Your State). DeLorme Mapping Company, Freeport Maine. The core of these atlases is topographic map coverage of the state (scale varies from state to state). Currently twenty-six states have been covered.

City, County and State Highway maps. Contact your city street department, county highway department, and state highway department. These maps often provide a wealth of cultural and physical information in addition to the road network.

EROS Data Center. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, SD 57198; (605) 594-6151. The EROS Data Center is the national repository of LANDSAT satellite imagery, air photos, and space shuttle photographs.

Fire Insurance Maps. Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Held by Institutions in the United States and Canada. Volume 1 (Alabama to Missouri). Philip Hoehn. 1976. Volume 2 (Montana to Wyoming; Canada and Mexico). William S. Peterson-Hunt and Evelyn L. Woodruff. 1977. Occasional Paper Nos. 2 and 3, Western Association of Map Libraries. Santa Cruz, CA. Historical maps of land use originally intended for fire insurance underwriting purposes. Contact a local municipal or university library to check availability. Chadwyck-Healey Inc., 623 Martense Avenue, Teaneck, MN 0766 carries microfilm versions of these maps.

Guide to U.S. Map Resources. David A. Cobb, 1990. American Library Association. Provides information about all significant map collections in the U.S. and lists Earth Science National Information Centers, state map centers, and state mapping advisory committees.

Language of Maps. National Council for Geographic Education, 1991. This supplementary manual for introductory geography and map-reading courses shows that there is more to learn about a local area from available maps than most of us thought possible.

Map Catalog: Every Kind of Map and Chart on Earth and Even Some Above It. Joel Makower, Ed. New York: Random House. This book gets bigger and better with each edition.

Map Use: Reading, Analysis, and Interpretation. Phillip C. Muehrcke. Various editions. Madison, WI: JP Publications. An informative text on how to learn more from maps.

National Cartographic Information Center. State affiliates provide assistance in finding local topographic maps, aerial photographs, and satellite information. Contact Earth Science Information Center, United States Geological Survey (USGS), 507 National Center, Reston, VA 22092; (703) 648-6045 for a list of centers.

Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America. 1991. Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics, Inc. This comprehensive eleven volume set contains information about nearly 1,500,000 places. It provides the name, location, and identification of populated places, natural features, structures, facilities, and



locales. The book includes information from the United States Geological Survey, Geographic Names Information System as well as additional sources.

Ref. E 154 O45

**Sports and Recreation Atlases.** These often provide detailed local information. Typical information includes public land ownership, trails, roads, and watercourses.

**The Eastern Ozarks: A Geographic Interpretation of the Rolla 1:250,000 Topographic Map.** Walter A. Schroeder. 1967. Special Publication Number 13, National Council for Geographic Education. Demonstrates how to get the most from a map.

**U.S. Census.** Data Users Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233; (303) 763-4100. The Census bureau publishes a variety of maps and guides to map information.

**United States Geological Survey Maps.** Distribution Branch, U.S.G.S., Building 810, Denver Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225; (800) USA-MAPS. This is the primary source for all U.S.G.S. maps, including topographic maps.

**The World Map Directory.** 1989 (or most recent). Aaron Maizlish and William S. Hunt. Santa Barbara: MapLink. This is a directory of in-print maps from around the world that are available in the United States.

Ref. GA 300 W67 1989.

**PLACE NAMES AND RATING GUIDES.**{ TC "PLACE NAMES AND RATING GUIDES." \F C \L "1" }

The American Counties 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1972. Joseph Nathan Kane. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, Inc. Provides the origins of county names, dates of creation and organization, area, population, historical data, and published sources.

Ref. E 180 K3 19972

American Place-Names: A Concise and Selective Dictionary for the Continental United States of America. George R. Stewart. New York: Oxford University Press, 1970. Information about the origin and historical significance of 12,000 place-names.

American Places Dictionary: A Guide to 45,000 Populated Places, Natural Features, and Other Places in the United States (Four Volumes). 1994. Detroit: Omnigraphics, Inc. Brief summaries that include latitude and longitude, population, population density, population, and area in land and water for populated places including unincorporated towns and townships. Appendices include entries for American Indian Reservations, military bases, and major geographical features. Also includes a miscellany section and a selected bibliography.

Bibliography of Place Name Literature, United States and Canada. Richard B. Sealock, Margaret M. Sealock, and Margaret S. Powell. Chicago, IL: American Library Association. 1982 3rd ed. The definitive bibliography about place names.

Z 6824 S4

Names & Nicknames of Places & Things. 1987. Laurence Urdang, ed. Boston, MA: G.K. Hall & Co. Ref. G 105 N36 1987

The National Gazetteer of the United States of America. Denver: U.S. Geological Survey. A state-by-state dictionary of place and feature names.

The United States Dictionary of Places. 1988. New York: Somerset Publishers, Inc. A "national place name directory" of incorporated places. Lists name, location, population, Zip code, elevation, latitude, longitude, and sometimes origin of the name.

Writing place rating guides has turned into a cottage industry with the advent of computer data bases. Some of these guides can be useful. All must be used with care, however, because the criteria used by the author may not be the ones that are important for a particular reader.

50 Fabulous Places to Raise Your Family. Lee Rosenberg and Saralee Rosenberg. 1993. Hawthorne, NJ: Career Press, 320 p. This guide has area profiles and discusses schools, jobs, and financial characteristics of fifty places.

50 Fabulous Places to Retire in America. Lee Rosenberg and Saralee Rosenberg. 1991. Hawthorne, NJ: Career Press. This guide covers recreation, real estate, cost of living, taxes, health care, services, safety, jobs, attractions, and transportation.

America's Top-Rated Cities: a Statistical Handbook 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (five volumes). 1993. Rhoda Garoogian ed. Boca Raton, FL: Universal Reference Publications. This book provides economic, demographic, and other information about 71 cities. Much of this information is not available in other guide books including: recent magazine articles that discussed the city, municipal finances, major businesses headquartered in the city, hotel and motel rooms, and the cost of living by category.

Ref. HT 123 A43

Cities of Opportunity: Finding the Best Place to Work, Live and Prosper in the 1990's and Beyond. John Tepper Marlin. 1988. National Civic League, New York: MasterMedia Limited. Focuses on job creation; quality of life; changing careers; best cities for women, minorities, and retirees; regional opportunities, and 42 "cities of opportunity."

- The Livable Cities Almanac. John Tepper Marlin. 1992. New York: HarperCollins Publishers. Compares about 100 cities on economic conditions, health, air quality, water quality, crime, life expectancy, health services, and recreational opportunities. The extensive references guide the reader to local information about a variety of issues including: ground level ozone, toxic waste, cancer mortality, and accident rates.
- Places Rated Almanac: Your Guide to Finding the Best Places to Live in America. Richard Boyer and David Savageau. New York: Prentice Hall. This is the oldest, most well-known, and perhaps most useful. The authors describe their methodology, have abundant maps and graphs, and best of all provide sources for their information.
- Profiles of America: An Informational, Statistical, and Relocation Encyclopedia of all U.S. Cities, Towns, and Counties. 1995. Milpitas, CA: Toucan Valley Publications. This sixteen volume set provides information about nearly 35,000 counties and county-equivalents, incorporated municipalities, census designated places, and minor civil divisions.  
Ref HT 123.5 M53 P76 1995
- Rating Guide to Life in America's Fifty States. 1994. Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books. A ranking of the states on dozens of the states on dozens of criteria with reasons and methodology of each ranking carefully explained.  
Ref. J83 B1
- The Rating Guide to Life in America's Small Cities. Thomas G. Scott. 1990. Buffalo: Prometheus Books. This guide covers climate, the environment, economics, education, health care, housing, public safety, transportation, and proximity to urban areas.
- Rating Places: A Geographer's View on Quality of Life. Susan L. Cutter. 1985. Resource Publications in Geography. Washington, DC: Association of American Geographers. Thoughtful critique of the pitfalls of rating places and discussion of the assumptions and trade-offs of any rating scheme.
- Retirement Places Rated. David Savageau. 1990. New York: Prentice Hall. This book covers money matters, housing, climate, personal safety, services, working and leisure.  
Ref HQ 1063 B69

## **POPULATION, HEALTH, AND GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION { TC "POPULATION, HEALTH, AND GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION" \F C \L "1" }**

State Data Centers. Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233-8300; (301) 763-4100. These centers furnish data and technical assistance. Each state has at least one center; most states have several. Chambers of Commerce and local Planning Offices also try to keep abreast of local population changes.

U.S. Census. Data Users Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233; (303) 763-4100. The Census Catalog and Guide describes all census publications and products. This is the place to start. Ask for a list of their Factfinder for the Nation series. Number 22, for instance, is Data for Communities. The Census Bureau also publishes a variety of maps.

Churches. The national offices of most churches have planning staffs that may be able to provide local socioeconomic information.

County health office. The county health office gathers information on births, deaths, and illnesses and forwards that data to the state health office.

Councils of Government (COGS) are regional, contiguous, multi-county organizations that produce regional plans and cooperate in providing some services.

Utilities. The number of customers connected to a utility (e.g. water or electricity) can often be used as a surrogate for population size and growth. Some groups or industries use more water per capita or per dollar value added than others.

Specialized proprietary firms. Today many firms specialize in obtaining, organizing, mapping, and selling demographic information. This information is usually expensive. For a snapshot of some of the firms, see *Business Information: How to Find It, How to Use It*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Michael R. Lavin. 1992. Phoenix: Oryx Press.  
Ref. Hf 5356 L36

Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada. American Association for State and Local History. This book is issued every three years. It lists the genealogical and historical societies in the U.S. and Canada.

American Demographics. This magazine generally focuses upon marketing geography and demography. Some of its articles are regionally oriented and some articles provide national maps with county level data mapped.

Vital Statistics of the United States. U.S. Public Health Service. The best summary of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. The data come from county health offices via state departments. Some counties provide information directly to the public.

County and City Data Book. Census Bureau. This publication provides information by county and places of more than 2,500.

Sourcebook of Zip Code Demographics. Arlington, VA: CACI Marketing Systems, annual.

Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide. Annual. Chicago: Rand McNally and Company. This standard reference provides several national maps with county level data, large scale state maps, and extensive economic and population information.

Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources revised edition. 1992. Alice Eichholz ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry. This book was designed to assist genealogists, but many of the historical sources will be useful for anyone interested in local historical geography. Many state sections include discussions of Black American, Native American, and ethnic group research.

Sales and Marketing Management. The Jul/Aug and Oct/Nov issues of this respected magazine have estimates of population, retail trends, and local "buying power."

U.S. Metro Data Sheet. Annual. . Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau. "The country's 268 largest metropolitan areas are included in this population data sheet. Indicators include population for 1980, 1990, (more recent estimates) as well as annual population change, percent black, percent Hispanic, unemployment rate, and population density.

U.S. Population Data Sheet. Annual. Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau. "This state-by-state demographic portrait of the United States provided on total population, population growth, projections to 2020, population density, new AIDS cases, serious crime rates, net international and internal migration, percent minority, percent living in poverty, and other demographic indicators."

**STATE INFORMATION{ TC "STATE INFORMATION" \F C \L "1" }**

Bibliography of State Bibliographies, 1970-1982, A. David R. Parish. Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc.  
Ref J83 B1

Gale State Rankings Reporter. 1994. Gary Alampi, ed. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. Provides a ranking of the states on about 3,000 topics including the following: general categories: demographics, education, government expenditures, taxes, arts, and leisure. There is a key word index, location index, and listing of sources.

The Sourcebook of State Public Records. 1995. Tempe, AZ: BRB Publications, Inc. Provides an introduction to the wealth of information that can be obtained from state public records followed by a profile of each state that depicts the state offices that maintain records, how those records may be obtained, as well as address and phone numbers.  
Ref. JK 468 P76 S73 1995

State Names, Seals, Flags, and Symbols: A Historical Guide. 1994. Benjamin F. Shearer and Barbara S. Shearer. Westport, CT.  
Ref. E155 S44 1994

State Rankings 1995: A Statistical View of the 50 United States. 1995. Kathleen O'Leary Morgan, Scott Morgan, and Neal Quitno, eds. Lawrence, KS: Morgan Quitno Press. Over five hundred tables that compare states in several areas including the following: agriculture, crime, defense, economy, education, energy, environment, geography, government, finance, health, housing, population, social welfare, and transportation.

The World Almanac of the U.S.A.. 1993 (or most recent). Allan Carpenter and Carl Provorse eds. Mahwah, NJ: Funk & Wagnalls Corporation. Seven page textual and statistical summaries of each state.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the States. 1995. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. About eight pages of basic information with a short bibliography for each state.  
Ref. E 156 W67 1995

## **TOURISM, TRADE, AND TRANSPORTATION{ TC "TOURISM, TRADE, AND TRANSPORTATION" \F C \L "1" }**

- Booster Publications. These range from historic publications (often issued by the railroad) exhorting settlers to choose one community over all others, to recent publications by the Chamber of Commerce. Ask at a local planning office, or stop in the visitor's centers on Interstate Highways going into your state.
- Census of Transportation. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20223; (301) 763-7039.
- Convention and Conference centers. Many localities have an office that produces materials to lure conventions and serve them once they arrive.
- Highway Statistics. Office of Highway Information Management HPM-1, Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 400 7th St., SW, Room 3306, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-0180. Provides information about regional and national travel trends, road taxes, levels of highway funding at all political levels, and a variety of other transportation data.
- Local tourism board (often affiliated with the local chamber of commerce).
- Motel/Hotel Guides. These guides mark the economic growth of a community. The locations of hotels and motels are chosen carefully to maximize the number of the type of customer that the particular chain wants to attract. Seasonal rate adjustments reflect the perception of increased demand at certain times of the year. These peak rate times often correspond to times of peak community economic activity, especially in tourist areas.
- Real estate advertising brochures and Apartment guides provide pictures and prices of typical housing in an area. These guides can be used to get a snapshot of an area, to compare one area with another, or to compare one area at different times.
- Spill Maps. Public Inquiries Section, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), 490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Washington, DC 20594; (202) 382-6738. Provides maps of selected transportation accidents that resulted in hazardous spills.
- State Department of Transportation. Traffic Counts. State highway departments, county highway departments, and city street departments often collect traffic counts.
- State hotel association, restaurant association, tourism agency, vending and music association, and other public and private agencies to promote tourism; most of these produce publications to give to tourists.
- World Chamber of Commerce Directory. World Chamber of Commerce Directory. Annual. Lists local tourist boards by state and town.

**OTHER SOURCES{ TC "OTHER SOURCES" \F C \L "1" }**

Universities and Colleges. Start with a reference librarian who has worked on the campus. The institution's directory lists research centers, special laboratories or libraries, and museums or business institutes that may have outreach programs, publications, or staff experts. Faculty are experts who can guide you to sources of local information.

Computer Indexes. Some databases are beginning to provide retrieval based upon locale.

Consulting Firms. These are usually costly, and their information is often available from other sources, but they may have expertise that is not available from other sources.

Local library. Individual librarians often become experts in local affairs or know of local experts. Ask about "vertical" files of newspaper and magazine clippings, newsletters of local organizations, special issues of the newspaper, and a variety of other items.

Research Centers. The Research Centers Directory, Detroit: Gale Research, annual, lists over 8,000 nonprofit research organizations.



## **FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER NATIONS** { TC "FINDING INFORMATION ON OTHER NATIONS" \F C \L "1" }

- An Atlas of International Migration. 1993. Aaron Segal. East Grinstead, UK: Bowker-Saur.  
Ref. X G1046 E27 S4 1993
- Cities of the World. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company. The heart of this four-volume set is U.S. State Department information that Gale Research has supplement with information from a variety of sources.
- Demographic Yearbook. Current Year. New York: United Nations. The most recent population information about the world's nations.  
Ref. HA17 D4 V45
- Encyclopedia of Geographic Information Sources: International Volume. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (or most recent). 1988. Jennifer Mossman, ed. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company. This is a bibliographic guide to approximately 13,000 publications. The focus is upon English language publications. Coverage includes the following: economic, and demographic statistics, planning documents, trade directories, local newspapers, periodicals, guidebooks, and publications that provide information for travelers.  
Ref. HF 5341 E53 1988
- Peoples of the World: (various regional volumes). Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. These volumes cover "the culture, geographical setting, and historical background of (various) peoples." This eclectic mix ranges from information about ancient civilizations to religious and ethnic groups.  
Ref. E49 M67 1991.
- Population Reference Bureau. This Washington, D.C. based organization publishes a variety of bulletins, reports, and data sheets that discuss population and its relationship to other parts of society. The focus is on education, so many of their publication are designed for classroom use, some for primary grades. Their monthly Population Today provides useful one-page summaries of individual countries.
- The Statesman's Year-Book World Gazetteer. 1979. John Paxton. New York: St. Martin's Press. This gazetteer provides information on the location, recent history, population, and economic geography of the listed places.  
Ref. G103.5 P38
- Statistical Yearbook. Current Year. New York: The United Nations. Population and economic information about the world's nations.  
HA 12.5 U55S v40
- World Development Report. Annual. World Bank. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- World Encyclopedia of Cities. 1994. George Thomas Kurian. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, Inc.  
Ref. HT 108.5 K87
- World Facts and Figures 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1989 (or most recent). New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. This book of tables provides statistics on a wide variety of human and physical items.  
Ref. G109 S52 1989.
- World Population Data Sheet. Annual. Washington, D.C. Population Reference Bureau, Inc. Contains the latest population estimates for the world's nations. The information includes births, deaths, natural increase, infant mortality, total fertility, life expectancy, urban population , and more.
- World Regional Geography. Jesse H. Wheeler, Jr. and J. Trenton Kostbade. 1990. Philadelphia: Saunders College Publishing. This outstanding college text contains a massive bibliography by topic and region.

World Tables. Current Year. The World Bank. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. This book focuses upon economic indicators. There are about twenty tables that compare all nations followed by nation profiles.  
Ref. HC 59 I5

**ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY { TC "ENVIRONMENT,  
RESOURCES, AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY " \F C \L "1" }**

Atlas of Economic Mineral Deposits. 1979. C.J. Dixon. Chapman & Hall.

Atlas of the Environment. 1990. Geoffrey Lean, Don Hinrichsen, and Adam Markham. New York: Prentice Hall Press.

Conservation Directory (current year). Washington, D.C. National Wildlife Federation. This is a list of organizations, agencies, and officials that are concerned with the environment. The listing is updated annually and includes the following: international, national, regional, and state organizations, U.S. and state legislative and executive branch offices, and citizens groups. The information includes the names of persons to contact, address, phone and fax number, and often a short summary of the organization's mission.

Environmental Almanac. 1992 (or most recent). World Resources Institute. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 606 pp. Provides state, national, and global statistics and ratings of "green" U.S. cities.

State of the World (current year). Lester R. Brown, et. al. New York: The Worldwatch Institute and W.W. Norton & Company. This annual publication consists of about ten chapters, each one focusing upon a different issue of global environmental health. The focus of the chapters varies each year. A large current bibliography accompanies this book.

The State of the World Atlas. 1990. Joni Seager ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Vital Signs (current year): The Trends That are Shaping Our Future. Current year. Lester R. Brown, et. al. New York: The Worldwatch Institute and W.W. Norton & Company. This slender volume is composed of a series of one page essays accompanied by one page of data and charts that evaluate environmental trends for the entire world rather than for nations or regions.

Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources. 1993 Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security and Stockholm Environment Institute. New York: Oxford University Press. 473 pp. This book consists of nine essays about water followed by 182 tables that cover virtually all water topics.

World Environment Data Sheet. 1991 (or most recent). Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau. "This handy resource provides information about the populations and the environmental conditions of approximately 100 countries in all of the world's regions."

World Resources (date). New York: World Resources Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme. This biannual publication is divided into four major sections. Section one is a series of articles that focus upon a theme (e.g. people and the environment), Section two is a series of two or three essays that focus upon some portion of the world (e.g. South Asia). Section three provides substantial updates to about a dozen of the world's major environmental problems. Section four is a series of dozens of data tables with information provided for most of the world's nations. The information provided in these tables may be the most accurate, and current, environmental information available for national comparisons. The entire publication is filled with useful maps, charts, and graphs. The bibliographic entries are numerous.