
UNIT 10 GEOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

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10.0 OBJECTIVES

In the previous Block we discussed dictionaries, encyclopaedias, ready reference sources, viz., handbooks, manuals, directories, etc., and also patents and standards. In this Block we will be discussing other category of information sources for geographical information, biographical information, statistical information and sources for current affairs/events.

In this Unit we are discussing about geographical information sources.

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- identify various types of geographical information sources;
- enumerate important atlases, gazetteers, and travel elides published from different countries;
- evaluate different types of geographical information sources, in relation to their usefulness; and
- describe some of the important selection tools for geographical information sources.

10.1 INTRODUCTION

You have so far studied various general reference tools like dictionaries, encyclopaedias, guides, etc. In this Unit we shall deal with a specialised group of reference tools dealing with the specific field-geography. As you know, geography deals with the surface of the earth including the division of the world into continents and countries. The climate, plants, animals, natural resources, people and industries form part of the geographical studies. In recent times, it has become one of the important disciplines under social sciences. The natural result of all these is a demand for information sources in geography.



Geographical reference tools have become an important segment of basic reference collection for most libraries. The reference libraries are obliged to answer a number of questions seeking information about cities, towns, mountains, lakes, rivers, forests, etc., in connection with their description, location and other details. There are a variety of information sources that help in answering such questions. The study of all such sources becomes vital for reference work. You will be introduced to all important geographical information sources during the study of this Unit.

10.2 TYPES OF GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SOURCES

We can divide geographical information sources into two categories:

- i) General Reference Sources (covering geographical information), and
- ii) Geographical Reference Sources (specific sources).

10.2.1 General Reference Sources

The dictionaries, encyclopaedias, yearbooks, almanacs, etc., and sources which we have studied in previous Block of this course can be categorised as general reference sources. All these reference books in their own right serve as information sources for geography. But, they also contain a lot of other information relating to other areas.

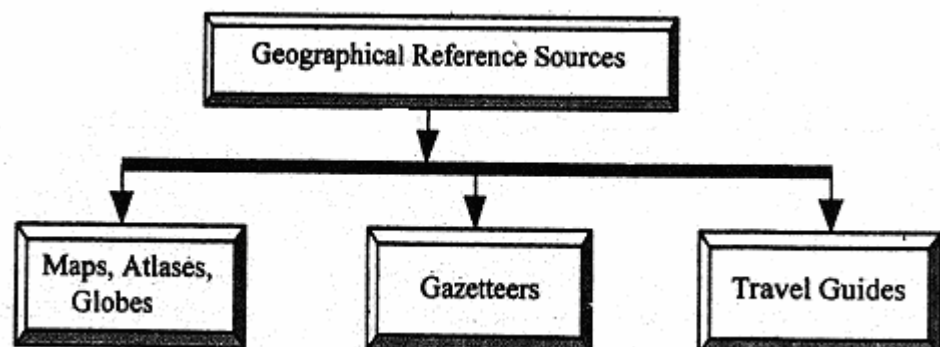
Take the case of encyclopaedias. They contain useful information regarding countries, states, cities, etc. Maps of different countries also find place in them. Similarly, yearbooks and almanacs, dictionaries, statistical sources, etc., provide descriptive and statistical information on different countries and can be easily classified as geographical information sources. Biographical information sources contain useful biographies of geographers and cartographers. But, the scope of all these sources goes beyond geographical information. Therefore, they are called general reference books containing useful geographical data.

We have studied general reference sources in Units 6, 7 and 8. In this Unit we shall study in detail the specialised geographical reference tools.

10.2.2 Geographical Reference Sources

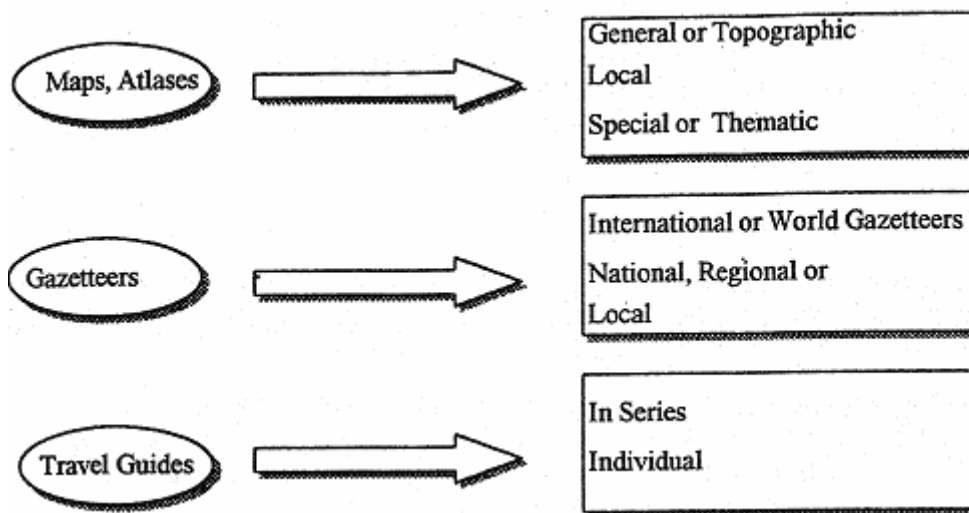
We can sub-divide the specialised geographical information sources that are used in reference work into three categories, viz., maps, atlases and globes, gazetteers and travel guides. The obvious advantages of these specialised geographical reference tools are:

- i) they give information for smaller units not found in general reference books;
- ii) the information given often is more precise; and
- iii) they are generally limited to one area, and easier to use.





These sources again could be sub-divided as under



In discussing geographical reference sources as distinct from general reference sources containing geographical information, we generally restrict its scope to include only maps and atlases, gazetteers and travel guides and the exclusion of encyclopaedias, dictionaries and handbooks in the field of geography. The underlying assumption in this approach is that these are covered under the discussion of encyclopaedias, dictionaries and handbooks as a category of reference sources. It would be rewarding, however, if it is possible that these were not covered *in* examples under the above categories.

Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries and Handbooks

A Glossary of Geographical Terms/ ed. by Dudley Stamp and Audrey N. Clark. 3rd ed. Lon-don: Longman. 1979.

Prepared under the auspices of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, "it provides comparative definitions of geographical terms from various reference sources and text" In many cases definitions are supported by quotations from original and standard sources.

A Dictionary of Human Geography/ W. by R.J. Jhonston. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 1986.

These are signed articles on English language terms by about 18 scholars. Some definitions run into four to five pages with extensive bibliographic references. In many cases, articles have illustration with diagrams.

Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Physical Geography ed. by Andrew Caudle [et all. 2nd ed. Ox-ford: Blackwell, 1994.

Being a companion volume to the *Dictionary of Human Geography*, it has been designed for professional geographers and for earth, environmental and life scientists. More than 200() entries are included, some of them as long essays with references and suggestions for further reading are included.

Modern Geography: and Encyclopaedic Survey/ ed. by Gary S. Dunbar, New York: Garland,1990.

This contains approximately 400 signed entries for "personalities, institutions, major concepts, sub-fields and the *evolution* of the discipline of geography from 1890 to the present.

Rand McNally Encyclopaedia of World Rivers/ ed. by J. Gordon Brewer. Chicago: Rand Mc-Nally, 1980.

Rivers known for their length, natural beauty and geographic importance are included in this. Arrangement is by country and within country alphabetically by the name of rivers. Inset maps are for principal rivers which have been treated in depth.



10.3 MAPS, ATLASES, GLOBES

Maps, atlases and globes are the main sources of geographical information. A map is a representation of certain boundaries of the earth on a flat surface showing countries, bodies of water, cities, etc. An atlas is a collection of maps, tables, charts, etc., whereas a globe is a spherical representation of the earth.

10.3.1 Definition and Scope

Maps: According to ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science (1983), "a map is a representation normally drawn to a scale and on a flat medium of a selection of material or abstract features on, or in relation to, the surface of the earth or another celestial body." -

The definition given by R.A. Skelton, formerly Superintendent of the Map Room of the British Museum is as under; "A map is a graphic document in which location, extent and direction can be more precisely defined than by the written word; and its construction is a mathematical process strictly controlled by measurement and calculation."

The Library of Congress defines maps in a broad way as "All forms of cartographic materials normally added to the collections of the library including flat maps and charts, collection of maps in atlas form, terrain models, globes, etc."

Atlas: More than four hundred years have passed since Mercator first coined the term 'Atlas' to describe a collection of maps bound up in a volume. The term became popular with the sixteenth century geographers. Since then, there has been rapid progress in this direction. At the turn of the nineteenth century the scope of atlas production was widened considerably. At present, it has become possible for the publisher to produce almost a dozen different general atlases for different sectors of the market by varying the combinations of content and style.

According to ALA Glossary, an atlas is, "a volume of maps, plates, engravings, tables etc., with or without descriptive letter press. It may be an independent publication or it may have been issued to accompany one or more volumes of text."

Globe: The difference between a map and a globe is one of form. A map is any geographic image of the earth drawn to scale on a flat surface whereas a globe is a spherical representation of the earth's surface. It is a hollow ball of metal, bearing a world map on its surface and is mounted on an axle which permits its rotation. The term 'globe' is synonymously used for the 'World' or the earth. It is called in cartography as a scale model of the earth. The first model of the globe was made in Nuxemberg in Germany in 1492.

10.3.2 Uses

Maps and atlases are used by common men as well as specialists both for work and pleasure. Varied uses of maps and atlases depend on their types. We shall first describe various types of maps, and then explain their uses.

- i) **A physical map** is usually referred to for visual location and identification of the world, country, region, city or town mountain, river, lake, sea, ocean, gulf, bay, desert or any other geographical formation.
- ii) **Topographic maps** trace details of geological, soil, forest and other basic information and for historical, economic, political or other types of development. They are used to show land use, land ownership, various methods of communications, transportation, etc.
- iii) **A route map** shows roads, rail roads, bridges, etc.
- iv) **A political map** normally limits itself to political boundaries of different countries, states, cities, towns, etc.
- v) **The historical maps** chart the flow of a given battle or event and its progress. It indicates adjustments of boundaries after wars and due to negotiated settlement directly between two countries (China and UK) or under the auspices of international organisations (UN trust territories).



- vi) **The economic and commercial atlases** record general information on business facts, agricultural facts, communication, transportation, retail trade, exports and imports, etc.

Topographic and the thematic maps are used by professional people. Central and local government staff need them for a variety of administrative purposes, viz., town and country planning. Commercial and industrial firms require them for transport, prospecting and setting up of factories, depots and offices. Students and research workers refer to maps to get information related to geography, history, geology, demography, land use, archaeology and topography. They also devise their own maps for their theses and reports.

The class lecture can be supplemented by the use of maps and globes. Particularly in schools, visual demonstration of maps, atlases and globes to teach geography and history will be very effective. In libraries, they help in answering various geographical queries, advising patrons in making their travel plans and young users in enriching their general knowledge. Thus, maps and atlases which contain a wide variety of information are useful to all kinds of people in the society.

10.3.3 Evaluation

You should be aware of the criteria that are applied for evaluation of reference tools, viz., authority; scope, arrangement, currency, special features, etc. Besides cartographic techniques like scale and size, projection, location key, grid system, and topography, the use of colours, etc., is also taken into account while evaluating maps and atlases. We shall now discuss all these points in detail.

- a) **Authority:** The reliability of maps and atlases depends on the expertise of the editorial staff and cartographers, their qualifications and experience. The reputation of the publisher is equally important in as much as the competence of such publications depend on long experience in this line. The process involves heavy expenditure as compared to other reference tools. It is for this reason that most countries of the world have their own cartographic survey agencies. We have in our country the Survey of India, National Remote Sensing Agency and National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization, Calcutta.
- In the USA and the UK maps and atlases are mostly prepared by commercial publishers, one could count a few publishers of repute, i.e., Rand McNally & Co., C.S.Hammond & Co., and National Geographic Society in the USA and G. Barthelmew, and the Oxford University Press in the UK.
- b) **Scope:** The introduction describes the scope of the specific work, the area covered, viz., world, continent, nation, state, city, etc. The types of maps include, topographical or thematic such as political, physical, geological, commercial, historical, linguistic, etc. The information provided regarding latitudes, longitudes, area, population figures, commercial, ethnographic, astronomical data, transportation, etc., indicate the scope of work. The reference librarian should check whether the text includes all that has been professed in the introduction.
- c) **Arrangement:** The arrangement of maps in a helpful sequence, country-wise or theme-wise is necessary. In addition to this a comprehensive index is very important. This index should clearly list the names of all the places in a map alphabetically, and provide reference to exact map, page, latitude and longitude. The index in all atlases should serve as a gazetteer. Information about pronunciation, transliteration and cross references for varied spellings used are useful adjuncts of the index,
- d) **Currency:** Owing to political and at times topographical changes, names on the face of the earth keep changing. To keep track of these changes it is necessary that maps and atlases are revised as often as possible. You, as reference librarian, should check copyright, fin-print dates and compare the work with earlier editions and see that it is up to date.
- e) **Special Features:** Good atlases contain bibliographies, charts, illustrations, tables and statistical information. These special features help in the selection and evaluation of maps and atlases.

The following are tire special criteria that help in evaluating maps and atlases.

- f) **Scale:** When dealing with map queries, it becomes necessary for the reference librarian to understand the significance of scale. Maps often are classed according to scale. Scale



refers to the size of representation of the area. For example 1 inch on map can be equal to 2 200 miles on the earth's surface. The larger the scale, the smaller is the size of a map. But you will notice that in quite a few atlases the scales vary from map to map, making comparison difficult. The scale is usually indicated at the bottom of the map.

- g) **Projections:** The method of portraying the spherical surface of the earth on a flat surface is used to avoid distortion in shape. Different map projections have been developed to minimise distortions. It is necessary that maps/atlas indicate these projections.
- h) **Location Key/Grid System:** Latitude and longitude are essential to locate a particular place on the map. They are, represented by degrees, minutes and seconds. The advantage of this system helps in maintaining accuracy. Most maps are divided into grids or key reference squares. The grid system helps in the evaluation of maps.
- i) **Type Face:** Type faces that are used for lettering of maps are important for evaluation. Usually large places are indicated by large type and small ones by smaller type.
- j) **Topography:** Topographical representation is the method of indicating differences of elevation and natural features such as rivers, mountains, plains etc. Elevation is indicated by contour lines drawn to connect the points on a land surface which have an equal elevation. It can also be indicated by using different shades of the colour layers showing heights above or the depths below the sea level. This can also be shown by hachures, i.e., short lines used to indicate the direction and steepness of slopes.
- k) **Use of Colours:** Use of different colours for distinguishing land and sea, different continents, countries and states, etc., is another aspect that helps in evaluation of maps and atlases.
- l) **Binding:** A sturdy binding is necessary for atlases. You should see that the entire map is visible when the pages of an atlas are opened flat. This type of fault in binding is often noticed in the atlases and you should thoroughly check before buying.

10.3.4 Types and Examples

Maps and atlases may be grouped under

- A. General and Topographical, and
- B. Special or Thematic

A) General and Topographical Maps and Atlases

General and topographical maps and atlases are further divided into three classes according to their area of coverage:

- i) International
- ii) National
- iii) Local

International Maps and Atlases

- a) *The Times Atlas of the World*. 8th comprehensive edition. London: Times Newspapers, 1990.

The revised edition of the single volume edition which was first published in 1967. The new edition has 47 pages of prefatory information; graphic size comparison of continents, oceans, river drainage basins, islands and inland water bodies; and eight pages of world thematic mapping. The scale used is 1:850,000 for Great Britain and 1:2500,000 for the rest of the world. The name index forming part 3 has about 210,000 entries.

The comprehensive edition replaces the 5 volume edition published in 1955-59. These five volumes cover, the following regions of the world:

- V.1. World, Australia and East Asia
- V.2. South-West Asia and Russia



- V.3. Northern Europe
- V.4. Southern Europe and Africa
- V.5. The Americas

- b) *National Geographic Atlas of the World*. 6th ed. Washington: National Geographic Society, 1990.

This Atlas shows the present countries of the world after the major changes consequent to the break up of the USSR and changes in Eastern Europe. Using the newly adopted Robinson Projection, it contains a four-fold world map and a number of space craft images of the earth and the planets. The number of entries in the index have increased from 125,000 to 150,000.

- c) *The New International Atlas*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1991.

Revised version of the 1980 edition, maps are designed as components of five series:

- i) Continents portrayed at 1 : 24,00,000 (also includes Oceans)
- ii) Major world regions at 1:12000,000 (Political division)
- iii) Entire inhabited area of the earth at 1: 6000,000 to 1 ; 3000,000
- iv) Key regions in each continent at 1:1000,000
- v) World's major urban areas at 1:300,000

It also gives a glossary of geographical terms; world information tables (area, population, political units), and a comprehensive list of the world's major cities. Index contains more than 160,000 entries.

Some of other international atlases are:

- d) *Prentice-Hall 's Great International Atlases*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J: Prentice-Hall, 1981.

- e) *Peter 's Atlas of the World*/by Arno Peter. New York: Harper Row, 1990.

National Maps and Atlases

Having discussed international maps and atlases, we shall now describe national maps and atlases. Almost every country has a national cartographic agency. It produces maps which usually conform to a national specification. The official mapping organisations in India are the "Survey of India" and "National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation" and "Geological Survey of India". They carry out surveying, data-collection, map making and publishing of national maps and atlases. Some private and commercial sectors also publish maps but all of them cannot be authentic. National, regional and local atlases deal with specific nation, area of the world or state-district, city, etc. They usually have base maps upon which topographical or thematic information is published. They are produced to give an overview of the national environment. They cover different features, viz., physical, industrial, socio-economic, historical, economical demographic, etc. They require careful planning and years of effort to compile accurate and reliable maps.

The following international agencies are encouraging creation of national, regional and local atlases in individual countries by specifying unification and standardisation of the contents of the main maps. They offer assistance to organisations engaged in map making.

- i) United Nations Commission on National Atlases.
- ii) International Geographical Union. Commission on National Atlases. Examples of some national atlases are:
 - a) *The National Atlas of United States of America*. Washington: U.S., Geological Survey, 1970.

It contains 765 maps, index of 41,000 entries and sources of information referred and used for the a special subject maps. It is designed to be of practical use to decision makers in Government and business, planners, research scholars, etc



- b) *National Atlas of China*/ ed. by Chi-yun Cha. Taiwan: National War College, 1960-67.3V.

Vol.2 and 3 are published under the title '*Atlas of the Republic of China.* "

V.1 - Taiwan (2nd ed. 1967)

V.2 - Haisang (Tibet), Sinkiang and Mongolia (1 ed. 1960)

V.3 - North China (1st ed. 1961).

Place names appear both in Chinese and romanised script and further volumes are in progress for South China and general maps of China.

- c) *Atlas of Britain and Northern Ireland*/ planned and directed by D.P.Bickmore and M.A.Shaw. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1963.

It covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with major emphasis on physical and economic maps representing mid-20th century. Comparative statistics, authorities, notes and sources are given. It has an index of 16,000 entries. Though it is not a government published national atlas, it is a reliable reference source like national atlas of other countries.

- d) *An Atlas of India*. New Delhi: Oxford University-Press, 1990. (with 212 maps)

It claims to be the most comprehensive atlas of India in which each state and union territory has nine maps. All India maps cover physical, political, climate, soil, power projects, religious distribution, literacy area and population. There are five tables one each on: rainfall, population, crop production, mineral production and industrial location.

- e) *National Atlas of India*. Calcutta: National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, 1980. 2 Vol.

This is the most comprehensive atlas of India and contains in all 264 plates. In the first volume there are 109 plates depicting, administrative, physical, forest types, parliamentary constituencies and physiographic divisions. There are insets for major cities of the country such as Delhi, Lucknow, Calcutta, Bombay, Trivandrum, etc. The plates in the second volume begin from No.110 and cover, among other topics population, transport and tourism, posts and telecommunication, industry, foods crops, handicrafts, languages and health.

- f) *National Atlas of India*. Calcutta : National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, . 1984.

A massive work, it took 25 years in the making (in 8 large loose leaf volumes) :
1. General and political maps, 2.Physical and geomorphological, 3.Climatic and biogeographical, 4, Population and transport, 5.Land use and industrial region, 6. Agricultural and economic, 7.Soc"al and regional, 8.Historical and cultural.

Local Maps and Atlases

Each country produces in addition to state or country maps, atlases, and local maps to portray the physical features and thematic specifications. Here are some examples of such local atlases published by the different State Governments of India. You will notice that most of them are quite outdated and of limited value now.

- a) *Eicher City Map: Delhi, include Faridabad, Gaziabad, Gurgaon, NOIDA*. New Delhi: Eicher-Good Earth, 1996.

The map in the format of A to Z books available for major cities of the world, has a brief historical background of the city. Spread over 175 pages each, background of the city and the areas, neighbouring Delhi have been shown where the border of Delhi merges with part of the cities, falling in the National Capital Region. Separate alphabetical indexes are provided for each district separately and are, within each district, arranged alphabetically under broad groupings such as 'industries' "colonies" "buildings", "institutions", etc. The maps have been drawn primarily to assist tourists and travellers.

- b) *Hyderabad in Maps*. Hyderabad: Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, 1953.



- c) *Bengal in Maps : A Geographical Analysis of Resources Distribution in West Bengal and East Pakistan*. Calcutta: Orient Longman, 1949.
- d) *Bihar in Maps/* with explanatory text by P.Dayal. Patna: Kusum Prakashan, 1954.
- e) *Madhya Bharat in Maps*. Indore: Department of Economics Intelligence and Statistics, 1951.
- f) *Maharashtra in Maps/* by K.R. Dikshit; assisted by Charulata Path. Bombay: Maharashtra State Board for Literature and Culture, 1986. 245p.

This reference book includes 67 maps of authentic statistical information about administrative divisions, sugar factories, Places of tourist interest, population, growth of urban areas and towns, Employment, production in various industries, etc.

In contrast, *A Greater London Street Atlas*, (3rd edition) published by London Automobile Association in 1981 is a good example of a local atlas. It meets the needs of all types of users.

B) Special or Thematic Maps

Thematic maps depict specific subjects, themes or types of development, economic, political, land use surveys, rainfall, railroad air routes, minerals, climate, production of different crops, language, population, religion, etc.- all fall under this category. Thematic maps contain useful data about a particular subject and need constant updating. Given below are some examples of thematic maps:

Historical Atlases

Historical atlases are important to learn about the changing political boundaries of the world, progress of major wars and battles and routes followed by explorers.

Muir 's Historical Atlas: Ancient Medieval and Modern/ ed. by R. F. Treheme and H.Fullard. 10th ed. London: Philip, 1976. (2 vol in one)

Covers historical changes in the world from 15th century BC to 1965.

Times Atlas of World History/ ed. by G. Barclough. 3rd ed. (ed. by Normand Stone). Mapplewood: N.T: Hammond, 1989.

Grouped in seven main sections, the atlas traces the history of mankind from the age of early man to the age of global civilization. The chronology has been updated to include events upto 1989.

Atlas of Modern World History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Although description begins from the unification of Italy but concentrates mostly on 20th century.

Historical Atlas/ by William Robert Shepherd. 9th ed. New York: Barnes and Nobles, 1964.

Covers historical changes from 1450 B.C. to 1964. It has been considered for many years, the most used historical atlas.

Maps of Mughal India/ drawn by J.B.J. Gentil; ed. by Susan Gole. New Delhi: Manohar, 1988.

Reprint of maps originally published in Paris in 1785. It was drawn by the Agent for the French Government to the Court of Shejaud-Dautla at Faizabad in 1770.

There are 21 maps showing the 21 Subas of Mughal Empire.

James Rennell 's Memoirs of a Map of Hindustan or the Mughal Empire and His Bengal Atlas/ ed. by Brahmadev Prasad Ambashthya. Patna : N.V.Publications, 1975.

Originally published in 1788 in London, it is a map of Hindustan with an introduction illustrating the geography and the divisions of the country as it stood in the last quarter of the 18th century-. The Bengal atlas which was published in 1781 is claimed to be the first scientific map that helps us peep into the geography of India in the age of the Mughals.



A Historical Atlas of South Asia/ ed. by Joseph E. Schwartzberg. Chicago: University of Chicago Pr., .1978.

The atlas seeks to provide a comprehensive cartographic record of the history of South Asia (mainly India). In one hundred pages there is a write up of Indian history from the ancient period to the modern age. An inset gives chronology of India from 3000 B.C. to 1975 the under development of knowledge, cultural and social evolution, connections beyond South Asia, and world history. At the end there is a bibliography of about a thousand sources tracing atlases and maps of India in addition to usual reference sources on the history and geography of the country.

Economic and Social Atlases

1983 World Bank Atlas: Gross National Product, Population and Growth Rates. Washington, D.C., World Bank, 1983.

Published regularly, this includes data on population, Gross National Product (GNP) and per capita GNP in U.S. Dollars for most countries of the world. The 1983 edition covers data for the years 1980 and 1981. This thematic atlas also provides average annual growth rates of population and of per capita GNP in real terms for the period 1979-80.

A Social and Economic Atlas of India/ ed. by S. Muthaiah. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987.

This atlas provides an up-to-date picture of India's habitat, society and economy, through maps, charts and tables. It shows in considerable detail, the land and people of India, the available resources, infrastructure developed to utilize these resources into the following 9' sections: i) The land, ii) The people, iii) The climate, iv) The natural resources, v) The infrastructure, vi) The produce, vii) The tourist vista, viii) The national economy and, ix) The international equations.

The data in the above mentioned nine sections are based on authentic, qualitative and quantitative information collected from a variety of sources and interpreted by skilled cartographers.

Some other example are:

Basic Resource Atlas of Tamil Nadu/ ed. by A. Ramesh and P.S. Tiwari. Madras: Dept. of Geography, University of Madras, 1983.

Planning Atlas of U.P. Lucknow: Govt. of U.P., 1987.

Demographic Atlases

India Census Atlas: National Volume. 1981, New Delhi : Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 1988.

Third in the series begun with 1961 census, it presents population profile of the people of India. The volume contains 93 plates with short research notes on each one supplemented by useful statistical tables and diagrams in four sections: 1. Physical aspects, 2. Demographic structure and trends, 3. Economic aspects, and 4. Socio cultural aspects.

Anthropological Atlases

An Atlas of Tribal India with Computed Tables of District Level Data and the Geographical Interpretations by Mantis Raza and Aijazuddin Ahmad. Delhi : Concept, 1989.

Descriptions, tables and maps are grouped under:

- Spatial distribution
- Ecological setting
- Rural-Urban composition
- Sex into and marital status
- Cultural aspects
- Literacy

Participation in economic activities

Structure of work force

Anthropological Atlas. Delhi: Oxford Univ. Pr. for Anthropological Survey of India, 1993.

Forming vol. 11 of People of India national series, the maps in the atlas depict: ecological and cultural traits, languages and linguistic traits, demographic traits and biological traits.

Tourist Atlases

Tourist Atlas of India / by A.K.Kuudu. Calcutta : National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, 1989.

Presents a composite picture of transport network and information of interest to tourists. There are in all 20 plates. Explanatory notes on each map are virtually a directory. National parks and wild life sanctuaries are also depicted.

Religious Atlases

Harper Atlas of the Bible/ ed. by James B. Pritchard. N.Y.: Harper and Row, 1987.

Some My scholars' worldwide present the result of recent scholarships in an accessible and highly attractive form.

Cultural Atlas of Islam/ by Ismail R al-Faruqi and Lois Lamy al-Faruqi. London: Collier Macmillan, 1986.

There are 97 thematic maps depicting trade routes of Muslim world, mosques, musical instruments, etc.

An Thstorical Atlas of Islam/ ed. by William Brice. Leiden: Brill, 1981.

Prepared as part of the Encyclopaedia of Islam, presents information in map form upto First World War. Maps are arranged under 9 sections. Sections 8 and 9 are devoted to India and the Far East.

Some other examples of thematic atlases are

Climatological Atlas of India. 1981, and World Atlas of Geomorphic Features. New York : 1981.

Self Check Exercises

1) What are the different type of geographical reference sources?

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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10.4 GAZETTEERS

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. In this section, we shall define a gazetteer and study its scope and uses, with examples.



10.4.1 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.

	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.

The scope of the gazetteers, differs depending on whether they are international, national or district, etc.

10.4.2 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.

10.4.3 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.

10.4.4 Types and Examples

Gazetteers are grouped by their scope of coverage as international, national and local. International Gazetteers

- a) *Websters New Geographical Dictionary*. Springfield, Mass: Merriam - Webster, 1984.

Claimed to be a thoroughly revised edition, it is a dictionary of more than 47000 geographical names from Biblical times, ancient Greece and Rome, medieval Europe, to World War I and II: Some 15000 cross references are provided for equivalent and alternate spellings of foreign language names and former names. "It gives the usual gazetteer information and pronunciation, e.g., location, area, population, physical description, altitudes of mountains, etc., also gives geographical features, historical monuments, a concise history, and economic and historical data. It gives a short account but amount of information varies depending upon the importance of entry and probable value of such information to the user. The arrangement of entries is alphabetical". Also contains full page and smaller inset maps. List of geographical terms with language of origin and English equivalents is given in introductory section.



- b) *Chambers World Gazetteer: An A to Z of Geographical Information*/ ed. by David Munro ed. 5. Cambridge : Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1988.

The new edition, of this British gazetteer which was first published in 1595, now has 20,000 new entries. Profuse with line maps(150)and full plate maps (120) which is a "World atlas", cities and towns included have been generally selected firstly for their administrative functions. Population threshold for selection has varied with each country. Places of special interest from historical, religious and industrial tourist point of view, as scene of some event or having curiosity value have also been included. Previous edition was known as Chamber's world gazetteer and geographical dictionary.

- c) *The Statesman Year Book and World Gazetteer*. ed. London: Macmillan, 1979:

A companion volume to Statesman Year book, "gives brief information on places of size and importance. Some statistical tables and a glossary of 800 statistical terms are supplied".

- d) *Times London Index gazetteer of the World*. London: Times Publishing, 1965.

About 3,45,000 geographical locations, countries, towns, villages, rivers, mountains, and other geographical features find place in this Gazetteer. They provide map references to 1,98,000 locations given in the mid-century edition of Times Atlas of the World. It gives geographical equivalents in some fifty languages.

National Gazetteers

- a) *CIS Foreign Gazetteers U.S. BGN(microform)*. Washington: Congressional Information Service, 1987.

In 500 microfiches a republication of the country gazetteers published (in printed format earlier) by U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The first group of microfiches contains microform edition of 181 basic volumes. The next group contains 22 updated country groups plus current edition of Gazetteer of conventional names.

The volumes were originally prepared by U.S. Dept. of Interior and are devoted one each to a country, though some are on special areas of interest to U.S., e.g., Gaza Strip (No.45) or Under seas feature (No.111). A guide to the gazetteers covered has been published separately.

- b) *National Gazetteer of the United States of America: United States since 1990*. Washington: U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1990.

A condensed version of the National Gazetteer of *the* United States of America volume set, (1983 - 1990). "Includes about 45000 entries for populated places, administrative areas and major physical features".

- c) *Bartholomew Gazetteer of Places in Britain/ comp. by Oliver Mason*. Rev ed. Edinburgh: J.Bartholomew,1986

Includes references to inhabited places and physical features in England, Scotland, Wales and Isle of Man, Entries have been arranged in alphabetical order. Each entry provides a locational reference to the set of maps incorporated in the book, as well as National Grid Reference. This Gazetteer has 40,000 entries.

This edition updates the statistical section to include data for all places with more than 5000 inhabitants (England) or 2000 (Scotland and Wales) according to 1981 census.

- d) *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.

New edition ed. by W.S. Meyer, Richard Burn and J.S.Cotton; Oxford: Clarendon Pr., 1907-1931, 26 volumes;

The new edition was virtually a new work altogether.



The first four volumes were given general title of Indian Empire with V.I. Descriptive, V.2. Historical, V.3. Economic, V.4. Administrative, V.5. -25 the gazetteer portion arranged alphabetically describing places as they occurred in alphabetical order. Volume 25 is general index to the volumes and Volume 26 is atlas of India. You may also look up Scholberg (H), the *District Gazetteers of British India Bibliography*, 1970.

- e) *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

All the chapters in each volume have been contributed by a team of experts in the field and carry a bibliography at the end. Volumes have been reprinted from time to time, volume 2 had its fifth printing in 1997.

District Gazetteers

Most of the districts in India have gazetteers now. They could be called miniature encyclopaedias for each district. They contain extremely useful reference materials for the administrator, the scholar and the layman alike.

After India became independent, this project caught the attention of the Government of India. A scheme was formulated in 1955 for the revision and rewriting of district gazetteers. All state governments accepted the scheme and established District Gazetteers' Departments. As a result we have now district gazetteers for most of the districts in India. They have been published under the auspices of the respective State Governments.

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. Some examples are provided below:

- a) *Bihar District Gazetteer* / ed. by Roychaudhury.
 - Bhagalpur, 1962.
 - Dhanbad, 1964
 - Muzaffarpur, 1958.
- b) *Orissa District Gazetteers* / ed. by Nilamanisenapti. Koraput, Cuttack : Govt. Press, 1966.
- c) *Uttar Pradesh District Gazetteers*.
 - V.9. *Moradabad* / by E. B. Joshi. Lucknow: Supdt. Printing and Stationery, 1959.
- d) *Andhra Pradesh District Gazetteers*.
 - The Gazetteer of the District of Hyderabad by M.V.S. Prasada Rau. Hyderabad : District Gazetteers Department, Andhra Pradesh.
- e) *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency: Poona District (Facsimile Reproduction)* Vol. XVIII parts I, II, III. 1992. (Originally printed in 1885).

Gazetteer of Maharashtra. Bombay. Published by the Executive Editor and Secretary, Gazetteers Department, III. Population. IV. Agriculture. V. Capital. VI. Trade. VII. History. VIII. The land. IX. Justice X. Finance XI. Instruction XII. Health. XIII. Sub-divisions. XIV. Places. Appendix. Index. Maps included.

Self Check Exercises

- 2) Give two examples of each of the following
 - a) International gazetteers
 - b) National gazetteers
 - c) District gazetteers

- Note:** i) Write your answers in the space given below.
ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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10.5 TRAVEL GUIDES

The main purpose of any travel guide is to inform the traveler as what to see, where to stay and how to reach a particular place.

10.5.1 Definition and Scope

The ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science defines a travel guide" as a handbook for travellers that gives information about a city, region or a country or a similar handbook about a building, museum, etc."

These guides include useful information about specific place. Information included in the guide books also cover historical, economic and social aspects. Maps, illustrations and distances are provided which add to their usefulness. Travel guides are used frequently by reference librarians for detailed information about the specific places, historical sites, etc. from the travellers point of view. Some important aspects covered in guide books include climate, rail roads, highways and other communications, hotels to stay, and train and air timings.

10.5.2 Uses

Travel guides basically are meant for the people who want to visit various places in their own country or other parts of the world. They help making their journey pleasant and comfortable. Almost all important travel guides contain information on historic sites, museums and other places that are worth visiting for cultural enrichment. Information about routes and travel facilities is also included. Where to dine and what to buy - all these can be found by using a travel guide.

10.5.3 Evaluation

The currency is most important for evaluation of travel guides, because old and outdated information will be misleading. Therefore, they need to be updated and revised continuously. Excellent index, maps, illustrations add to the usefulness of travel guides. Systematic arrangement, reputation of publisher, coverage of all important aspects in the text as indicated in the preface, introduction, etc., are the other points that help in evaluation of travel guides.

It is noticed that most of the travel guides are published in series so that changes can be incorporated and coverage can be widened.



10.5.4 Types and Examples

Travel guides may be placed under two categories, viz.,

(a) One-time guides: Guides prepared to introduce an area rich in history, ecology or even of monuments (b) Series guides: Guides prepared for tourists to assist them plan their travel programme. The guides of the first category are generally one time publication as their contents rarely undergo changes. The guides of the second category need continuous revision and hence are published as a series.

a) One-time Guides

History, Monuments, Ecology.

Ghosh A. *Guide to Nalanda*. Delhi : Manager of Publications, 1950.

b) Guides in Series

Some well known firms have specialised in publishing travellers' guide for most countries of the world. However, by and large, they have concentrated on countries like America, Europe and the Near East.

Baedekar Series published in English, French and German editions and originating in Germany (Freiburg) in 1828 are considered specially useful for their maps, city plans and diagrams. They are now published as *Baedekar /A.A. Country Guide*. Basingstoke, Hampshire : Automobile Association and *Baedekar/A.A. City Guides* (Basingstoke, Hampshire, Automobile Association.)

Muirhead's Blue Guides. London : Ernest Rem.

Since 1918, these guides are renowned for detailed coverage of architecture, art, history, etc. They again are mainly restricted to Europe and the Near East and include both country guide and city guides. Some other well known series are:

Nagel's Travel Guides (Geneva), *Fodor Travel Guides (N.Y. : Mackay)*, *Mobil Guides and Shell Guides*. The last two are prepared mainly for motorists.

Travel guides for Individual Countries: India

Nest and Wings Series/ compiled by A.P. Agarwal. New Delhi: The Nest and Wings.

The Nest and Wings have been bringing out titles for travellers to India. Some of their titles include:

Garhwal, the Dev Bhoomi: a travellers' guide (1990)

Hill Reseete of India, Nepal and Bhutan (1977)

Holiday and Trekking in Kullu-Manali a travellers guide (1991) *Tourist Guide to Kumaon Region: a travellers' guide (1989)*

Among the foreign publications, *Murray's Guide or Handbook for Travellers in India, Paki-Stan, Burma and Ceylon (London)* and *Fodor 's Guide to India* (New York, Fodor's Modern guides) are two titles that have been revised from time to time. A new series being distributed in India by Rupa has released a title *Let us go: India and Nepal*. 1997.

Travel Guides for Individual Countries and Specific Purposes

Uttar Pradesh A-Z. Lucknow: Department of Tourism, Uttar Pradesh, 1996.

Arranged alphabetically by places of interest, provides colour photographs, maps, Index A-Z. Contents includes: Where to stay? How to get there? General information; What to see.

India: Destination of the 1995. Visit India. Tourism year 1991. Produced by Department of Tourism, Government of India. Includes Tourist Map of India, Government of India Tourist offices, Sight seeing outdoors, Sports, Fairs and Festivals Shopping, Travel data, Dining Museums and galleries.

FODOR'S India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1996.



Useful for foreign travellers. Includes climates, expenditure; planning of travel, exchange, all air routes; accommodation, parks and garden. hill stations, beaches.

NEPAL, Visitors Guide. Geography, History, People, Religion, Language, Climate and Clothing. Kathmandu: Ministry of Tourism, Nepal.

Includes information on: What to see in Nepal? Where to obtain visas? Hotels, Trekking, How to enter Nepal?

Dakshin Bharat ke Mandir. New Delhi : Prakashn Vibhag, Suchana our Prasaran Mantralaya, Bharat Sarkar, 1995.

SURA 'STousist Guide to Kerala (The land ofrivers and backwaters). New Delhi: Sura Books, 1993.

With map, air ply timings, accommodation etc.

Vramana Sangi: All India Travel Companion/ General editor Gita Dutta, Mrinal Dutta; English translation by Lila Mazumdar. Calcutta: Asia Publishing Co., 1992.

Arrangement by States in India, includes hotels recognised by ITDC, along with maps, photo-graphs and Index, Tourist map of India. Originally published in Bengali. Most popular travel guide.

South India: A Travel Guide/ by V. Meena. Kanya Kumari: Hari Kumar Arts, 1991.

Arranged first by States-Tamil Nadu. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and then by cities/places of interest. Includes tourist map of Southern India and coloured photographs.

Most of the governments of the world bring out travel guides through tourism departments to promote tourism. Such guides are also produced for specific purposes i.e., about temples, health resorts, holy places, hotels and restaurants, etc. Some examples of such guides are given below.

a) *Royal Automobile Club: Guide and Handbook.* London: Royal Automobile Club, 1973.

This guide includes information on hotels and restaurants, guest houses, farmhouses, health resorts, garages, etc. Details about motoring in Great Britain and other countries of the world have been provided. Street plans and road maps are included.

b) *Kelly's Post Office.* London : 1800. Annual

The main section of this directory includes information on Government offices, city, municipal law, etc. Street maps have been provided. A classified list of commercial firms and professionals also finds place in this directory. An excellent general index is there.

c) *Japan, The Official Guide/* edited by Tourist Inaeti: Bureau, Ministry of Transportation, 1961.

This travel guide includes 38 routes, 15 sections, 62 maps an town plans. A good index is provided.

d) *Murray 's Handbook for Travellers in India, Burma and Ceylon. 21st* ed. London : Murray, 1968.

This handbook includes maps and town plans. The introductory nation provides information about history and administration. In the text, India occupies the major portion. The arrangement of material is based on the route principle, Good index is provided.

e) *Tourist Guides-India.* Various individual guides for important places of interest/ by the Department of Tourism. Delhi: Manager of Publications.(Published frequently).

f) *All India Hotel and Restaurant Guide.* New Delhi: Federation of Hotels and Restaurant Association of India and Department of Tourism-India (Revised occasionally).

g) *Hill Resorts of India/* India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. New Delhi: Publication Division, 1961.

h) *Motorists India Guide.* Calcutta: Dipti Printing and Binding Works, 1969. 2 Vols.



Self Check Exercises

3) What are the uses of travel guides? Provide three examples of such guides that help travelers touring the Indian subcontinent.

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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10.6 SELECTION TOOLS FOR GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SOURCES

Having studied the different types of geographical sources, their uses and evaluation, it will be of interest and great advantage if we know some important tools for their selection. A few are briefly described below:

a) *International Maps and Atlases in Print/ K .L Winch.* 20^d ed. London: Bowater & Stanford, 1976.

All available map series and maps and atlases published throughout the world are included. Entries providing full bibliographical descriptions are arranged by continents and countries using UDC classification. Facsimiles and thematic map if available for commercial sale are included in this selection source.

b) *New Geographical Literature and Maps/* London : Royal Geographical Society. Bi-annual.

Part 2 of each issue includes maps, charts, atlases, gazetteers added to Society's Map Room. Entries provide full bibliographical information arranged alphabetically by continents and then by countries.

c) *Current Geographical Publications/* American Geographical Society. 10 per annum.

This covers all types of geographical information sources. It is divided into three main sections. The maps section is arranged according to Society's map classification scheme, based on area. A great variety of maps produced by commercial and institutional publishers all over the world are listed. The catalogue of maps producers of different regions and sales catalogues prepared by various official national surveys are included in this periodical.

d) *Catalogue of Printed Maps, Charts and Plans/* British Library. London: British Museum. . 15 Vols. Ten year supplement, 1965-1974, 1978.

The arrangement is alphabetical by specific place names and regions. General and thematic grouping is made. Each entry contains a brief descriptive note. Two 10 years supplements covering the period 1965-74 and 1975-1988 have since been published. The second supplement is entitled '*Catalogue of Cartographic Material in the British Library.* It is also available on microfiche or dotox sheets.

e) *Index to Maps in Books and Periodicals/* American Geographical Society. Boston, Massachusetts : G.K. Hall, 1967. 10 Vols. Supplements, 1971.

This index has 1,76,000 entries arranged alphabetically by subject and geographical area, Map titles and scales are given, with full citation of the book or article in which the map appear. Three supplements bringing the record upto, 1986 were released in 1971,1976 and 1987.



- f) *Guide to Atlases, World, Regional, National, Thematic: an international listing of Atlases published since 1950*/G.L. Alexander. Metuchen: NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1971.

In all there are 6,556 entries divided into four groups; world atlas chronologically, 1950-70; thematic atlases, by subjects (A Z). Entries are duplicated if the atlases fall into two or more places. Indexes for publishers, languages, authors, editors and cartographers have been provided.

- g) *Bibliographic Guide to Maps and Atlases*. Boston, Mass: G.K. Hall, 1979 - Annual - in 2 volumes since 1986.

Lists material catalogued in the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.

- h) *British Library, Catalogue of Cartographic Materials in the British Library, 1975-1988*/ed by Winch, Kenneth. London: Bowker-Saur, 1989. 3 V.

- i) *International Maps and Atlases in Print*. Ed.2.London: Bowker, 1976.

17 SUMMARY

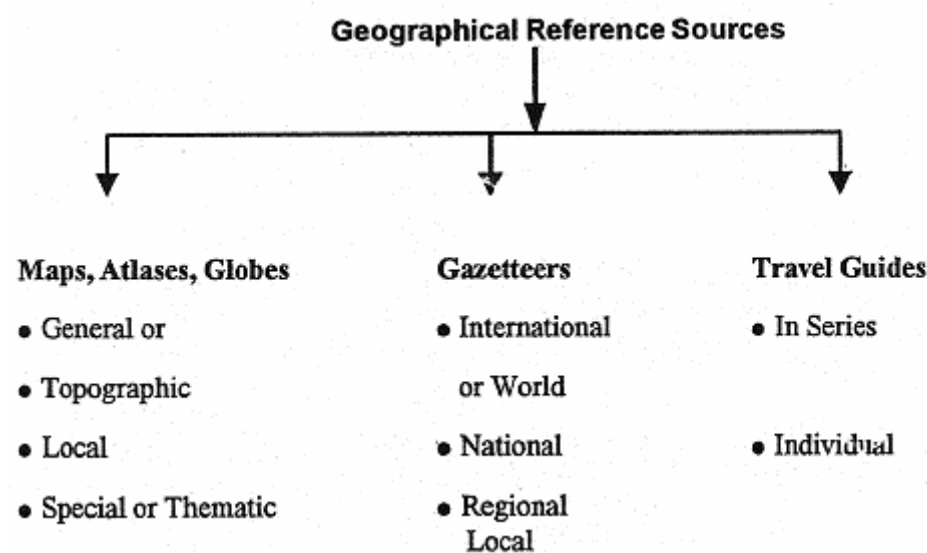
Geography is one of the important subjects under social sciences. The teaching and research activities throughout the world, makes it obligatory for libraries to build a good collection of information sources relating to this field. The specialized geographical sources that are used for reference work are: Maps, atlases and globes; Gazetteers; and Travel guides.

The use of these tools is common both to specialised and laymen. A good number of examples with details of the factors that help in evaluation of such sources is provided.

In view of the importance of these sources for reference work, some important selection tools are also discussed.

10.8 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

- 1) A diagrammatic representation of various types of geographical reference sources is given below:



2) **International Gazetteers**

- i) Websters New Geographical Dictionary
- ii) Chambers World Gazetteers

National Gazetteers

- i) Bartholomew Gazetteer of Places in Britain
- ii) Gazetteer of India: The Indian Union



District Gazetteer

- j) Bihar District Gazetteer
 - k) Orissa District Gazetteer
- 3) The main purpose of any travel guide is to inform the traveller as to what to see, where to stay and how to reach a particular place. Some guides, helpful for travel in the Indian sub-continent are:
- i) Fodors Guide to India
 - ii) Murray's Handbook for Travellers in India, Burma and Ceylon.
 - iii) A Complete Guide for Railway and Airway Travellers in India, Pakistan, and Ceylon. Calcutta : Newman. 1965-1974, 1978.

10.9 KEY WORDS

Contours	:	Lines drawn on a map to join all places at the same height above sea level. The intervals between contours may represent height differences from fifty to several thousand feet depending on the scale of map: On physical maps, the areas between contours are often shown. in different colours.
Engraving	:	The art or process of making letters or designs on wood, metal or other substances, by cutting or etching, for the purpose of printing or stamping by intaglio or recess process on paper or other material.
Gazetteer	:	A record of public events, which is published periodically. A publication issued by a government to convey official information, decisions or statements.
Grid	:	A referencing system using distances measured on a chosen projection.
Hachures	:	Vertical and horizontal lines used on a map to indicate by their length and closeness the direction and steepness of variations in height of the earth's surface, the lines being crowded together to represent the steepest slope.
Projection	:	The method used by cartographer for representing on a plane, the whole or part of the earth's surface which is not flat.
Scale	:	The ratio of the distance on an architectural drawing, map, globe, model or vertical section, to the actual distances on earth surface they represent.
Transliteration	:	Transcription of (a word, etc.) into corresponding letters of another alphabet. For example, words written in Devanagari may be transcribed in Roman Script, e.g., AMAR.

10.10 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Higgen, Gavin (1980). *Printed Reference Material: New Delhi*: Oxford & IBH. Chapter 10, pp.229-254.

Krishna Kumar (1996). *Reference Service*. 5th ed. New Delhi : Vikas.

Katz, William A (1992). *Introduction to Reference Work. Vol. 1: Basic Information Sources*. 6th ed. New. York : Mc Graw Hill: Chapter 10.pp329-352.