Guide to the tutorial
Connecting to Country: Australian place names

Audience
This tutorial is aimed at cataloguers and indexers working with material with Indigenous content.

Learning Outcomes
- Basic geographic and information literacy skills
- Knowledge of the ATSILIRN (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network) protocols
- Understanding the structure and conventions used in the AIATSIS place thesaurus

Resources
AIATSIS practice: Place name headings

Example: Taroom (SW Qld SG55-08)
The place name: Taroom
Region (AIATSIS authority): SW Qld
Map sheet number: SG55-08

Principal naming authorities

Jurisdiction and Organisation
- Australian Government Australian Antarctic Division
- Australian Government Australian Hydrographic Service
- Australian Government Geoscience Australia
- Australian Capital Territory Environment and Planning Directorate
- New South Wales Geographical Names Board
- Northern Territory Department of Transport
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- South Australia Land Services Group
- Tasmania Department of Primary Industries and Water
- Victoria Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Western Australia Landgate
Quotes

“NSW Surveyor-General, Thomas Mitchell, preferred that Indigenous names should be sought and applied wherever possible.” (Hodges 2007)

Place names are “an important component of Aboriginal cultural heritage; presenting and describing relationships with land and country.” (Clark 2002)

Indigenous placenames form structured, interlinked networks in which places together with their names and attributes, are related to each other in complex interlocking ways reflecting the relationship between the people and the land they inhabit” (Hodges 2007)

Hercus and Simpson (2002) call the first system the “Introduced System” and refer to the second as the Indigenous Placename Networks” (Harold Koch and Luise Hercus 2009)

Links

- AIATSIS thesauri: http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au

Bibliography


Comments and Suggestions
We welcome your feedback on this tutorial. You can contact us at:
library.collections@aiatsis.gov.au

Conditions of Use
Unless otherwise noted, material in this tutorial is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivative Works 2.5 Australia Licence
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/au/

Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to:

Collections Executive Director
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
GPO Box 553
Canberra ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

Disclaimer:
We do not guarantee date is free from errors or omissions. Place name headings are for use in thesaurus and catalogue records. Only placenames relevant to the AIATSIS collections are included in the thesaurus.