

World Historical Gazetteer: Research Geodata Infrastructure

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The World Historical Gazetteer project (WHG; <http://whgazetteer.org>), initially launched in mid-2020, aggregates information about historical places contributed by researchers working in numerous fields within the humanities and social sciences. The WHG web software platform is intended to become an essential and permanent component of global Digital Humanities infrastructure. At this writing the system holds nearly 2 million attestation records for over 1.6 million distinct places. Many additional contributions are now in queue at various stages of accessioning. The WHG provides reconciliation services useful in the creation and enhancement of specialist gazetteers as products of historical research, and it serves as a publication venue for smaller projects wishing to provide dynamic access to their place data. WHG also provides a “Collections” feature that allows multiple research projects with overlapping spatial or thematic coverage to link their place data, forming what we call a “focus domain.” Collections for Dutch history, and colonial Latin America are well under way. Collections for the historical Middle East and for the very broad Russia, Central and East Europe, and Eurasia region are in the planning stage.

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