# Connecting Places in World Historical Gazetteer

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### The World Historical Gazetteer platform

 supports the aggregation, linking, and publication of historical place data contributed by researchers studying the past from many disciplinary perspectives





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Project Manager & Editorial Manager

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https://whgazetteer.org

















Logout





linking knowledge about the past via place



Explore open access, historical place data



Upload and extend your data with geometry and identifiers from Wikidata and Getty TGN



Contribute your uploaded data to WHG by linking it to other places in our index



Teach with WHG-focused lesson plans



Create and share your custom collection of places and datasets published in WHG



Integrate WHG data using our application programming interface

#### Featured Datasets and Collections

list all

#### **Dutch Global History**

The 'Dutch Global History' collection will offer users a central point of entry for all Dutch historical place names and other place names related to Dutch history — in the broadest geographical sense. As the collection grows, it will also function as a public resource for the wide range of projects on Dutch history that carry spatial components. The collection is being compiled on an ongoing basis by the KNAW Humanities Cluster from new and existing datasets created by a variety of different institutions, projects, and individual researchers.



collection (in-progress)

#### D-PLACE

dataset

D-PLACE (the Database of Places. Language, Culture, and Environment) contains cultural, linguistic, environmental and geographic information for over 1400 human 'societies'. A 'society' in D-PLACE represents a group of people in a particular localit...



Historical geography for the Bourbon Spanish America through time (1701-1808), comprising settlements (lugares) and their temporally scoped position within the administrative territorial structure (territorios) of that period and region.



collection

https://whgazetteer.org

### Outline

- Define some terms
- WHG data
- Users and use cases
  - Research
  - Teaching
- Contribution workflow
- Features:
  - Search, Browse, API
  - Dataset Collections, e.g. Dutch Global History
  - Place Collections
- Future plans

# Definitions

# What is a gazetteer?

- A [catalogue/register/list/index/thesaurus] of place information
  - Web navigation systems, e.g. Google Maps
  - The back of a print road atlas
  - Encyclopedic: Chinese local gazetteers; Wikipedia place pages
  - GeoNames, Getty TGN, Nominatim, etc.
- There is enormous variety in both the kinds of places represented, and the information held for each entry
- WHG is using the Linked Open Data framework to publish (mostly historical) gazetteer datasets, to link individual attestations of closely matched places from multiple sources, and to provide record-level access to the resulting data

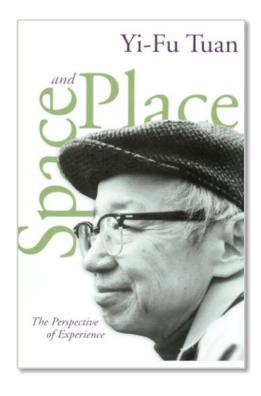
### A Distinctive combination

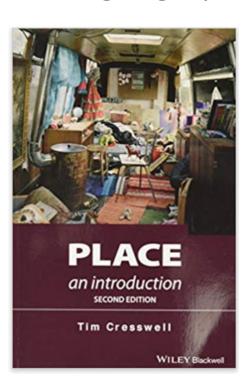


- global geographic coverage
- structured, granular temporal information
- attestations of place references by researchers
- Linked Data publishing platform for datasets without web presence
- multiple attestations for a place are linked, effectively linking projects and disciplines
- faceted record-level search across datasets
- machine access via APIs

# What is a place?

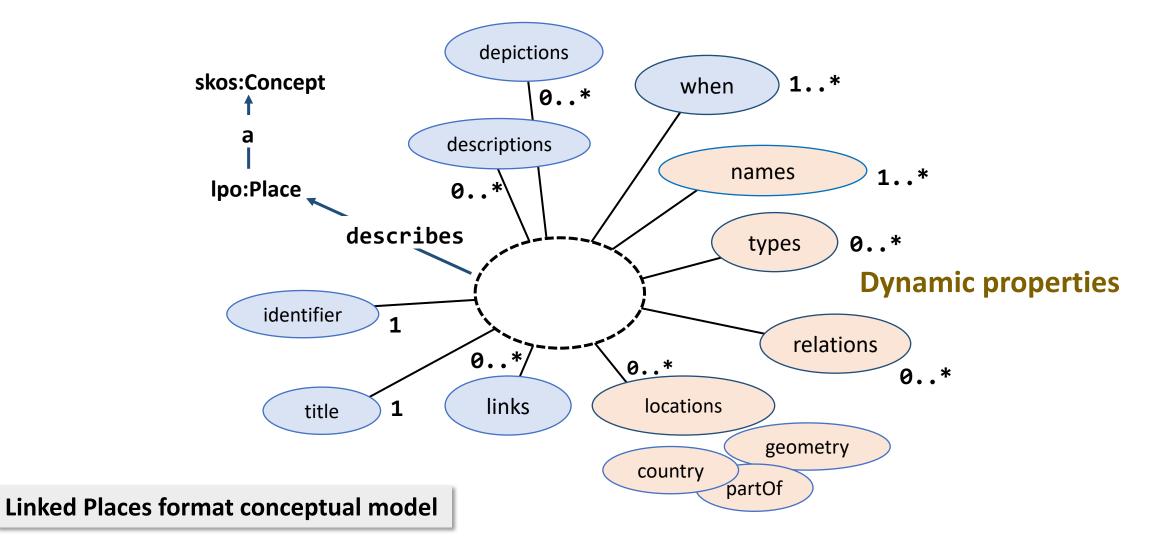
- "...a meeting up of histories" Doreen Massey
- NOT simply a location, but a setting for activity
- "Experienced space" -- @kgeographer







## What is a WHG place attestation record?





we are <u>agnostic</u> as to contributors' own research data formats!!

**Linked Places** formats



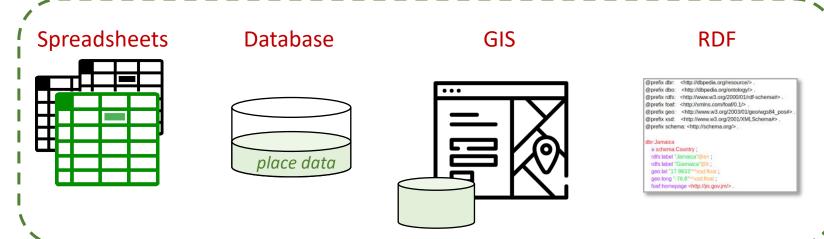


export places

upload



researchers create data, some of it for places, ...



...in numerous, varied formats





Title Atlas of Mutual Heritage

ID / label 819 / amh\_20210622

Description The Atlas of Mutual Heritage is a growing database containir

information about, and images of, the charter areas of the VC

East India Company) and WIC (Dutch West India Company).

# Records 1322

Timespan earliest: 1417; latest: 1945

Last modified 17 Aug 2022

Webpage https://www.atlasofmutualheritage.nl/

WHG Permalink http://whgazetteer.org/datasets/819

Nationaal Archief (Dutch National Archives), Rijksdienst het Cultureel

Creator(s) Erfgoed (Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency), Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Dutch National Library)

Citation Nationaal Archief (Dutch National Archives), Rijksdienst het Cultureel

Erfgoed (Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency), Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Dutch National Library). Atlas of Mutual Heritage. [Data file, last modified 17 Aug 2022]. Retrieved from

http://whgazetteer.org/datasets/819, 12 Sep 2022

Clear lines

Title: Aijcotta

Variants: Aijcotte; Aycotta; Aijkotta; Aijcotta; Aijcotta; Types: Post; (sites (locations) 🖒

Links: wp:Azhikode, Thrissur 🖒, wd:Q4832541 🖒,

Parent(s): Malabar Coast; Malabaar (VOC area);

Description: Locality associated with Dutch East India

Company. Aijcotta was situated on the mouth of the Periyar

River close to Paliporto. The village lay on the coast north of
the island of Vypeen. The mouth of the river had been
reinforced against enemy attack. There was a small stone
guardhouse, which served ...

When: earliest: 1600: latest: 1600

@Marelibre

Atlas of Mutual Heritage Summary Browse

Show 10 v entries Search: title ccodes src\_id select @ amh\_593p Aijcotta IN 0 6674505 ID 6674506 amh\_628p Airbangis Airhaji ID 6674507 amh\_626p Akoon ID 6674508 amh\_357p amh\_497p Akuressa LK 6674509 GH 6674510 amh\_914p Akwida amh\_615p Al Basrah IQ 6674511 Al Mukha YE 6674512 amh\_613p 6674513 amh\_498p Alandale LK ID 0 amh\_358p Alang 6674514 Showing 21 to 30 of 1,322 entries 3

 Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.

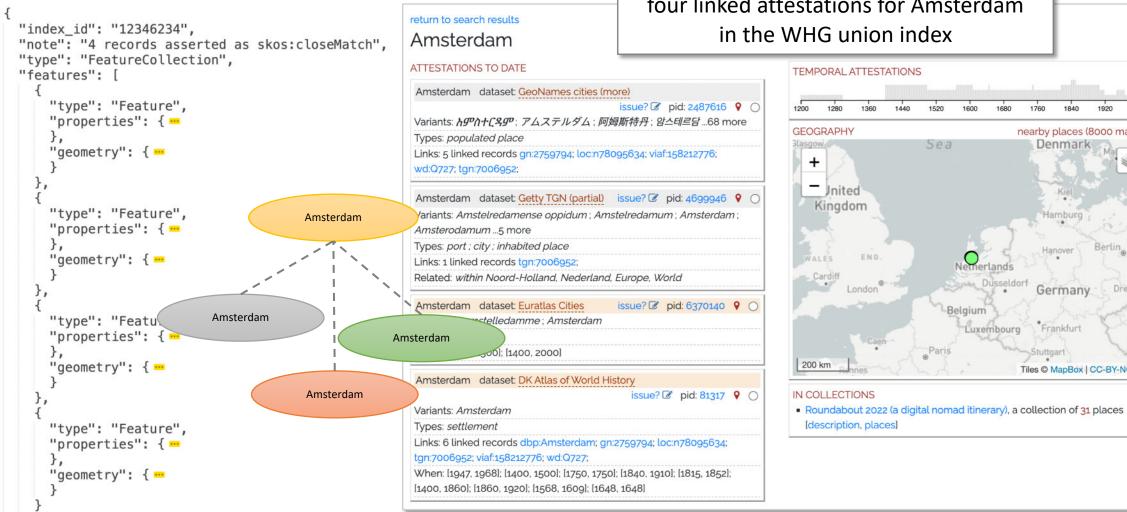
You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the CC-BY-4.0 license , and indicate if changes were made.

#### Downloads

Linked Places format 🕹

LP-TSV 🕹

#### union index



a "place portal" page showing four linked attestations for Amsterdam

nearby places (8000 max)

Denmark

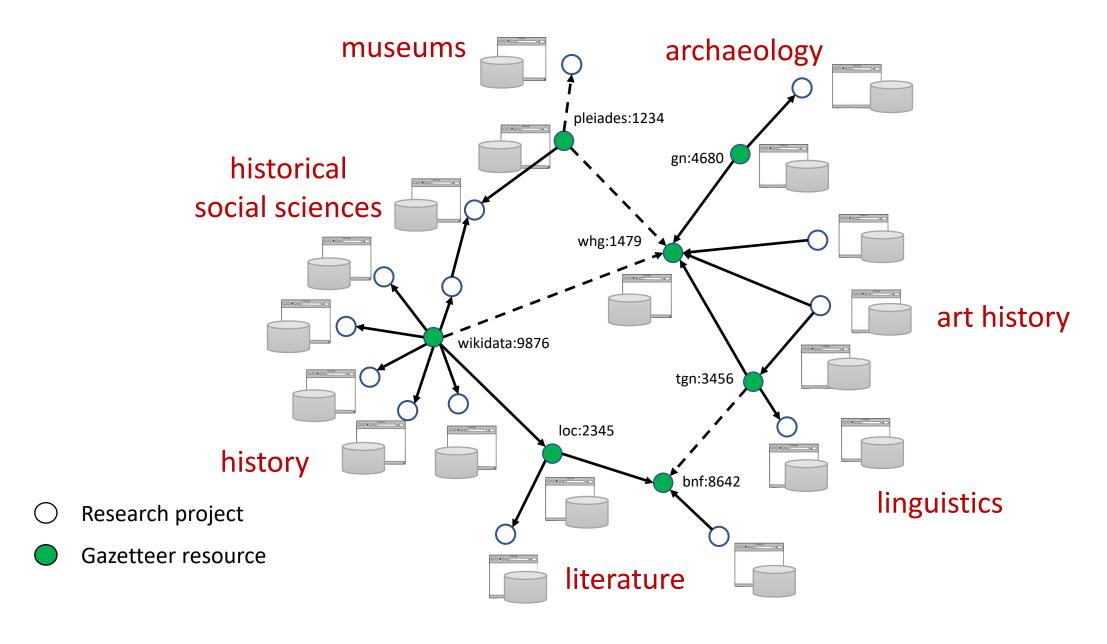
Germany

Frankfurt

Tiles @ MapBox | CC-BY-NC 3.0

Dresden

Cz



linking knowledge about the past via place identifiers

- ~ 1.9 million places, ~5 million name variants
- 18 public datasets; 1/3 from KNAW
- dozens in queue, from every continent

existing and in-progress
Dataset Collections

#### **Public Datasets**

HGIS de las Indias lugares (13258)

HGIS de las Indias territorios (892)

African Ports, 1887 (305)

D-PLACE Societies (1428)

Pleiades (partial) (20365)

Atlas of Mutual Heritage (1322)

KIT gazetteer Surinam (2146)

**KIT gazetteer Dutch Antilles (1227)** 

Curação Administrative Areas (29)

**Utrecht Chronicle of the Teutonic Order (181)** 

Curação Administrative Areas (29)

DK Atlas of World History (10643)

Old World Trade (4117)

Euratlas Cities (3584)

An Historical Atlas of Central Asia (759)

List of Russian towns, late 14c (282)

Indigenous Place Names of the Yukon (100)

Geographic Names of Antarctica (63)

Getty TGN (partial) (1804270)

GeoNames Cities (926)

Ecoregions (TNC) (814);

Watersheds (226);

Mountain Ranges (217);

Lakes (WRI) (1491)

Global Rivers (982)

### In queue (partial)

al-Thurayya (11c Islam) (2241)

Ukrainian settlements, 17c (3007)

Rivers of Crimea (74)

Populated places of Crimea, 1450-1800 (94)

Provinces of Crimea, 1450-1800 (6)

Districts of Crimea, 1450-1800 (43)

Poland settlements of the 16c (23771)

Poland provinces in the 16c (23)

Poland districts in the 16c (105)

French Sci. Mission Greek Settlements (3888)

KIMA Gazetteer (27239)

CAMPOP Places (4065)

Seshat polities (64)

#### Collection Summary

#### **Browse**

## Dataset Collection presentation page(s)



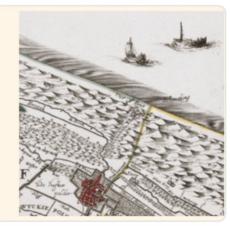
#### Title Dutch Global History

Description The 'Dutch Global History' collection will offer

users a central point of entry for all Dutch historical place names and other place names related to Dutch history — in the broadest

geographical sense...more

Keywords Netherlands, West Indies. East Indies



# + -5000 km Tiles © MapBox | CC-BY-NC 3.0

#### Datasets (6)

### 

#### Title: KIT gazetteer Surinam (829)

Description: Gazetteer developed by the Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (Royal Tropical Institute) in the Netherlands, in order to allow users to produce geographical queries on the KITs Dutch Colonial

Maps Co...more

Temporal coverage: 1993 / 2011

Created: 03 Aug 2021 Number of records: 2146

#### Title: KIT gazetteer Dutch Antilles (827)

Description: Gazetteer developed by the Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (Royal Tropical Institute) in the Netherlands, in order to allow users to produce geographical queries on the KITs Dutch Colonial

Maps Co...more

Temporal coverage: 1993 / 2011

Created: 01 Aug 2021 Number of records: 1227

#### Title: Atlas of Mutual Heritage (819)

Description: The Atlas of Mutual Heritage is a growing database containing information about, and images of, the charter areas of the VOC (Dutch East India Company) and WIC (Dutch West India

Company).

Temporal coverage: 1417 / 1945

Created: 22 Jun 2021 Number of records: 1322

# Why a World Historical Gazetteer?

Use cases, audiences, contributors

### Use cases for research and teaching

### Research

- Publish place data products of research as Linked Data
- Georeference place references in source materials, for mapping, analysis
- Augment place data with missing geometries & authority identifiers
- Link individual place records & entire datasets with those of other projects
- Use resulting datasets & Dataset Collections for georeferencing during annotation of source materials

### Teaching

- Graduate level: building historical gazetteers
- Secondary level: discovering connections between places and publishing them in *Place Collections*

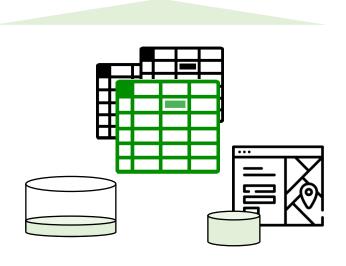
# Contribution workflow

- Export a place data file from existing research data, in Linked Places format
- Upload into private WHG workspace
- Submit reconciliation task against the WHG index of 3.5m Wikidata place records
- Review resulting prospective matches
- Upon completing metadata, WHG staff flags dataset as public
- Accession to the WHG "union index," linking your individual place records with those from other projects where applicable; those with no matches are new "seed" records in the index



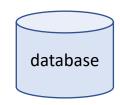






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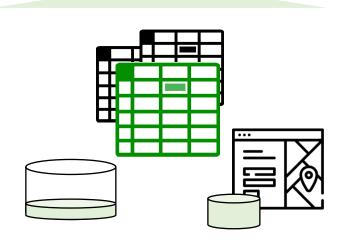




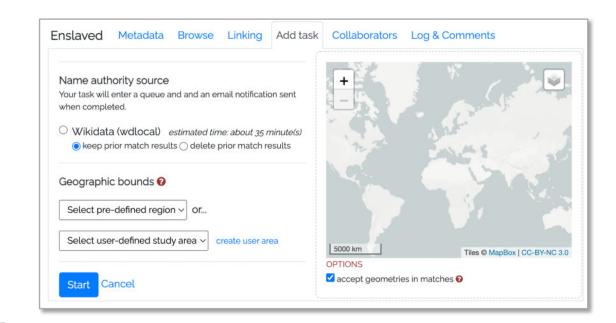
Linked Places formats







- Export a place data file from existing research data, in Linked Places format
- Upload into private WHG workspace
- Submit reconciliation task against the WHG index of 3.5m Wikidata place records
- Review resulting prospective matches
- Upon completing metadata, WHG staff flags dataset as public Task: align\_wdloc
- Accession to the WHG "unio linking your individual place those from other projects w applicable; those with no manew "seed" records in the index



Task: align\_wdlocal (17-Mar-2022, 20:51 (); elapsed: 12:01)

ID: 836e782b-2f47-4e74-a325-

Delete task & hits, clear matches 
Delete geometries added so far

459bb1a826bb

Result: 1433 of the 6325 records got 1690 hits in total

Remaining to review: 449

Pass o (matched links): 0

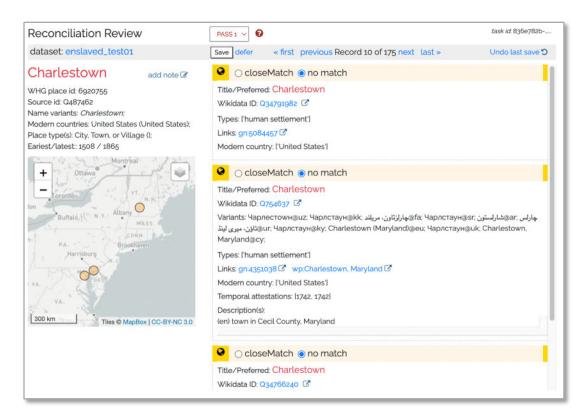
Pass 1: 175 review

Pass 2: 274 review

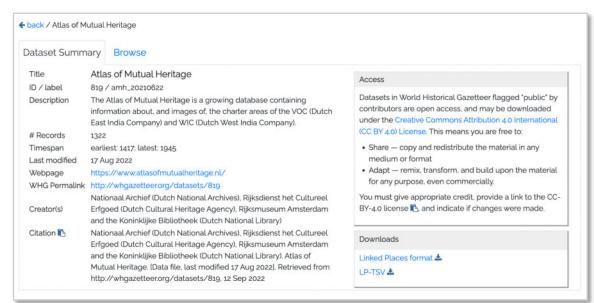
Deferred: none



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 Export a place data file from existing research dat

Upload into

 Submit recol WHG index records

Task: align\_idx (04-Sep-2022, 16:43 (); elapsed: None)

ID: a9f54d6d-774a-4865-bef2-250235ead83c

Delete task & hits, clear matches

Delete geometries added so far

Result: 2495 of the 2495 records got 4148 hits in total automatically

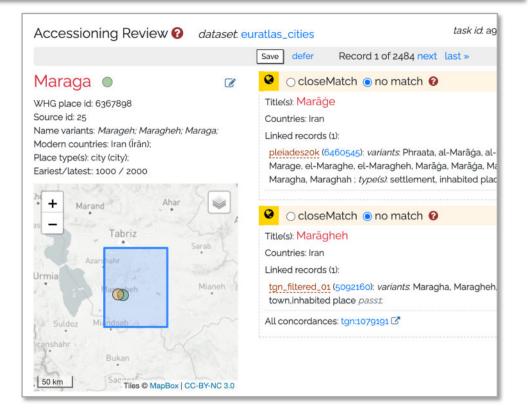
Remaining to review: 2485

Passes 0, 1: 2484 review

Deferred: 1 review



- Review resulting prospective matches
- Upon completing metadata, WHG staff flags dataset as public
- Accession to the WHG "union index," linking your individual place records with those from other projects where applicable; those with no matches are new "seed" records in the index



(A)

Save

defer

Record 1 of 110 next last »

### Isfahan •



WHG place id: 6691964

Source id: b\_4272

Name variants: Isfahan;

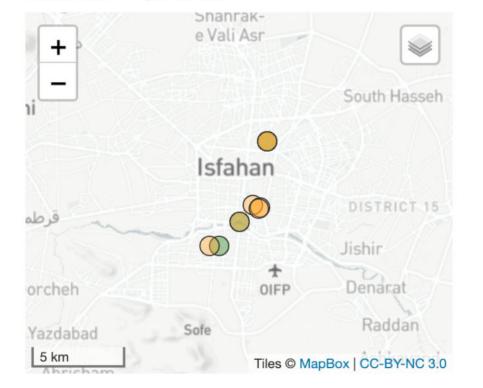
Modern countries: Iran (Īrān);

Place type(s): settlement (inhabited place);

Links: wp:Isfahan ☑ loc:n82083647 ☑ gn:418863 ☑

gnd:4072937-0 Viaf:236810055 Dpl:902990 C

wd:Q42053 2 tgn:7017459 2





○ closeMatch ○ no match ?

Title(s): Isfahan, Eşfahān, Aspadana/(I)Spahan/Gay/Gabai?

Countries: Iran

Linked records (4):

<u>gn500</u> (227730): *variants*: 이스파한, 伊其 **衰सफहान**, هان, ئسفاهان, أصفهان, אספהאן Ісфахан, **Іσφαχάν**, İsfehan, İsfahan, Îs

Accessioning: incoming record on the left will join the four indexed records listed in a "cluster" on the right

esufahan, esaphahana, aysfahan, asfhan, Yspyhan, Spahan, Kota Isfahan, Iszfahán, Iszfahán, Isfahana, Isfahan, Isfahana, Isfaha

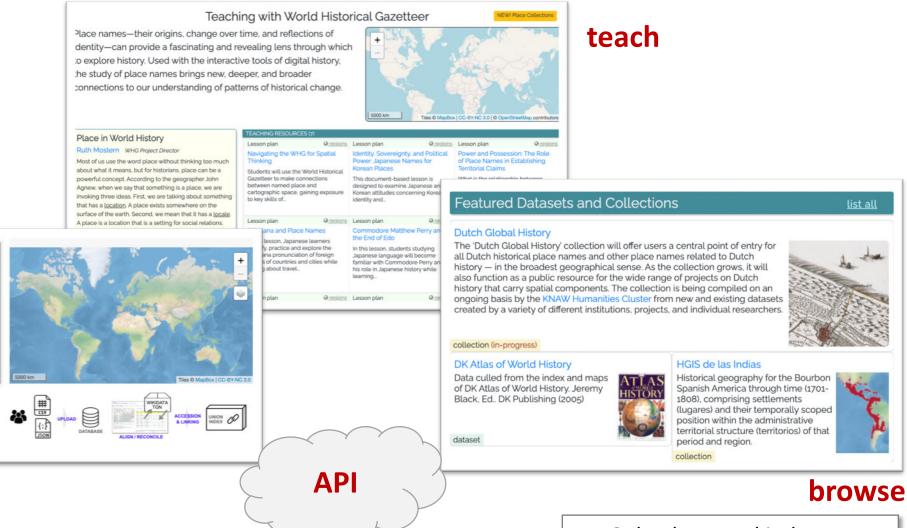
black (85177): variants: Isfahan, Aspadana; ; type(s): settlement passo:

tgn\_filtered\_01 (6159128): variants. Aspadana, Esfahan, Eşfahān, Eşfahān, Gabae, Isaha Sepahan, Nesf-e-Jahan; type(s): inhabited place, city passo:

pleiades20k (6468396): variants: Yahūdīya, al-Yahūdīya, al-Yahudiya, al-Yahudiyah, el-Yahudiyya, al-Yahudiyyah, el-Yahudiyye, el-Yahudiyyeh, Aspadana, Aspadana, Işbahār Ğaiy, Jaiy, Gaiy, Işfāhān, Isfāhān, Işfahān, Isfahan, Gabai, Ğaiy, Espahān, Eşfahān, Esfaha Gabene, Gabai, Gay, Spahan, Ispahan, Aspadana; type(s): settlement, inhabited place

All concordances: gn:418863 viaf:236810055 loc:n82083647 wd:Q42053 dbp:Isfahan viaf:144268987 d

Features: Search, Browse, API, Teaching



search

the union index

Place Search in WHG

Search Index %

PLACE CATEGORIES CLEAR ALL 0

✓ administrative entities (A)

✓ cities, towns, hamlets...(P)
 ✓ sites, buildings, complexes...(S)
 ✓ roads, routes, rail...(R)

✓ regions, landscape areas (L)

terrestrial landforms (1) water bodies (+)

Enter place name

Search Database

There are two data stores in WHG, which can be searched independently: a union index

and a database. Data uploaded to WHG is initially stored in a relational database, and

records from all datasets flagged as "public" are searchable with the "Search Database"

option above. When a dataset is accessioned, its records are added to a union index, where

place records asserted as 'closely matched' are grouped. The default scope of search is

Q

TEMPORAL ( DEFAULT = ALL )

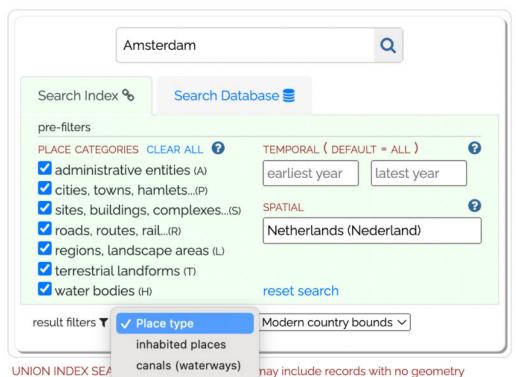
earliest year latest year

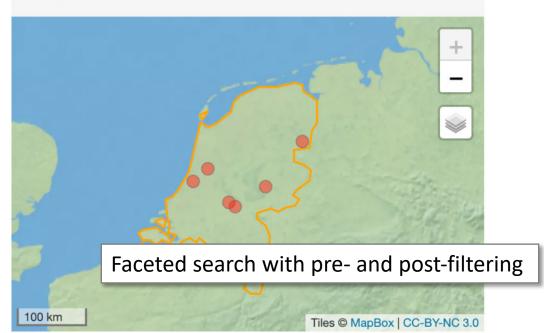
Region, country, study area

database

index

WHG database and index support search, browse, teaching, and API features





| Title <b>♦</b>                           | Linked \$ | Countries \$ | Type(s)               | Name variants   | geom? |
|--|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Amsterdam                                | 4         | NL           | inhabited<br>places   | AMS; Aemstelledamme; Amesterdam; Amesterdao; Amesterdão; Amistardam 80 total                    | 9     |
| Nieuw Amsterdam                          | 1         | NL           | inhabited places      | Nieuw-Amsterdam   | •     |
| Klein Amsterdam                          | 1         | NL           | inhabited places      |   | 9     |
| Amsterdam Rijn Kanaal                    | 1         | NL           | canals<br>(waterways) | Amsterdam-Rijnkanaal  | 9     |
| Amsterdam-Rijnkanaal                     | 1         | NL           | canals<br>(waterways) | Amsterdam-Bovenrijn Kanaal; Amsterdam-Rhine River<br>Canal; Der Amsterdam-Rheinkanal            | 9     |
| Ringvaart van de<br>Haarlemmermeerpolder | 1         | NL           | canals<br>(waterways) | Amsterdam Ring Canal; Haarlem Ring Canal;<br>Haarlemmermeerpolder, Ringvaart van de; Ringvaart; | •     |

#### **Public Datasets**

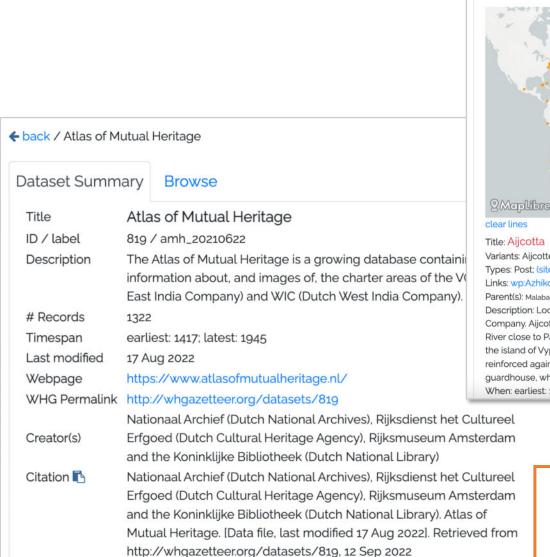
#### **Public Collections**

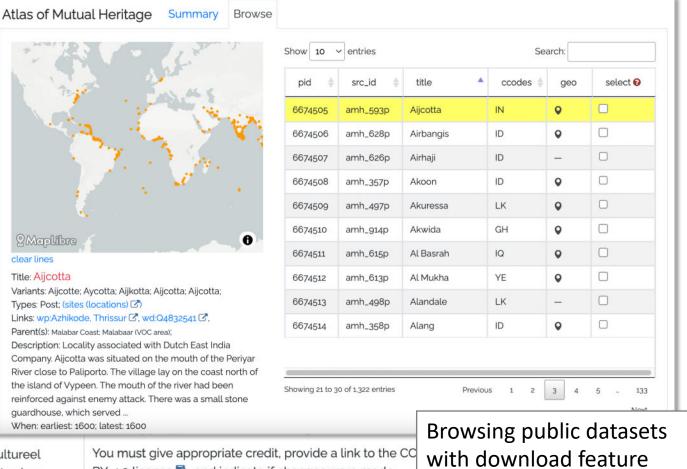
These datasets flagged as public in WHG include a growing set of historical contributions, as well as several in a non-historical "core." They can be browsed on their linked pages, explored in context of the entire repository on the Search page, and accessed programmatically with our Index and Database APIs.

All such public data are made available under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) License, requirements of which appear alongside download links on all Dataset and Collection pages

H = Historical; C = Core (non-historical)

| title 💠                                    | rows | description   | modified \$ | contributor \$ | type \$      |
|--|------|---|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| African Ports, 1887                        | 305  | 305 settlements and ports on the West African coast   | 2022-08-31  | whgadmin       | н            |
| An Historical Atlas of<br>Central Asia     | 759  | This dataset comprises 759 place records, digitized in 2018 from 15 of the 48 maps in this scholarly atlas. The maps' extensive sources, detailed in the Preface and Notes, include *all reliable genmore | 2022-08-31  | whgadmin       | н            |
| Atlas of Mutual<br>Heritage                | 1322 | The Atlas of Mutual Heritage is a growing database containing information about, and images of, the charter areas of the VOC (Dutch East India Company) and WIC (Dutch West India Company).               | 2022-09-12  | Browsing pu    | ıblic datase |
| Curaçao Historical<br>Administrative Areas | 29   | Spatiotemporal GIS layer of administrative areas (quarters; divisions; districts; urban neighbourhoods) in the island of Curaçao under Dutch, post-WIC control (1792-1954).                               | 2022-07-06  | rjstapel       | н            |
| Euratlas Cities                            | 3584 | 3584 cities with temporally scoped names from the Euratlas Periodis<br>Historical Atlas and Gazatteer. Polities will be added as a separate<br>dataset.   | 2022-09-07  | whgadmin       | н            |
| Geographic Names of<br>Antarctica          | 63   | A sample of geographic names in Antarctica in Gazetteer of the Antarctica, a cooperative project of the the Geological Survey (U.S.), National Mapping Division; National Science Foundation (U.S.).      | 2022-04-22  | als512         | н            |





BY-4.0 license , and indicate if changes were made.

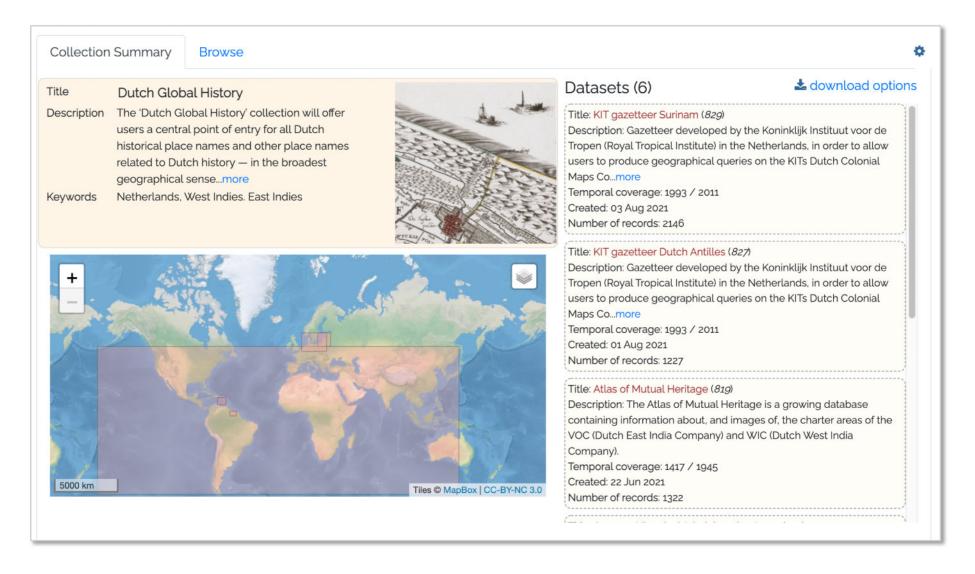
Downloads

Linked Places format &

LP-TSV 🕹

Features: Dataset Collections

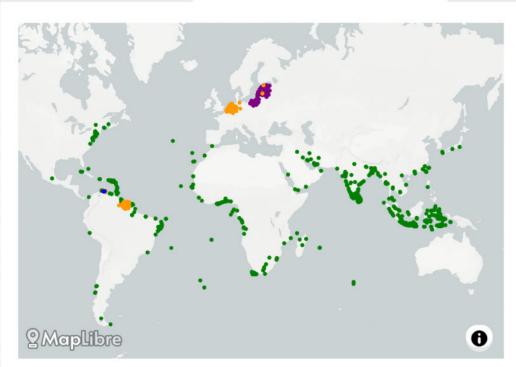
# **Dutch Global History**



### **Collection Summary**

Browse: Dutch Global History





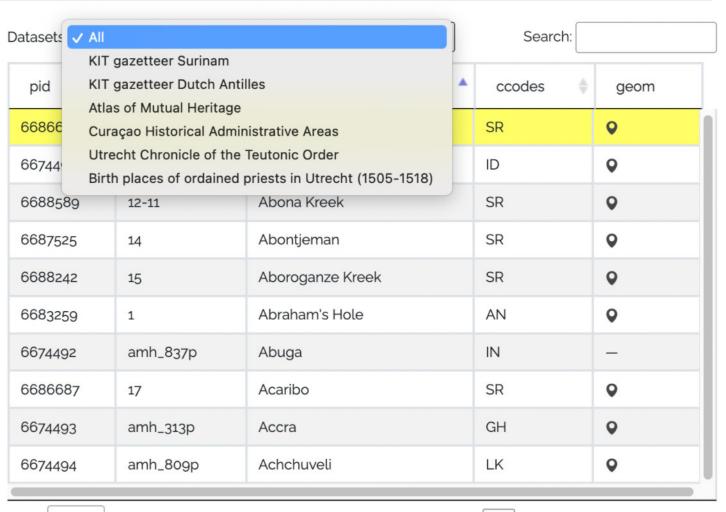
Title: Abigaelslust

Variants: Abigaellust; Abigaelslust; Abigaelslust;

Types: EST

Links: no links established yet

When: earliest: 1993; latest: 2011



Show 10 v entries

Showing 21 to 30 of 5,693

entries

Previous

2

3

4

57

Next



### Land Download options for the Dutch Global History collection

Logout

d options

or de

allow

or de

allow

nial

nial

Collection

Title

Description

Data uploaded as Linked Places format (LPF) are available only in that format. Data uploaded as LP-TSV (delimited text files or spreadsheets) can be downloaded as either LPF or LP-TSV.

IMPORTANT LICENSING INFORMATION: Data made public in WHG by its creators are available under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) License. They can be freely shared, re-used, and adapted, but "you must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made." Please see CC-BY-4.0 details; and WHG policy. Citations are provided below. By clicking download on this form, you are agreeing to those terms.

Keywords

#### Datasets (5693 total rows)

| Title   | Rows Formats |          |    |
|---|--------------|----------|----|
| KIT gazetteer Surinam 🚹                                 | 2146 () LPF  | ○ LP-TSV | *  |
| est. download time: 00 sec                              |              |          |    |
| KIT gazetteer Dutch Antilles 🜓                          | 1227 O LPF   | ○ LP-TSV | ₹. |
| est. download time: 00 sec                              |              |          |    |
| Atlas of Mutual Heritage 🚹                              | 1322 O LPF   | ○ LP-TSV | *  |
| est. download time: 01 sec                              |              |          |    |
| Curaçao Historical Administrative Areas 🖺               | 29 O LPF     | ○ LP-TSV | *  |
| est. download time: 01 sec                              |              |          |    |
| Utrecht Chronicle of the Teutonic Order 🜓               | 181 O LPF    | ○ LP-TSV | *  |
| est. download time: 00 sec                              |              |          |    |
| Birth places of ordained priests in Utrecht (1505-1518) | 787 O LPF    | ○ LP-TSV | *  |
| est. download time: 00 sec                              |              |          |    |

#### File Formats

Linked Places format (LPF) is JSON-based, valid GeoJSON and valid JSON-LD (rdf) with temporal extensions

LP-TSV downloads are tab-separated text files.

of the

Close

### Features: Place Collections

A Place Collection is a set of place records found in publicly accessible datasets within WHG. Place records can be added to a collection individually, in groups, or from entire datasets. Each record in the collection can optionally be annotated with relevant start and end dates, a relation keyword, and notes—all serving to explain the place's membership in the collection. The collection record itself can include an abstract, keywords, an image, an accompanying essay in PDF format, and up to three links to relevant web resources. Its data can be downloaded for further use.

### The World of Olaudah Equiano (Gustavus Vassa), 1745-1797 a place collection by Ruth Mostern

Olaudah Equiano, also known as Gustavus Vassa, was born in the Kingdom of Benin, enslaved as a child, and spent his adult life as a sailor, writer, and abolitionist. His autobiography, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, published in 1789, is an important source for understanding enslaved and free lives in the eighteenth century.

World Historical Gazetteer contact us | >

Keywords slavery, Atlantic world

The\_Life\_of\_Olaudah\_Equiano Essay

Created 29 Jun 2022

Links: The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus

Vassa, the African (a website); Equiano's World (a website);



#### Porto **ANNOTATION**

Relation: waypoint

Notes: Equiano spent Carnival in Porto on his way to Smyrna on board the Delaware.

Start/End: 1769/1769

#### North Atlantic ed States New York Greece Ocean Tunisia Morocco Libya Mauritania Niger co City Chad Sudan Cameroon Kinshasa

#### PLACE RECORD

Name variants: Porto;

Place type: inhabited place

External links (1) Show

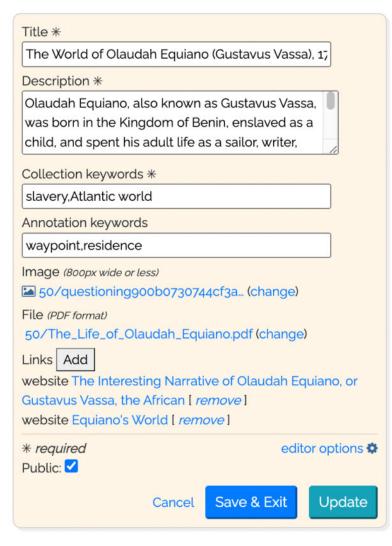
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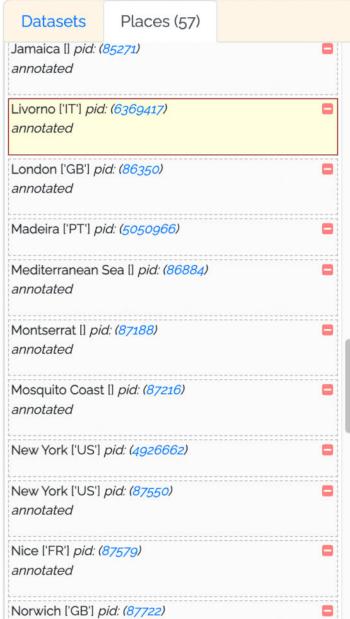
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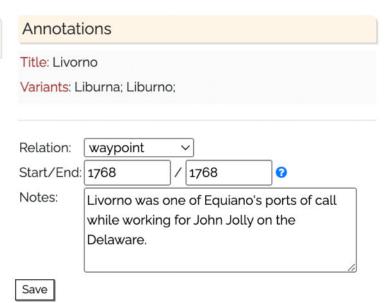
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| 5057706 | Perth and<br>Kinross | GB      | Getty TGN<br>(partial)             |
| 88265   | Philadelphia         | US      | DK Atlas of<br>World<br>History    |
| 88359   | Plymouth             | GB      | DK Atlas of<br>World<br>History    |
| 5142693 | Porto                | PT      | Getty TGN<br>(partial)             |
| 174087  | Rio Tinto            | HN      | HGIS de las<br>Indias<br>(lugares) |
| 5809450 | Savannah             | US      | Getty TGN<br>(partial)             |
| 89397   | Shetland<br>Islands  |         | DK Atlas of<br>World<br>History    |
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### Place Collection Builder: The World of Olaudah Equiano (Gustavus Vassa), 1745-1797









### Future plans

- Plan for sustainability: international consortium? subscription?
- More data
- Make contributing easier
- More Dataset Collections ("focus domains")
  - e.g. Historical Gazetteer of Ukraine; Portuguese Global History; Historical Middle East; Ottoman Empire; Central Eurasia; Latin America; Atlantic
- More and better integrations with external apps
  - e.g. Recogito; NodeGoat; AllMaps; Machines Reading Maps
- Enhance Place Collection capabilities, for teaching and ??
- Region Collections

### Thank you! Questions or comments?



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