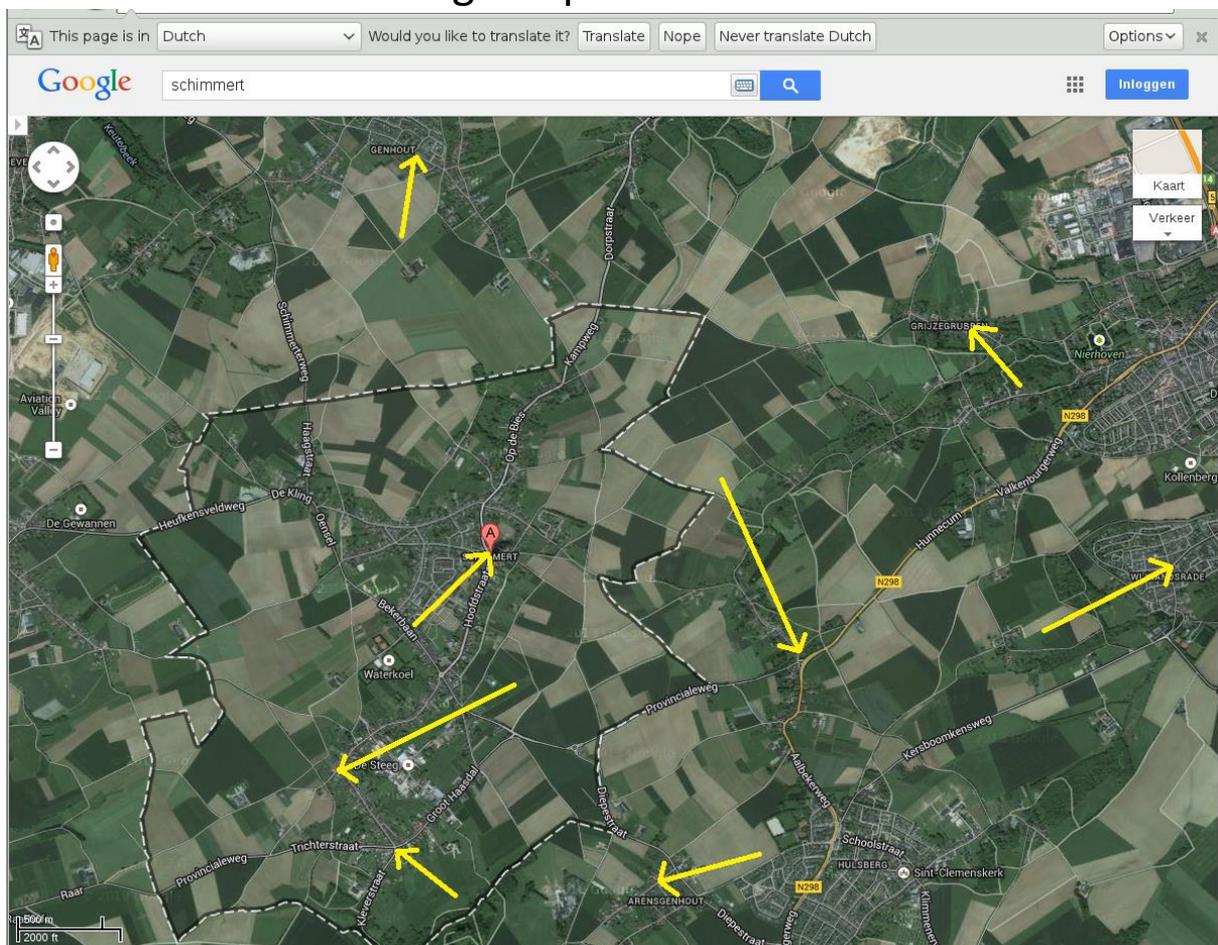


IISG-LINKS Dataset 2013.2

Historical Dutch Toponyms

Spatio-Temporal 1812-2012

7925 Place names (hamlet, village, town, city, municipality)
plus latitude, longitude coordinates of its residential area,
part of municipality [from, till), province, postal code(s),
telephone area code and Amsterdam code
covering the period 1812-2012



NWO Catch project LINKS
IISG and LIACS Leiden University
Compiled by Dr. D.P. Huijsmans
Version 2013.2 (Dec 2013)

Attachments:

Access 2013 database plus CSV files in Latin-1(ISO 8859-1):

ToponiemenNL: Dutch Toponyms Spatio-Temporal 1812-2012 (15916 entries).

Gemeentes: Municipality Table v/d Meer&Boonstra plus lat, lon, from, till, Amsterdam code (1855 of which 62 are ambiguous)

Contents:

Attachments (Access 2013 database plus CSV files)	2
Introduction	3
Role "Repertorium Nederlandse Gemeenten" (Dutch municipalities)	4
Role "Gemeentegeschiedenis.nl" (Dutch municipalities site)	4
Role compiler	4
Toponym Spatial: latitude, longitude coordinate pair	5
Toponym Temporal: part of municipality [from-till)	5
Ambiguous Toponyms	6
Postal codes and telephone area codes	6
Caveat	6
Use of the table	7
Sources and reference material	7
Scripts for determining distances	8

Introduction

Almost all NWO-CATCH projects would welcome a more or less complete listing of Dutch toponyms (place names of cities, towns, villages and hamlets) with Spatio-Temporal data concerning the geographic location and time spans of subsequent administrative units or municipalities. Therefore this list built during Catch project LINKS (2008-2013) and tested on toponyms mentioned in civil certificates is made available under a creative commons licence.

Which toponyms?

Toponym table entries were restricted to place names of a locality that at least historically lay above street names and have or had a certain distance to neighbouring villages or cities; therefore the lowest level provided is a hamlet; the highest level a municipality. Many hamlets as well as villages have become part of a larger unit during the documented period 1812-2012. Recent toponyms for gas stations along highways, large companies and industrial areas have been excluded.

Version 2013.2 Dec 2013

Two important additions have been realised with respect to the first version that was compiled within LINKS in May 2013.

First, all latitude, longitude coordinate pairs (that on visual inspection turned out to be accurate to no more than 2 decimals – about a kilometre- as compared to the local centre of its residential area) are made to be accurate to within 3 decimals (about 100 metres) with respect to the centre of its residential area. For distance calculations within LINKS this was not really essential since birth, marriage and death locations are no more accurate than the size of the community it was registered in, but it depicts the local configuration of place names around a village or city much more realistic (for an example see the front page depiction using arrows to indicate how much toponym positions around Schimmert have changed by going from 2 decimal centroid values to 3 decimal residential area values).

Second, the overview of timespans for each toponym, registering the subsequent municipalities it belonged to, has now become almost complete for the period 1812-2012.

Role “Repertorium Nederlandse Gemeenten sinds 1812” (2^e edition 2011)

This Compendium has been used to normalise the spelling of those toponyms that have been municipalities; spelling variations found in current postal code tables have been added as well. The compendium has also been used to derive time spans associated with subsequent geographic regroupings of municipalities into increasingly larger units and lower numbers. Toponyms that refer to place names that have never been a municipality have initially been assigned to a municipality mentioned in the civil certificates handled by LINKS. The Amsterdam code for municipalities is shown in a separate column.

Role website www.gemeentegeschiedenis.nl

Recently a beta-version of www.gemeentegeschiedenis.nl (history of Dutch municipalities) has become available; all centroids of Dutch toponyms available in geonames.org have been tested against polygons describing changes in municipal areas over the years to determine automatically plus timespan when a certain toponym did lay within which municipality. This attribution should be used cautiously since the polygons describing municipalities, especially the early ones, are crude and estimated not to be more accurate than about 1 kilometre which may give rise to misalignments especially when hamlets are situated at the periphery.

Role compiler

Apart from the toponym sources consulted on Internet compiler has collected all place names mentioned in the digital indexes to civil certificates (Genlias) available to LINKS and checked every toponym occurring at least 8 times for both existence within the Netherlands and for representativeness of its point location. Google Maps function “Here” was used to obtain the WGS84 latitude, longitude position in decimal degrees of the centre of the toponyms ancient residential area.

Toponym Spatial: Latitude, Longitude (lat, lon) coordinate pair

Geographic location of a toponym is given using a latitude- and longitude system:

- The worldwide WSG84 decimal degrees latitude, longitude system using 3 decimal accuracy (about 100 metres) was used instead of a specific Dutch (RD X,Y Rijks Driehoek stelsel) grid; this was done to facilitate exchange within Europe.
- The area of a toponym is represented by a single lat, lon point location aimed at showing the centre of its ancient residential area to within 100 metres; it is aimed at correctly visualising local configurations of place names rather than accurately representing the continually changing population density. Using formulae one can easily determine distances (for instance in kilometres) between any two lat, lon pairs for ranking candidate matches based on mutual distance.

Toponym Temporal: part of municipality [from, till]

Using a date-from, date-till (format YYYYMMDD,YYYYMMDD) interval the responsible municipality of each toponym is given from 1812 till 2012.

A uniform strictly linear increasing date can be obtained by converting dates into Julian Day numbers (JD) so that one can easily reason with time differences on a day basis, like one can do on a year basis by just using the year. Since Julian Days start at 12 o'clock at noon one can also use a Modified Julian Day date starting at midnight and/or using a different starting point.

Ambiguous toponyms

Some toponyms can be ambiguous because identical place names can exist for different geographic areas (like Bergen which is the name of a village in both the province of North-Holland and Limburg as well as being a city in both Belgium and Norway). Listed toponyms are sorted in toponym, lat, lon, from, till order: ambiguous place names can easily be located by comparing their lat, lon position pairs. Adding municipality and/or province fields makes almost all toponyms unique (exceptions are Hoogeveen, Naaldwijk and Rijswijk of which dual municipalities with the same name co-existed in the province of Zuid-Holland for a short time).

Variants of toponyms

Resorting toponyms in lat, lon, from, till, toponym order makes it possible to automatically search for locations (identical lat, lon pair) with different names; in the remarks (opmerkingen) field the preferred spelling is indicated when known.

In the province of Friesland preferred spelling in either Frisian (Fr) or Dutch(NL) is mentioned as well.

Postal codes and telephone area codes

Separate fields are filled with the 4 digit postal code range for recent entries; the telephone area code is often mentioned in a separate field as well.

Caveat

Although the attached toponym table has been extensively tested and adapted over the past 14 months, it will not claim to be complete since not all civil records containing toponym information have become digitally available yet. Also regions historically making part of The Netherlands sometime between 1812 and 2012 like Belgium, Indonesia and Surinam are lacking with the exception of the Dutch Antilles that have been entered under province "Nederlandse Antillen". Data from this table should be used cautiously and checked when in doubt, but is hopefully within the time period 1812-2012 of use within many more applications than just Catch project LINKS. The compiler of this list is happy to receive feedback from users and would appreciate to receive information about faulty or missing data. Comments can be send via d.p.huijsmans@liacs.leidenuniv.nl or d.p.huijsmans@gmail.com.

Use of this table

Use of this table is allowed under Creative Commons licence (Creative Commons Naamsvermelding 3.0 Nederland) by mentioning “D.P. Huijsmans: IISG-LINKS Dataset 2013.2 Historische Nederlandse Toponiemen Spatio-Temporeel 1812-2012”.

Sources and reference material:

www.dans.knaw.nl: Van der Meer en Boonstra; Repertorium Nederlandse Gemeenten vanaf 1812; 2^e edition (pdf only) 2011.

www.gemeentegeschiedenis.nl: site that, using the “Repertorium Nederlandse Gemeenten” plus polygons describing the changing area of each municipality, has determined the most likely municipality for each Dutch toponym within geonames.com. The site is organised around municipalities.

www.genver.nl: list of Dutch villages containing ~ 10.500 entries, but with quite some erratic names.

www.metatopos.org: its list of ~ 5700 place names in The Netherlands seems very reliable.

www.d-centralize.nl: site with lists of numeric (4-digit) part of Dutch postal codes as well as lists of 6-digit full Dutch postal codes per province including lat, lon centroids. Since the 6-digit codes are at street level, this toponym table compiler has only used the 4-digit numeric postal codes.

nl.wikipedia.org: provincial lists of place names plus centroid lat, lon coordinates (except for the province of Friesland where you have to consult the English wikipedia pages to see lat, lon coordinates).

home.kpn.nl/pagklein/gemeente/fralfa.html: for a listing of all place names in the province Friesland plus Dutch and Frisian preferred spelling.

Scripts to determine geographic- en time distances

Geographic distance using lat, lon pairs:

www.movable-type.co.uk: online distance determination between lat, lon pairs including program code.

Williams.best.vwh.net: online distance determination between lat, lon pairs as well as scripts for inclusion in program code;

Within The Netherlands a 3-decimal accuracy comes down to ~ 90 metres (112m NS, 68m WE)

Maps.google.com: use “here” (push right mouse button at point in map position) will display lat, lon in decimal degrees in the search field; giving in such lat, lon coordinates (decimal degrees) shows corresponding point location on the map.

Distance in days:

Only years form a uniform linear range; to achieve the same for YYYYMMDD one can best convert into Julian Day numbers (as used in astronomy).

aa.usno.navy.mil: for online JD conversion

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/julian_day: gives conversion formulas between YYYYMMDD and JD for use in scripts or programs.

N.B.!: take into account that astronomer’s JD start at noon instead of midnight.