

International Databases

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This document provides information on the availability of selected international databases. Those marked with (*) are available from the GIA Core (see <http://athens.pop.psu.edu/gia/links.cfm>).

International Databases

* **International Potato Center GIS Mapserver:** This database contains various thematic maps and/or geo-referenced databases either in shapefile or gridfile format. The database is organized by continent and country. Data available at the continental level is altitude (5m), whereas the country-level data are available by various themes such as altitude, administrative boundaries, gazetteer (list of place names and their coordinates), population density and land cover. These data are in public domain. <http://www.cipotato.org/diva/data/DataServer.htm> is the website from where data can be downloaded. The files are compressed and grouped in the ZIP format.

* **ArcWorld 1:3M:** The ArcWorld 1:3M covers the land areas of the world. This database is available at two scales: (a) 1:3,000,000 (1:3M), larger data set in terms of both scale and content, and (b) 1:25M data set representing small scale maps. The ArcWorld 1:3M dataset contains more than 235,000 features and over 900 attributes including 240 countries. The data files contain cartographic layers (for both country and internal boundaries, major cities, water bodies, roads and railroads); index layers (for Latitude and Longitude, Landsat, and Operational Navigation Chart); and statistical attribute layers by country (economics, population demographics, labor force, education, health, food production, and natural resources). The smaller 1:25 million-scale dataset has many of the same geographic features as the 1:3 million-scale maps, but they are represented in less detail. The data are available on CDs. ArcView can be used to access the data. The files are also available as 'view' (*.AV) files. Individual layers by countries can be accessed from the CD in the \arcworld\world_d\ directory. The data source type must be specified as 'Feature Data Source' in the 'Add Theme' dialogue box. Images of the data can be exported from ArcView in the following formats: Windows metafile, Windows bitmap, EPS, Adobe Illustrator, and CGM. Visit websites http://www.esri.com/data/catalog/esri/esri_aw.html, <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/stacks/gis/arcworld.html>, and http://www.brocku.ca/maplibrary/digital/arc_worl.html for further information.

* **ArcUSA 1:2M:** ArcUSA is a database of the United States. The database provides data to generate thematic maps at the state and county levels. It consists of cartographic, tabular, and index information. This data set is useful in creating county and state level thematic maps, generating simple outline maps, identifying demographic and socioeconomic patterns, and many other purposes. The purpose of this database is to serve a wide range of users in such areas as business, educational, and scientific GIS applications. The ArcUSA database also contains data at two levels. ArcUSA 1:2M is a large database in terms of both scale and content. It consists of more than 100,000 features and over 1,000 attributes. The ArcUSA 1:25M data set provides a smaller map and contains a sample of the features and thematic attributes from the 1:2M database. The data are available on CDs. These data can be used with the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) ArcGIS 8.x and ArcView 3.x software as well as many

earlier versions. ESRI has the copyright for both of these databases (ArcWorld 1:3M and ArcWorld 1:2M) and are available only for academic research and teaching purposes.

[The Digital Chart of the World](#) (See GIS Resource Document 02-26 (GIS_RD_02-26))

International Data Base (IDB): IDB is a computerized data source consisting of statistical tables of demographic and socio-economic data for 227 *countries and areas* of the world with a population of 5,000 or more in 1998 (<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html>). The IDB is a product of the International Programs Center (IPC) of the Census Bureau developed to provide quick access to specialized information, with emphasis on demographic measures, for individual countries or selected groups of countries. Data available include population by age and sex, vital rates, infant mortality, and life tables, fertility and child survivorship, migration, marital status, family planning, ethnicity, religion, language, literacy; labor force, employment, and income, and households. The data characteristics vary temporally (selected years, 1950-present, projected demographic data to 2050), spatially (countries and areas), and in resolution (national population, data by urban/rural residence and by age and sex). Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Estimates and Projections; **national statistics offices** and United Nations and Specialized Agencies (ILO, UNESCO, WHO).

Asia Population Database: The Asia Population Database is a comprehensive database compiled from a large number of existing heterogeneous sources by the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis unit of UCSB (<http://grid2.cr.usgs.gov/globalpop/asia/>). This database is suitable for regional and continental applications and is useful for a variety of applications including strategic-level agricultural research and applications in the analysis of the human dimensions of global change. Resources available include data layers of administrative boundaries with population totals and the methodology used for constructing a set of gridded data layers (raster data) of population distribution (see Part I and II of the Document, respectively, for detail). Visit “Mirror download sites available at: GRID-Arendal and GRID-Geneva” in the above website to download data.

Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University: (http://www.ciesin.org/download_data.html) Both GIS and non-GIS format data are available for download from CIESIN. GIS format data available are Central American Vegetation/ Land cover classification and Conservation Status, China Dimensions Data Collection, Geo-referenced Population Data Sets of Mexico, Gridded Population of the World (GPW v. 2), U.S. PUMA Boundary Files, U.S. TIGER files (Boundary files).

CGIAR Meta-datasets: This Meta-data set consists of a wide range of data pertaining to sixteen different themes (<http://grida.no/cgiarc/htmls/cgtheme.htm>). These data sets are available for nine regions of three continents: Africa (East, West, Southern); America (South and Central and Caribbean area); and Asia (Central, Eastern, South and Southeast and Western). The database also includes data for Oceans and Seas. Visit <http://grida.no/cgiarc/htmls/> to download data.

Miscellaneous

Other sites that may be useful starting points to search for international geo-spatial data include: Geographic Data Technology (<http://www.geographic.com/home>); the Geography Network (<http://www.geographynetwork.com>); GIS Data Depot (<http://www.gisdatadepot.com/>).