

NATIONAL ATLASES SINCE 1990 — NEW APPROACHES?

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The introduction of multimedia techniques for the presentation of maps and graphics on a screen (display), which was introduced at the end of the 1980ies, also influenced the design and conception of national atlases. The presentation will include all national atlases and their conceptual approaches (conceptions) that were published since 1990.

The presentation will deal with the following issues:

1. In which way did the new technical possibilities influence the design of atlases?
2. What are the basic types of concepts? Which conceptual ways have been chosen for the realization of the atlases – from a book edition to the electronic form or from an electronic conception back to a traditional book version? Or is it a concept that leads directly to an online-edition? Is the main emphasis put upon an user-friendly interface or on the specific demands of specialized user groups.
3. To what degree did previous issues (editions) influence the conception?
4. What concrete forms of publication exist? Are there traditional book editions parallel to online and offline versions?
5. Which programs or graphic formats were used? Are the programs suitable for one type of platform only? What type of graphic formats are being used, raster or vector formats, or both?