

A wish for a new atlas

Peter Occil

This version of the document is dated 2025-09-30.

Thanks to the *OpenStreetMap* project and its vast geographical database, as well as advances in mapmaking software, the following should be doable nowadays with open-source software and freely-licensed data, but I haven't seen it yet:

part of a business's inventory that is exposed for sale to the public

An atlas of the world covering **all land masses in the scale 1:4,000,000**. The maps in the atlas should be *political maps*, showing:

- The boundaries and areas of countries and states (and their equivalents).
- For some countries, the boundaries and areas of counties (and their equivalents).
- Major cities and important towns, grouped by population.
- Important rivers and bodies of water labeled.
- Important mountain peaks, volcanoes, and depressions labeled.
- Relief shading.
- Natural features (for example, plains, mountain ranges, islands) labeled.

The maps should not be in Mercator projection, and the size of each page should be letter size or A4. Essentially, the maps should feel similar to the classic *Quick Reference World Atlas* that Rand McNally Publishing used to publish.

An atlas like this would be a handy reference for homes or classrooms.

How many maps would be required to achieve this goal for the scale 1:4 million? 1:6 million? 1:8 million? 1:10 million?

1 License

Any copyright to this page is released to the Public Domain. In case this is not possible, this page is also licensed under **Creative Commons Zero**¹.

¹<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>