Indexing the Jacaranda Atlas

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Jacaranda Atlas Ninth Edition © John Wiley & Sons Australia 2017

Spatial Vision has produced the last three editions (7, 8, and 9) of the *Jacaranda Atlas* for John Wiley & Sons, and by far the biggest individual task is indexing the features that appear on the atlas maps. Generating such complex gazetteer indexes is a bane of cartographers, and it takes roughly four to five weeks of production time to generate, collate, format, and check the *Jacaranda Atlas* index. Before the advent of computers, this was an entirely manual process. With the development of geographic information systems and relational databases, the process has been automated somewhat, though in spite of this, errors can still creep in.

The purpose of a gazetteer index is to locate a feature on a map that places it in the most appropriate context, which can be challenging when the feature appears on more than one map. Additionally, the index should provide some extra information about the feature—its latitude and longitude, along with its type (park, mountain, bay, etc.; Irvine 2005).

Spatial Vision uses a multi-step approach to the production of the atlas maps. For the atlas plates we use Esri ArcGIS for the base map creation, with final clean up and styling in Adobe Illustrator. This approach has proved challenging