Title
Search Chinese Government Resources for Geographic Names

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Place Name Changes in China? Why?
Changes of place names happen in China constantly particularly in the last 10 years.
• Jurisdiction is changed or abolished; merged, split; or
• Simply replaced by a new place name.

Verify Place Names, Why?
• Need to know the recent name for research;
• To consolidate resources gathered under the old and new names;
• Basic geographic resources may be outdated or do not include the new name;
• Information from Wiki and Baidu might not be reliable.

We Need the Most Accurate and Reliable Sources – Official Chinese Government Departments.

Search the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People’s Republic of China’s National Administrative Division Information Search Platform
中华人民共和国民政部, 全国行政区划信息查询平台
http://xzqh.mca.gov.cn/
1. Search place name by administrative level or without specifying administrative level

2. Search changes of administrative divisions at or above the county level 县级以上行政区划变更情况:
This is not a cumulative list but it has a report of each change by year and month.

3. Search the administrative divisions code lists 行政区划代码
The lists are updated monthly.
 a) Above county level administration code 县以上行政区划代码:
Quick reference list of above county level place names and administrative codes.
You can copy the list in a WORD file and add your own notes.

b) Changes in the administration divisions under the county level 县以下行政区划变更情况:
Table of the recent month’s changes which includes new name, reason of change, original administrative division code, new administrative code, and documentation number of approved changes.

Search the website of National Bureau of Statistics of the People’s Republic of China 中华人民共和国国家统计局
Statistical and Urban-Rural Division Codes 统计用区划代码和城乡划分代码
1. Place names and codes used by the National Bureau of Statistics for national statistics;
2. Updated annually;
3. Has links to the lower administrative level;
4. The list is grouped together by provinces, autonomous regions and municipality.
5. Each administrative level is further subdivided in - prefectural level,
 - county level,
 - township level.

Search for Under the County Level Administrative Divisions
1. Lower level places information can be found under the province’s civil affairs department website;
2. Can use browser search to narrow down the search results on the Chinese Government websites by adding “site:gov.cn” at the end of your search. For example, “小四平镇site:gov.cn”