

Basic file types used in ArcVoyager

As you investigate the contents of the ArcVoyager data directories, you will encounter three basic types of files. These are **geographic shape** files, **map image** files, and **statistical data** files. Information about each of these is summarized in the table below.

File type	File extension	Function	Other associated files	Directory location(s)
Geographic shapes	.SHP	Draws geographic shapes (points, lines, and areas) in geographic space (e.g. a shape associated with latitude and longitude). Maps basic locational features (e.g. city locations, roads, country boundaries). May also include statistical/characteristic information (e.g. city population, highway number, country demographics). These files answer the question, “Where is it?”	To draw a geographic shape in a map (i.e. to add a theme to a view) in ArcVoyager (or ArcView) requires retrieving files with an .SHP extension (e.g. COUNTRY.SHP) using the ADD THEME button, selecting “Feature Data Source” under TYPE, and navigating to a directory (folder) with .SHP data files. However, two other files must present in the data directory for the shape to draw. These are the associated .SHX and .DBF files. Two other files may also be present for indexing purposes, .SBN and .SBX.	\VOYAGER\DATA\GEO\...
Map images	.TIF	Represents graphic images which may or may not be geographically referenced.	To display a map image in exact geographic location, the .TIF file is coupled with a file of the same name but ending in .TFW. Also, display instructions are the same as above in the .SHP discussion but select “Image Data Source” under TYPE and then navigate to .TIF files.	\VOYAGER\DATA\IMAGE\...
Statistical data	.DBF	Contains tables of information, like files used in a spreadsheet or data base application. Here, the files contain characteristics (or attributes) about geographic locations such as the 28 attributes about 165 countries found in DEMOG.DBF. These files answer the question, “What’s it like here?”	No other files are associated with .DBF files from a purely statistical information standpoint. Statistical data also can be added to an ArcVoyager (or ArcView) project via .TXT files. Mapping these data files requires appending (JOINING) them to geographic shape files of like geography. Point data with latitude and longitude coordinates also can be mapped as an EVENT THEME.	\VOYAGER\DATA\TABLE\...