

An initial attempt to describe some info in some record types for BetterGEDCOM

The focus of this is on structures for E&C-persons (if used), "Evidence", Citations, Objectives and Tasks. The records are not complete.

Note: The attached diagram showing data records and their content has not been updated in this version since the main purpose is to show the overall structure.

Notation: * = zero or more, ? = zero or one, -> xxx record = link to record, -- = start of comment

italics are used to include comments in records, that groups structures in the record into a "unit" rather than having the record referring to a description of the unit outside the description of the record – as in Gedcom. Text in italics does not produce data, but its subordinates may.

Important: I am trying to describe the various bits and pieces of information and the relations between them. How this should be structured in a file is of lesser concern, so that structure could in theory be different. I have only included one way links between records, but applications will in many cases have to create two way links. All records have (UU)IDs that are not shown. **Correct terminology has not been a concern at this stage.**

Objective/Goal record – Maybe wrong term

- Objective description
- Find out about who/what
 - -> Person record
 - More, event, ?relation?
- Tasks* -> Task record
- Result affected records
 - -> Person record*
 - -> Citation record*
 - More
- More

See wiki page Research process Evidence & GPS and the Administration items in the Requirements Catalogue.

Task record – performing a lookup in a source

- Task description
- Source to search -> Source record
- Where to search* -> Repository record (or similar cf Req Cat)
- Found info */? -> Source lookup record
- More

Source lookup record

- -> Source record
- Where in source? (some citation elements)
- Source location* -> Repository record (or similar)
- Where in repository?
- *Extracts*
 - -> Source free-text extract record?
 - Where in text extract?
 - Translations* ->Note
 - Language
 - Multimedia*
 - Default summary? -- See Citation
 - *Codified result**
 - -> Person record*
 - More – Group, Place
 - Tabular extract* – a possibility
 - Where in extract
- Comment used for research only?
- Researcher? -> Researcher record 1)
- Lookup date?

1) A detail: Assuming a multiuser system or data imported from several BG files. What happens if two researchers have different interpretations of a source, two lookup records would be recorded or are the individual extracts marked with Researcher. This situation needs discussion on a more general context.

Person record

- PersonNames* 5)
 - -> Citation record
- Gender? -- supersedes lower levels if present
- Subordinate persons* -> Person record
- Event participations*
 - PersonNames* -- different names may have been used in the same source/event
 - Role? – may not be needed for single person events, but could be used
 - Age?
 - Event common data ->Event common data record
 - Superseded by? -> Person record 1)
 - SupersedingPerson ->Person record
 - Superseding Event ref? -> Event common parts
 - Research note?
 - -> Citation record* 3)
 - Confidence/surety? – is this the person – coded 7) – cf Rec Cat ConfAcc02-03-04
- Climbing note?
 - Person climbing note ref* -> Person 2)
 - Some text? -> Note record 6)
 - Person climbing note ref* -> Person 2)
- Research note? – normally not published – could be climbing
- -> Citation record* 4)
- Researcher? -> Researcher record
- More

1) If the record is linked to a superior person, then Name, Gender, Event participation and Climbing note can have a “superseded” value referencing some superior person. An example for Event participation is shown, but note that in its particular case it may also link to the event. (Except for information that can only have one value, info added to a superior level does not supersede that at a lower level, but what about e.g. the birth event that also could be used to record biologic relations – cf. “preferred” below.)

2) Each ref is replaced by the “Some text” from the Climbing note in the referenced subordinate Person in the same sequence as referenced. To be improved for more flexibility, preferably to be able to place text before&after &between text from lower levels? Notes from some persons can be excluded, and the sequence rearranged.

3) Not intended to duplicate citation in event.

4) A citation for a person linked to from a Lookup record applies to all content in the Person record and events

linked to. If it is not linked to from Lookup, it may apply to the whole record and/or parts of its content e.g. events, (and for Conclusion persons also subordinate persons). (Tentative conclusion, this has been discussed somewhere).

5) A record does not need to have a person name anywhere, here or in the “event role”

6) This single note is likely to end up as several notes in a final version, e.g. because Gedcom has several per person, but maybe also due to “text handling” issues, cf. Rec Cat.

7) Surety placed here does not allow me to say with one value that it is uncertain if a person is a child of another.

If the record is linked to from a Source lookup record it shall reflect the values from the one source lookup accurately, no “interpretations”, and may contain Citation links producing output in reports/charts (the link from Lookup will not produce citation output because citations has more info than be derived via that link – but the link from the lookup may let a program create parts of the citation automatically).

A one level implementation will not use the Subordinate person link and not the Superseded structure and will not be linked to from a Lookup; links between the one Conclusion person to “Evidence” linked to from Lookup (possibly including person records) will go through Citations. A two level implementation will use Subordinate person, but I am not sure if the subordinate record could link to a Lookup record or use superseded (nFS may answer this, but I expect their system do not only have one source Person as at the lower level?). Also it is assumed that a Gentech (2 level) type structure can be modeled using an empty top level Person record to link the personas, but how is the “preferred” info marked? And is “non-preferred” info the same as superseded? See more about support for various level below.

Gedcom has a “preferred” concept (see p. 20 in 5.5.1 pdf) where the first occurrence is most preferred and the last is least preferred. Applies to events and name (and more?) – is this needed (for other things than possibly indicating vital records for biological relations) and how are these to be recorded given that we do not have a sequence of events in a multi-level model? We may have a “preferred designator” but it will be more complex to arrange the occurrences in a hierarchy with more granularity, which in my opinion is not needed. (Dead Ends has vital).

Problem placeholder: There is another related issue, is there a need to control the sequence in which e.g. events (of the same type) or names are presented in a report – other than by using the date – you may not always have a

date (but could never the less add a non-displaying sort date.) This would be relevant if transferring between one user's programs. Rather than using dates, it seems like a good idea to have an option to let the user be in total control of the sequence of events in an E&C tree. Also applies to sequence of children produced in a family type relation.

Event common data record

- Event Type
- Event name?, Description? – for user defined events, here or maybe def. of the event type in file header with more info – e.g. roles, class.
 - Language?
- Dates* -- cf. date format discussion
- Value(s)* – type, value pairs?
- Places names*
 - Place role -- here or in place name record
- Event note?
- Research note?
- ->Citation record*

It is assumed that Attributes in Gedcom can be encoded as events.

Citation record

- Reasoning? – but this is not the only place for reasoning
- Summary? -- Overrides default
- -> Source lookup record?/* 1) 2)
- Include translation of text? (=language)
- Maybe more parameters controlling inclusion of pieces from referenced records
- "QUAY"? -- or similar cf Rec Cat
- -> Researcher record
- Non-printing 3)

There can be many citations per source lookup.

- 1) If no link to a Source lookup is present, the citation will only produce a foot/endnote with the text in Reasoning.
- 2) When referring to evidence it would be useful to be able to reference many sources, but we must decide if we want multi source foot/endnotes.
- 3) Non-printing suppresses output in reports and can e.g. be used when the record is used only to link data records (person etc.) with evidence for the researchers own use.

Source record

- Source type?
- More source citation elements
- *Extracts*
 - Multimedia*
 - -> Source free text extract record*
 - More
- Repositories* -> Repository record

Source free text extract record

- Free form text containing marked parts that can be referenced for presentation
- Language?
- Where in source?

Note record

- Structure TBD
- Referenced citations* -> Citation record
- Language?

Support for multilevel person records (E&C) by programs

Support for use of the structures "subordinate persons", "superseded by" and the "person record references" in the Person record internally in a program is optional, i.e. the application may support fewer levels internally than what is contained in an imported BG-file. However, in order to avoid interworking problems, an application supporting fewer levels shall convert the file into the number of supported levels, by copying all parts of the Person records at the levels lower than what is supported into the lowest level supported. Data marked as superseded is not copied. The climbing note structure is converted into a single note. Person references and superseded are then discarded. Exception(s): Other data that can only appear once in a Person record (Gender) – use value at highest level – conflicting values at lower levels is an error. (When this conversion is clearly specified it should be a very simple task to implement.)

Importing multi-level into a Gentech model system (2 levels, empty top level used for linking only). Three possible situations: 1) From empty top record, from similar system, no conversion needed. 2) Single level, no conv. 3) Multi level, two possibilities – convert to a single person or convert the persons in the top two levels into person records linked to an empty top level CP, merging lower levels into the "next to top" level persons (does the latter work?)

Importing Gentech into 1) one level: Merge the records, preferred info must be handled 2) multilevel: No conversion, handle preferred.

General comments

There are many things missing in the model. For example there is no structure for relations between persons (although vital events have been proposed). There are no Group records, Place (name) records, Repository record, Multimedia record, Researcher record etc.

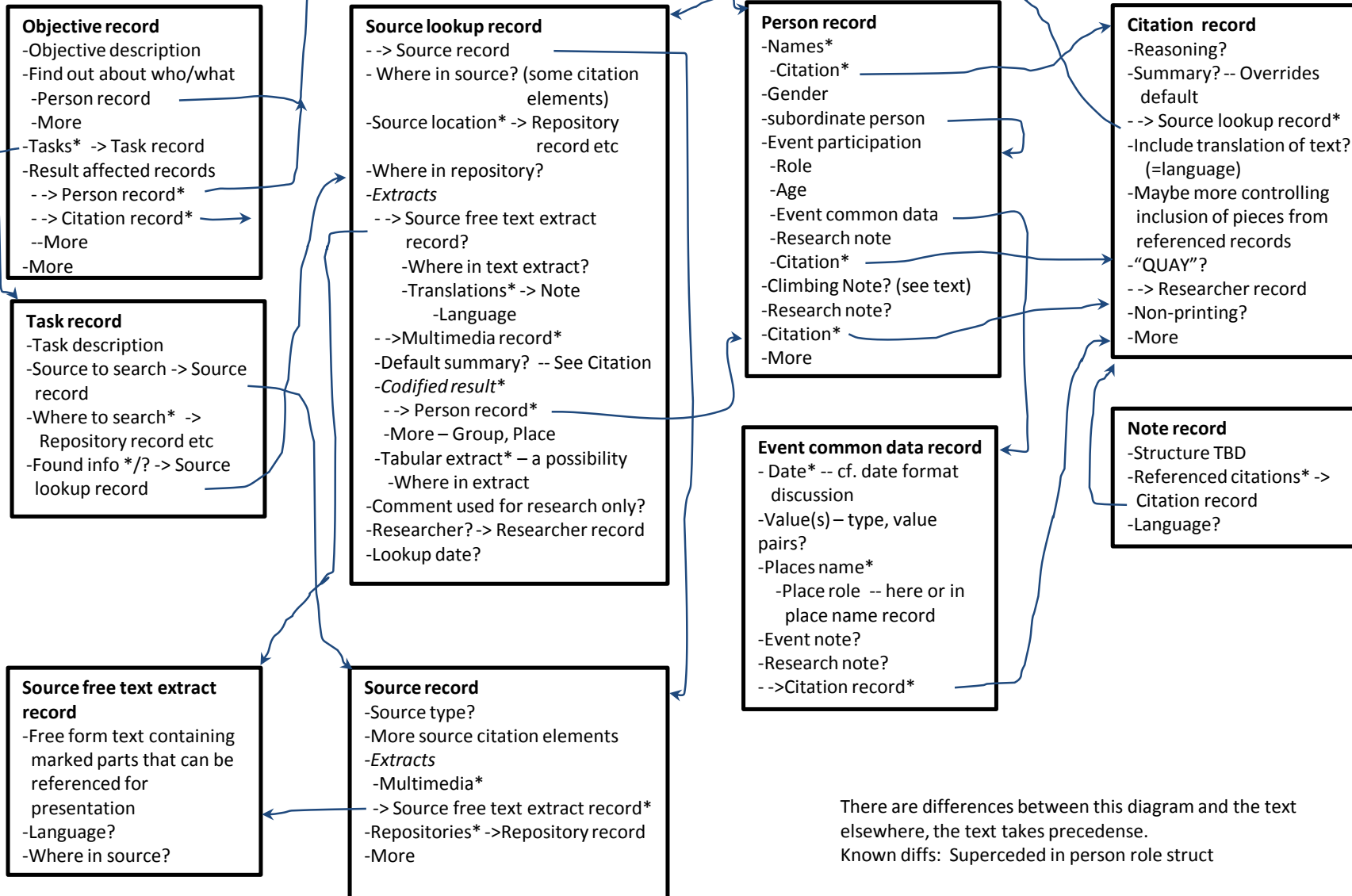
I have not compared the structures in this document with Gedcom. Such a comparison will result in additional structures, or other changes.

I have tried to avoid to use the term "Note" as name for a single element in a record, instead I try to use terms describing the intended content. Some elements could be encoded as notes although not shown here. I find this better than using Gedcom syntax NOTE that can contain anything, but unfortunately there are instances where the note corresponds to NOTES in Gedcom that are not precise wrt its content. An issue may also be, what does it mean if Gedcom splits something into several consecutive notes?

Enclosures

A diagram showing the records and relations between them is enclosed. **It does not contain the updates in this text from v.0.00001.**

A second diagram shows various ways to use the Person, Citation and Lookup records depending on the number of levels of Conclusion and Evidence persons (as described by the E&C model. (A problem is that the term EP is also used to reference evidence persons not linked to conclusion persons, e.g. only holding evidence from a source, but the type of record should be evident from the relations.)



Some "permutations" (instances) of the most important proposed records

