Personal Name Data Standard

Draft Proposal

For Discussion Purposes Only

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Contents

[01 Introduction 1](#_Toc313005793)

[01.01 Purpose 1](#_Toc313005794)

[01.02 Scope 1](#_Toc313005795)

[01.03 Design Strategy 1](#_Toc313005796)

[01.04 Authority 2](#_Toc313005797)

[01.05 Status 2](#_Toc313005798)

[01.06 Related Documents 2](#_Toc313005799)

[01.07 <Editorial Notes 2](#_Toc313005800)

[01.08 Copyright 2](#_Toc313005801)

[02 General Terms 3](#_Toc313005802)

[02.01 Terminals 3](#_Toc313005803)

[02.02 NameParts 4](#_Toc313005804)

[02.03 NamePieces 5](#_Toc313005805)

[02.04 Special NamePieces 5](#_Toc313005806)

[03 Primary Entity Table 6](#_Toc313005807)

[03.01 PersonName 6](#_Toc313005808)

[04 Domain Tables 9](#_Toc313005809)

[04.01 PersonNameType 9](#_Toc313005810)

[04.02 Title 10](#_Toc313005811)

[04.03 GivenName 10](#_Toc313005812)

[04.04 FamiliarName 10](#_Toc313005813)

[04.05 FamilyName 11](#_Toc313005814)

[04.06 GenerationalTitle 11](#_Toc313005815)

[04.07 Designation 12](#_Toc313005816)

[04.08 NamePieceOrder 12](#_Toc313005817)

[04.09 Place 12](#_Toc313005818)

[04.10 LocaleParameter 13](#_Toc313005819)

[05 Link Tables 14](#_Toc313005820)

[05.01 PersonNameGivenName 14](#_Toc313005821)

[05.02 PersonNameFamiliarName 14](#_Toc313005822)

[05.03 PersonNameDesignation 15](#_Toc313005823)

[05.04 PersonNameLocaleParameter 15](#_Toc313005824)

[05.05 PersonNameNote 16](#_Toc313005825)

[05.06 Citation 16](#_Toc313005826)

[06 External Entity Tables 17](#_Toc313005827)

[06.01 Person 17](#_Toc313005828)

[06.02 LocaleParameter 17](#_Toc313005829)

[06.03 Place 17](#_Toc313005830)

[06.04 Note 18](#_Toc313005831)

[06.05 Citation 18](#_Toc313005832)

[Glossary 19](#_Toc313005833)

[Appendix 01 Logical Data Model 22](#_Toc313005834)

[Appendix 02 Data Representation Grammar 23](#_Toc313005835)

[References and Hyperlinks **Error! Bookmark not defined.**](#_Toc313005836)

[Endnotes 24](#_Toc313005837)

# Introduction

## Purpose

This data standard covers Personal Name, hereinafter referred to as PersonName. Although this data standard attempts to encompass all cultures and languages throughout the world, it is not intended to be exhaustive, i.e., address every level and range of complexity that exists. Rather, it provides solutions to the most common cultural usages in a flexible generic extensible manner. It is targeted specifically for genealogical use, but it may be applicable for many other purposes. In addition, it is intended to provide useful input into the ["NEWORG"](mailto:BettterGEDCOM@GMail.com)[[1]](#endnote-1) data standards.

A Personal Names Data Standard is needed to improve the quality, reliability and use of Personal Name data for genealogical purposes as:

* no comprehensive data standard exists that addresses all cultures and languages of the world
* no standard has approved by any genealogy organization

## Scope

The scope of this data standard (see Appendix 01 Logical Data Model) includes:

* PersonName primary table
* entity
* attributes
* derived values
* PersonName attribute's domain tables
* entity
* attributes
* PersonName attribute's link tables
* entity
* attributes
* PersonName external tables
* entity
* attributes

This data standard does not include any details on its external tables that are linked to PersonName, i.e. Person, Place, LocaleParameter, Note and Citation tables, as they are specified in other Data Standards from "NEWORG".

This data standard primarily addresses the logical data model of the PersonName entity. It is based on the objective of obtain maximum data structure stability by using normalized data entities represented in tables. Any relaxation of the principle of normalization, if necessary, is deferred until subsequent development of the physical data model. This design approach is appropriate regardless of the implementation technology used.

## Design Strategy

This Data Standard is designed to incorporate and use other international (e.g. International Standards Organization (ISO) and The Unicode Consortium) or national standard that are effective and have achieved wide spread acceptance in the international market place so as to leverage our efforts. Therefor this standard references and utilizes:

* The Unicode Consortium Unicode Standard V6.0.0[[2]](#endnote-2)
* ISO Information technology - Syntactic metalanguage Extended BNF[[3]](#endnote-3)
* ISO Country Codes 2 Alpha[[4]](#endnote-4)
* ISO Language Codes 2 Alpha[[5]](#endnote-5)

## Authority

This standard is being developed by the "NEWORG" Project Team. Currently "NEWORG" is not working with any genealogical or technological organization on this data standard. ["NEWORG"](mailto:BetterGEDCOM@gmail.com) would welcome the opportunity to do so.

## Status

The status of this standard is a draft proposal. Constructive critiques and suggested improvements are welcome and can be sent by E-Mail to [Neil Parker](mailto:NeilJohnParker@Telus.net) or ["NEWORG"](mailto:BetterGEDCOM@gmail.com).

## Related Documents

This document is based on ["Personal Name Data Standard Rationale"](file:///C:\Users\NeilParker\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Word\Personal%20Name%20Data%20Standard%20Rationale.doc) by ["NEWORG"](mailto:BetterGEDCOM@GMail.com) that contains the background, name conventions and objectives. In addition, for each major design issue, it contains problem, requirements, alternatives, analysis, conclusions and recommendations for the Personal Name Data Standard.

The physical model is briefly addressed in a separate document, ["Personal Name Implementation Guidelines"](file:///C:\Users\NeilParker\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Word\Personal%20Name%20Implementation%20Guidelines.doc) by "NEWORG". It contains implementation guidelines for software developers to facilitate increased data structure stability, data extensibility, data integrity, data accuracy and program maintainability.

## <Editorial Notes

Editorial notes are shown in enclosed angle brackets and are meant to indicate:

* a comment by writer or reviewers
* an outstanding issue raise by the writer or a reviewer

Editorial notes will be deleted in subsequent versions.>

## Copyright

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# General Terms

## Terminals

### Characters

This Data Standard incorporates and utilizes a subset (see Appendix 02) of ISO's EBNF for its definition and Unicode Specifications for a definition of Terminals, i.e.:

* Character
* ControlCharacter
* Letter
* CapitalLetter
* Non-CapitalLetter
* Digit
* Logogram
* PunctuationMark
* Delimiter

These terms will not be defined further in this standard.

### Strings

Null = '' ; (\* No character \*)

String = Letter | Digit | Logogram | Punctuation | Delimiter ;

Word = Letter, { Letter } , [ Apostrophe , Letter ] , { Letter } ;

A word is a sequence of one or more Letters; but a non-letter Apostrophe may be used once in the middle of a word.

Abbreviation = Word [ , Period ] ; (\* modern usage may drop the traditional use of a perios ending \*)

LogogramWord = ? Any Unicode character designated as a Logogram word ? ;

RomanNumeral = 'I' | 'II' | 'III' | 'IV' | 'V' | 'VI' | 'VII' | 'VIII' | 'IX' | 'X' ; (\* RomanNumerals greater than ten are not used in Names \*)

Sentence = ( Word { [ PuctuationMark ] , Space , Word } , Period) | (LogogramWord { LogogramWord } ) ;

Text = Sentence { , Space, Sentence } ;

### Numbers and Keys

UnsignedInteger = Digit , { Digit } ;

An UnsignedInteger is a sequence one or more digits.

Key = ? A sequential unique non-reusable UnsignedInteger (not Null) for every record created in a database ? ;

PrimaryKey = Key ; (\* identifies the row in the table where the primary key is contained \*)

ForeignKey = Key ; (\* references and identifies the row in the table whose name is the ID's prefix \*)

### Order

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

Order is an UnsignedInteger representing the order that records are listed in that have the same PersonNameID.

Order of 0 indicates the first record of those records that have the same PersonNameID.

Order or 1 or more represent an subsequent record.

Records should be ordered in their natural (given or chronological) order or in how pervasively they are or were used.

Order is assigned starting at 0 for the first record and increasing by 1 for each subsequent record.

Order is recalculated using this method every time a record is created, deleted or reordered.

## NameParts

NamePart = SimpleName | SingleInitialName | PrefixedName | CompoundName ;

A NamePart is a SimpleName, SingleInitialName, PrefixedName or CompoundName.

SimpleName = Word ;

A SimpleName is comprised of a Word.

SimpleNames may be capitalized or mixed case.

SimpleNames, except single letter names, should not be all capitals; capitalizing all letters may lose valuable information i.e. non-capital letters, e.g. deVries and MacDonald.

SingleInitialName = CapitalLetter , Period ;

A SingleInitialName is a single CapitalLetter as an initial ending with a Period.

A SingleInitialName is allowed instead of a full NamePart in GivenName. A SingleInitialName is used only if the full NamePart is not known as otherwise its initial is obvious.

PrefixedNamePrefix = Word { , Comma , Space , Word } ;

A PrefixedNamePrefix consist of a word and with zero or more (concatenated with a Comma concatenated with a Space concatenated with a Word).

PrefixedName = PrefixedNamePrefix , Comma, Space, SimpleName ;

A PrefixedName consist of a PrefixedNamePrefix concatenated with a Comma concatenated with a Space concatenated with a SimpleName, e.g., De Vries and van der Zam.

<This is the same approach taken in GEDCOM 5.5 except GEDCOM 5.5 does not use of the Comma after the PrefixedNamePrefix, introducing the possibility of ambiguity if a PrefixedName is used in a CompoundName (see below).>

CompoundName = ( SimpleName | PrefixedName ) , ( Hyphen-Minus | Null | Space ) ( SimpleName | PrefixedName ) , { ( Hyphen-Minus | Null | Space ) ( SimpleName | PrefixedName ) } ;

A compound name consists of either a SimpleName or PrefixedNames, concatenated by either a Hyphen-Minus, a Null, or a Space to either a SimpleName or PrefixedName concatenated optionally to zero or more either a Hyphen-Minus, a Null or a Space concatenated to either a SimpleName or PrefixedName, e.g. van, Der, Zam-Smith; van, Der, ZamSmith; and van, der, Zam Smith.

A SingleInitialName cannot be part of a CompoundName.

<Without the use all the Comma Space separators in the PrefixedName, a reader may not know what each NamePart is in van der Zam MacDonald or van der ZamMacDonald. Even if we write this last name as van, der, ZamMacDonald there is still ambiguity; we don’t know whether the person two NameParts were van, der, ZamMac and Donald or van, der, Zam and MacDoanld. The only way to address this issue would be to replace either the Null or the Space in CompoundName with the Underscore or Hyphen-Minus.>

The order of each NamePart in a CompoundName is significant and must be preserved.

If two NameParts of a CompoundName are concatenated by a Space or Null, the Space or Null should be replaced by an Underscore or Hyphen-Minus, e.g. Smith Jones or SmithJones would be changed to Smith\_Jones or Smith-Jones.

## NamePieces

NamePiece = Title | GenerationName | GivenName | FamiliarName | FamilyName | GenerationalTitle ;

A NamePiece is a Title, GenerationName, GivenName, FamiliarName, FamilyName or GenerationalTitle.

One or more NamePiece fields are used to identify a Person.

## Special NamePieces

### Mandatory Fields

Only PersonNameType is mandatory.

<First GivenName might appear to be a mandatory field but if it is unknown (as indicated by its PersonNameType = Unknown), then even it is not mandatory.>

### Exclusive Fields

Mononymic is mutually exclusive of all other NamePiece attributes by definition, i.e., if the PersonNameType is mononymic, then the first GivenName is the mononymic; all other NamePiece fields are Null.

### Included Fields

Patronymics and matronymic are a special form of one of the NamePiece fields in GivenNames (usually the last) or one of the NamePiece fields in FamilyName.

They have no special need to be specifically identified and therefore are not contained in a dedicated field.

GenerationName is an optional name used in China to identify siblings in the same family. When used, it is treated as a first GivenName and therefore does not require a dedicated field.

# Primary Entity Table

See Appendix 01 Logical Data Model contains the PersonName Entity - Relationship Diagram. This model gives a summary picture of the PersonName entity and its relationships to its attributes' domain tables. Many to many relationships have been converted to link tables for added clarity. All table attributes are shown in their table. Key derived fields are also shown in the PersonName table. Tables that are external to the PersonName entity (i.e. defined in other data standards) are not shown in any detail other than their table name and Primary Key.

## PersonName

### Entity

The PersonName entity is the primary entity and consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* PersonID
* PersonNameType
* TitleID
* FamilyNameID
* GenerationalTitleID
* NamePieceOrder
* LocaleParameterID
* Date
* Place
* Description
* GivenNamesSortKey
* FamilyNameSortKey
* FormalUseName
* InformalUseName
* Order

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

PersonID = ForeignKey ;

PersonNameTypeID = ForeignKey ;

TitleID ForeignKey ;

FamilyNameID = ForeignKey ;

GenerationalTitleID = ForeignKey ;

NamePieceOrderID = ForeignKey ;

Date, or more likely a date range, indicates when this name was used.

A Date must comply with the "NEWORG" Date Data Standard.

Place ID = ForeignKey ;

Description = String ;

Description is a short free-format narrative describing date, place or other information about PersonName.

GivenNamesSortKey = String ;

GivenNamesSortKey defaults to the derived GivenNames; unless overridden by a user-entered value.

FamilyNameSortKey = String ;

FamilyNameSortKey defaults to the FamilyName, unless overridden by a user-entered value.

FormalUseName = Title [ , Space , GenerationName ] , Space , GivenName { , Space , GivenName } , Space , FamilyName [ , Space , GenerationalTitle ] [ , Space , Designations ] ;

In some circumstances, Designations will be included in FormalUseName.

FormalUseName can be generated automatically (perhaps based on a LocaleParameter) which becomes the initial value of this field, unless overridden by a user-entered value.

InformalUseName = GivenName , Space , FamilyName;

InformalUseName consists of the first GivenName concatenated to a Space concatenated to FamilyName.

InformalUseName can be generated automatically (perhaps based on a LocaleParameter) which becomes the initial value of this field - unless overridden by a user-entered value.

NoteID= ForeignKey ;

CitationID = ForeignKey ;

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

### Derived Values

GivenNames = [ GivenName , { Space , GivenName } ] ;

GivenNames is a derived field, it is not directly contained in the PersonName record as it can occur zero to many times.

GivenNames consist of zero or more GivenNames, each separated by a Space.

GivenNames is implemented using PersonNameGivenName link table and the GivenName domain table to provide an ordered sequence of GivenNames.

FamiliarNames = [ QuotationMark , FamiliarName , QuotationMark { , Space , QuotationMark , FamiliarName , QuotationMark } ] ;

FamiliarNames consist of zero or more FamiliarNames, each enclosed in quotation marks ('"') and separated by a space.

FamiliarNames is a derived field, it is not directly contained in the PersonName record as it can occur zero to many times.

FamiliarNames is implemented using PersonNameFamiliarName link table and the FamiliarName domain table to provide an ordered sequence of FamiliarNames.

FamiliarNames are placed after all GivenNames.

Designations = [ Designation , { Space , Designation } ] ;

Designations is a derived field, it is not directly contained in the PersonName record as it can occur zero to many times.

Designations consist of zero or more Designation fields, each separated by a Space.

Designations are implemented using PersonNameDesignation link table and the Designation domain table to provide an ordered sequence of Designations.

Notes = Note { Note } ;

Notes is a derived field, it is not directly contained in the PersonName record as it can occur zero to many times.

Notes consist of zero or more Note fields, each separated by a Space.

Notes are implemented using PersonNameNote link table and the Note table to provide an ordered sequence of Notes.

Citations = Citation { Citation} ;

Citations is a derived field, it is not directly contained in the PersonName record as it can occur zero to many times.

Citations consist of zero or more Citation entities, each separated by a Space.

Citations are implemented using PersonNameCitation link table and the Citation table to provide an ordered sequence of Citations.

# Domain Tables

The following PersonName fields should be constrained by a corresponding domain table, e.g.:

* PersonNameType
* Title
* GivenName
* FamiliarName
* FamilyName
* GenerationalTitle
* Designation
* NamePartOrder
* Place
* LocaleParameter

## PersonNameType

### Entity

The PersonNameType domain table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* Code

The PersonNameType domain table is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

Code = String ;

Code identifies the type of PersonName.

Predefined Codes are:

* Legal Name
* Birth Name
* Current Name
* Previous Name
* Married Name
* Divorced Name
* Adoptive Name
* Alias
* Also Known As
* Ecclesiastic Name
* Pen Name
* Familiar Name
* Formal Use Name
* Informal Use Name
* Unknown

## Title

### Entity

The Title domain table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* Code
* Description

The Title domain table is initially empty and is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

Code = Word | Abbreviation ;

Code is a means of identifying a person in the FormalUseName of a person.

Codes consist of the following types: Formal Social, Academic, Professional, Ecclesiastic, Devotional, Heads of State, Honorary, Executive, Judicial, Legislative, and Military but these types are not used in the Title domain table.

Codes are typically abbreviations (to conserve print space) but many be written in full if unclear.

Codes consist of one or more words or abbreviations, e.g. Herr Professor Doctor; multiple words are treated as single Code, not multiple Codes and therefore are non-divisible.

Codes in the Formal Social type generally are not shown on genealogy displays, reports or charts whereas all others are.

Description = Word { Space , Word } ;

Description is the full Text for the Code (abbreviation).

## GivenName

### Entity

The GivenName domain table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* Name

The GivenName domain table is initially empty and is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

Name = NamePart :

## FamiliarName

### Entity

The FamiliarName domain table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* Name

The FamiliarName domain table is initially empty and is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

FamiliarName = [ NamePiece ] ;

A FamiliarName is an optional NamePiece.

A Familiar Name may be a derived name, preferred name, initial, nickname or a combination of the preceding.

## FamilyName

### Entity

The FamilyName domain table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* Name

The FamilyName domain table is initially empty and is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

FamilyName = NamePiece - SingleInitialName ;

FamilyName consists of a NamePiece; excluding a SingleInitialName.

## GenerationalTitle

### Entity

The GenerationalTitle domain table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* Code

A PersonName may have zero or one GenerationalTitle.

The GenerationalTitle domain table is predefined and is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

Code = [ 'Jr.' | 'Sr.' | RomanNumeral ] ;

The GenerationalTitle is usually placed after the FamilyName.

## Designation

### Entity

The Designation domain table contains of the following attributes:

* ID
* Code

The Designation is initially empty and is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

Designation = Letter { Letter } ;

Designation uses only letters, usually all capitals without periods, e.g. MBA, PhD, CA and MD.

Designation is certification of academic or professional qualifications.

## NamePieceOrder

### Entity

The Name Piece Sequence domain table consists of:

* ID
* Sequence

The NamePieceOrder domain table predefined and user extensible.

### Attributes

ID PrimaryKey ;

Sequence = 'Title, GivenNames, FamiliarNames, FamilyName, GenerationalTitle, Designations' |

'FamilyName, GivenNames, FamiliarNames, GenerationalTitle, Title, Designations' |

'Title, FamilyName, GivenNames, FamiliarNames, GenerationalTitle, Designations' ;

NamePieceOrder represents the sequence that each NamePiece field occurs in each PersonName that is to be displayed, printed, or used on verbal or written communication.

NamePieceOrder consist of six sequenced NameParts literals:

* Title
* GivenNames
* FamiliarNames
* FamilyName
* GenerationalTitle
* Designations

## Place

### Entity

The Place domain table consists of:

* ID
* …

The Place domain table is initially loaded with predefined values and is user extensible.

### Attributes

ID PrimaryKey ;

… is defined in and must conform to the "NEWORG" Place data standards.

A Place is the place where the name was used during that date range.

<A Place is defined by zero or more prevailing government, religious or other authorities at the time and the Place names are those used at the Date in the PersonName record.

Place domain table records are hierarchical and temporal and hence sensitive to Date.>

## LocaleParameter

### Entity

The LocaleParameter entity domain table consists of:

* ID
* …

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

… is defined in "NEWORG" LocaleParameter data standards.

<LocaleParameter domain table could consist of CountryCode, LanguageCode, ParameterName, DataType, ParameterValue and Order.

Locale contains configuration attributes for each Locale (Language-Country) that contains ParameterNames such as:

* WritingDirection
* CharactersAllowed
* LetterSortOrder
* Non-LetterCharactersAllowedInName
* LogogramsAllowed
* PrefixedNamesAllowed {Yes, No}
* ValidPrefixForPrefixedNames
* CompoundNamesAllowed {Yes, No]
* MaximumNumberOfNamePartsInCompoundName
* CompoundNameJoinerCharactersAllowed
* NamePartOrder
* FormalUseNameFormat
* InformalAddressNameFormat

This facilitates the Personal Name Data Standard's ability to support Internationalization more flexibly.>

# Link Tables

## PersonNameGivenName

GivenName can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

### Entity

The PersonNameGivenName link table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* PersonNameID
* GivenNameID
* Order

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

PersonNameID = ForeignKey ;

GivenNameID = ForeignKey ;

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

The order of each GivenName is significant and must be preserved.

Order contains the presentation order of GivenNames.

## PersonNameFamiliarName

FamiliarName can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

### Entity

The PersonNameFamiliarName link table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* PersonNameID
* FamiliarNameID
* Order

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey :

PersonNameID = ForeignKey ;

FamiliarNameID = ForeignKey ;

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

The order of each FamiliarName is significant and must be preserved.

Order contains the presentation order of FamiliarNames.

## PersonNameDesignation

Designation can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

### Entity

The PersonNameDesignation link table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* PersonNameID
* DesignationID
* Order

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

PersonNameID = ForeignKey ;

DesignationID = ForeignKey ;

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

The order of each Designation is significant and must be preserved.

Order contains the presentation order of Designations.

## PersonNameLocaleParameter

LocalParameter can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

#### Entity

The PersonNameLocaleParameter link table consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* PersonNameID
* LocaleParameterID
* Order

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

PersonNameID = ForeignKey ;

LocaleParameterID = ForeignKey ;

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

The order of each LocaleParameter is significant and must be preserved.

Order contains the presentation order of LocalParameter fields.

## PersonNameNote

Notes can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

### Entity

The PersonNameNote consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* PersonNameID
* NoteID
* Order

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

PersonNameID = ForeignKey ;

NoteID = ForeignKey ;

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

The order of each Note is significant and must be preserved.

Order contains the presentation order of Notes.

## Citation

Citations can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

### Entity

The PersonNameDesignation consists of the following attributes:

* ID
* PersonNameID
* CitationID
* Order

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey

PersonNameID = ForeignKey ;

CitationID = ForeignKey ;

Order = UnsignedInteger ;

The order of each Citation is significant and must be preserved.

Order contains the presentation order of Citations.

# External Entity Tables

## Person

Each PersonName entity is used by one Person entity and one Person entity may have zero or more PersonName Entities

### Entity

The Person external table consists of:

* ID
* …

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

… is defined in and must comply with "NEWORG" Person Data Standard.

## LocaleParameter

LocaleParameter can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

### Entity

LocaleParameter external table consists of:

* ID
* …

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

.… … is defined in and must comply with "NEWORG" Locale Data Standard

## Place

### Entity

Place external table consists of:

* ID ;
* …

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

.… … is defined in and must comply with "NEWORG" Place Data Standard

## Note

Notes can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

Note is a free-form narrative with more extensive elaboration of Date, Place or Description about PersonName.

### Entity

The Note external table consists of:

* ID
* …

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

… is defined in and must comply with "NEWORG" Note Data Standard

## Citation

Citations can be in a many to many relationship with PersonName.

### Entity

The Citation external table consists of:

* ID
* …

### Attributes

ID = PrimaryKey ;

… Citations are specified in and must comply with the "NEWORG" Citation Data Standard.

The Citation data Standard includes Citations, Sources, and Repositories.

Glossary

This glossary is presented in non-alphabetical order to facilitate understanding of each term, as certain terms are dependent on previously defined terms.

Genealogy Name Terms

**PersonName:** consists of the following attributes: PersonID, NamePart attributes and other attributes. PersonID references the Person who uses this PersonName. NamePart attributes are an ordered sequence of an optional Title, each optional zero or more GivenNames, each optional zero or more FamiliarNames, an optional FamilyName, an optional GenerationalTitle and each optional zero or more Designations used to identify a person (not necessarily uniquely). Historically and in everyday use, not all of these components are always used, even on legal documents. Some NameParts may be used to honor a person's father, mother, grandfather, grandmother or another ancestor. Other attributes consist of following: a NamePieceOrder, optional Date, an optional Place, and optional Description, a GivenNamesSortKey, a FamilyNameSortKey, a FormalUseName and an InformalUseName. These are considered other attributes, as they are not essential to identify a person. However, they are useful for other genealogical purposes such as containers for other pertinent genealogical details, indexing a person's records by GivenNames or FamilyName; and use of a PersonName in formally or informally addressing him/her.

**PersonNameType:** PersonNameType typically indicates the usage of the PersonName. In addition, Type may give clues to the PersonName origin or other characteristics.

**NamePartType:** A NamePartType may be a SimpleName, SingleInitialName, PrefixedName or CompoundName.

**SimpleName:** A SimpleName is a single word or logogram used as a label for a part of a PersonName.

**SingleInitialName:** A SingleInitialName is a single capital letter ending in a period.

**PrefixedName:** PrefixedName is a special form of a NamePart in which the SimpleName is prefaced by one or more words each separated by a space (e.g. de Vries or van der Zam).

**CompoundName:** A CompoundName is a special form of a NamePart when each NamePart in a GivenName or a FamilyName is comprised of two or more NameParts, each joined by a hyphen, nothing or a space, e.g. Smith-Jones, SmithJones and Smith Jones.

**A Mononymic:** A mononymic is the use of a single name (e.g. Geronimo) as a GivenName instead of GivenNames and a FamilyName.

**Patronymic:** A patronymic is a name based on the father's (or grandfather's) first GivenName, usually with a prefix or postfix indicating son of or daughter of. In some cultures, patronymics are often used as a last GivenName qualifier where the individuals would otherwise have the same name.

**Matronymic:** A matronymic is a name based on the mother's (or grandmother's) first GivenName, usually with a prefix or postfix indicating son of or daughter of. In some cultures, matronymics are often used as a last GivenName qualifier where the individuals would otherwise have the same name.

**GenerationName:** A GenerationName is an optional field indicating the generation of the person. China uses it primarily to indicate each generation of a family. It is considered part of the GivenNames, not part of the FamilyName.

**NamePiece:** A NamePiece is a Title, GenerationName, each GivenName, each FamiliarName, FamilyName, GenerationalTitle or each Designation used to identify a person.

**Title:** A Title is used to add formality to a name to include in Use a person. A Title can be can be grouped in several types, i.e. Formal Social, Academic, Professional, Ecclesiastic, Devotional, Heads of State, Judicial, Legislative and Military.

A Title can be one or more words, e.g. Herr Professor Doctor Schmidt and usually abbreviations are used.

**GivenNames:** GivenNames are the one or more NamePieces given to a person at or shortly after birth by the parents to identify the person within the family. Some cultures allow a single letter to be used in any GivenName in which case it does not end in a period. First GivenName is the first NamePiece in the GivenNames. Middle GivenNames are the second and subsequent, if present, NamePieces in GivenNames. A middle NamePiece often is in honor of an ancestor or relative.

**First Name and Forename:** A first name or forename is often used instead of a first GivenName. Unfortunately, first name and forename are misleading in cultures that use "FamilyName then GivenNames" order and therefore are not used further in this document.

**Initial:** An initial is the first letter of a name, followed by a period. Some cultures often use an initial for each of the middle GivenNames and, in some cases, for the first GivenName, therefore initials with a period are allowed for each GivenName.

**FamiliarName:** FamiliarNames are used in a situation where the person normally is known by other than the person's first GivenName. FamiliarNames are always enclosed in double quotation marks. It is possible to have more than one Familiar Name in which case each is enclosed in double quote marks and separated by a space. A FamiliarName may be a preferred name, a derived name, an initial, a nickname, or a combination of the preceding forms and are included in a PersonName as additional GivenName(s), e.g.

* Preferred - uses a middle GivenNames in preference to the first GivenName, e.g. William James "James" Smith
* Derived - uses a short form for one of the GivenNames, e.g., William James "Bill" Smith
* Initials - uses initials instead of Name, e.g. William James "W. J." Smith
* Nickname - uses a name not related to or derived from any GivenName, e.g. William James "Tex" Smith
* Combination - preferred and derived from Given Name, e.g., William James "Jim" Smith

**FamilyName:** The NamePiece of a PersonName that is used to describe family, clan, tribal group or marital association. A FamilyName is the NamePiece inherited from the FamilyName of the father and/or the mother. Some cultures or early cultures (prior to 1200 to 1800) never used FamilyName and hence this field is not mandatory. Numerous cultures (e.g. Spanish speaking and Portuguese speaking) typically have two or four names, respectively, as a CompoundName in their FamilyName to honor both or all four sides of their family. Today in Western countries, more couples are adopting compound names to honor equally both sides of their family.

**Surname:** A Surname is sometimes used as a synonym for the FamilyName, but is not as self-defining as FamilyName and is not used further in this document.

**GenerationalTitle:** A GenerationalTitle allows the use of a GivenName qualifier such as Jr., Sr., I, II, III, etc. to distinguish between members of the same family that would have otherwise have identical names.

**Designations:** Designations are zero or more academic qualifications (e.g., BA, MBA, PhD) and/or zero or more professional qualifications (e.g., MD, PEng, CPA and Atty) and typically can only be used when sanctioned by an appropriate authorizing organization. Designations are stated like acronyms, as a sequence of letters, usually all capitals.

**NamePieceOrder:** NamePieceOrder specifies the order in which all NamePieces are normally displayed, printed and spoken for this person in this person's culture. If the GivenNames are stated first and the FamilyName is stated last, this is called the Western Order. If the FamilyName is stated first and the GivenNames are state last, this is called the Eastern Order. Because the order of NameParts is important and culture-sensitive, their order is determined by NamePartOrder for purposes of displaying, printing and communication.

**Date:** Date is an optional field and is usually stated as a date range in which this PersonName was used by the person.

**Place:** Place is an optional field where this PersonName was used by this person.

**Description:** Description is an optional short free-format narrative comment on the date or place that complements it, especially if they are not used.

**GivenNamesSortKey:** GivenNamesSortKey is optional and is used as an override if the GivenNames field does not provide the correct automatically generated sort key, e.g. allows a GivenNames of William James "James" Smith to be sorted as James William Smith.

**FamilyNameSortKey:** FamilyNameSortKey is optional and is used as an override if the FamilyName field does not provide the correct automatically generated sort key, e.g. allows a FamilyName of "van der Zam to be sorted as "Zam".

**FormalUseName:** FormalUseName often uses Title, GenerationName, all GivenNames, FamilyName, GenerationalTitle and Designations.

**InformalUseName:** InformalUseName usually uses only first GivenName and Family Name.

**Notes:** Notes are an optional free format narrative comment on Date, Place or other important explanation of a Name.

**Citations:** Citations are the zero or more Citations from which this information (evidence) was extracted. Citations reference sources that reference Repositories.

**Order:** Order defines the preferred order of PersonNames, specifically which PersonName record is considered the main record; all other PersonName records are considered alternative records.

Technology Terms

**Entity Table**:A primary entity table is the main table that other records in domain tables or link table reference and is the focus of a data sub-model.

**Domain Table**:A Domain Table is a set of all distinct permissible values of a field and is typically use to contain the value pointed to by a field reference in an primary entity such as PersonName. In addition, each row of the table may contain other values such as a definition of the value. Domains also facilitate the easy implementation of referential Integrity (elimination of orphan references) and can conserve storage and improve data accuracy and data integrity. Domains are dynamic, stored like other data tables and therefore easy for the user to create, retrieve, update or delete records. Predefined values are supplied by the software manufacturer and are usually immutable to the user. User-extensible means that the user can create, read, update and delete non-predefined values. Any domain table having predefined values should be locale-sensitive to support Internationalization.

**Master List**: A master list is a term often used in Genealogy software in place of the information technology term Domain. Unfortunately, a master list can have many meanings and therefore is not used further in this document.

**Link Table**: Link Tables are used to store the foreign key of each entity that is references in a many to many relationship. In addition, they may store other attributes such as Order.

1. Logical Data Model

­­­ \_\_

| **PersonName** |

**| ID [Primary Key] | 0..\*** 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| PersonID [Foreign Key] | ----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | PersonNameType |

| TypeID [Foreign Key] | | ID [Primary Key]| |

| TitleID [Foreign Key] | | Code |

| GenerationNameID [Foreign Key] | 0..\* 0..1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| FamilyNameID [Foreign Key] |------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ | Title |

| NamePieceOrderID [Foreign Key | | ID [Primary Key] |

| LocaleID [Foreign Key] | | Code |

| Date | | Description |

| PlaceID [Foreign Key] | 1 0..\*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| Description | ---------------------------- | PersonNameGivenName | ----------------------------------- | GivenName |

| GivenNamesSortKey | | ID | | ID [Primary Key] |

| FamilyNameSortKey | | PersonNameID [Foreign Key] | | Name |

| FormalUseName | | GivenNameID [Foreign Key] |

| InformalUseName | | Order |

| Order | 1 0..\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |----------------------------- | PersonNameFamiliarName |------------------------------------ | FamiliarName |

| | | ID | | ID [Primary Key |

| | | PersonNameID [Foreign Key] | | Name |

| | | FamiliarNameID [Foreign Key] |

| Derived Fields | 0..\* | Order | 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| GivenNames |------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ | FamilyName |

| FamiliarNames | | ID [Primary Key] |

| Destinations | | Name |

| Notes | 0..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| Citations |------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ | GenerationalTitle |

| | | ID [Primary Key] |

| | | Title |

| |1 0..\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |----------------------------- | PersonNameDesignation |------------------------------------ | Designation |

| | | ID | | ID [Primary Key] |

| | | PersonNameID [Foreign Key] | | Code |

| | | DesignationID [Foreign Key] |

| |1..\* | Order | 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ | NamePieceOrder |

| | | ID [Primary Key] |

| | | Order |

| | 0..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ | Person |

| | | ID [Primary Key |

| | | ... |

| | 0..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ | Place |

| | | ID [Primary Key] |

| | | … |

| | 0..\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |----------------------------- | PersonNameLocaleParameter |------------------------------------ | LocaleParameter |

| | | ID | | ID [Primary Key] |

| | | PersonNameID [Foreign Key] | | … |

| | | LocaleParameter [Foreign Key] |

| | | Order |

| | 1 0..\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 0..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |----------------------------- | PersonNameNote |------------------------------------ | Note |

| | | ID | | ID [Primary Key] |

| | | PersonNameID [Foreign Key] | | … |

| | | NoteID [Foreign Key] |

| | | Order |

| | 1 0..\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 0..\* 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| |----------------------------- | PersonNameCitation |------------------------------------ | Citation |

| | | ID | | ID [Primary Key] |

| | | PersonNameID [Foreign Key] | | … |

| | | CitationID [Foreign Key] |

| | | Order |

Legend: Shaded entities are defined in detail in other "NEWORG" Data Standards.

1. Data Representation Grammar

This document uses a subset of ISO 14977 Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF) grammar. EBNF is a code that expresses the grammar of a computer language. An EBNF consist of terminal symbols and non-terminal syntax rules which are restrictions governing how terminal symbols can be combined into a legal sequence.

* 1. Grammar

EBNF uses the following constructs for notation and usage:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Notation** | **Usage** | **Example** |
| '… ' | terminal representation | '.' |
| "… " | terminal representation | '"' |
| Non-terminal | non-terminal representation | FamilyName |
| = | definition | Comma = ',' ; |
| | | alternation | Letter = CapitalLetter | NonCapitalLetter ; |
| , | concatenation of two expressions | Initial = CapitalLetter , Period ; |
| [ … ] | expression that occur optionally | Abbreviation = Word [ Period ] ; |
| { … } | expression that occurs zero or more times | Number = Digit { , Digit } ; |
| ( … ) | grouping of expressions | CompoundName =  ( SimpleName | PrefixedName ) ,  ( Hyphen | Null | Space ) ,  ( SimpleName | PrefixedName ) ; |
| ; | termination of a production | SimpleName = Word ; |
| ? … ? | special sequence for expressions difficult to define or lengthy expressions | Letter = ? All Unicode characters designated as letters ? ; |
| - | exception | Consonant = Letter - Vowel ; |
| (\*…\*) | comment | (\* Today, not all abbreviations end in a period \*) |

The following is an example of a syntax rule:

Name = [ Title ] , { Space , GivenName } , { Space , FamiliarName }, [ Space , Solidus , FamilyName , Solidus ] ,

[ Space , GenerationalTitle ] ;

This production is read as: a Name is defined by an optional Title concatenated with zero or more ( Space concatenated with a GivenName ) concatenated with zero or more ( Space concatenated with a QuotationMark concatenated with a FamiliarName concatenated with a QuotationMark ) optionally concatenated with ( Space concatenated with a Solidus concatenated with a FamilyName concatenated with Solidus ) optionally concatenated with ( a Space concatenated with a GenerationalTitle.

* 1. Naming Convention

Non-terminals are written in Camel Case, i.e. a simple word is capitalized, an acronym is capitals and a compound word is joined with each part capitalized, e.g. Title, TypeID and FamilyName. EBNF requires multiword non-terminals to be joined by hyphen-minus is unfortunate. Many programming languages reserve the hyphen-minus for negation or subtraction and cannot accept a hyphen-minus in a name. The two solutions to this problem are to use the underscore to concatenate each part of a compound name or to use camel case, both allow a compound word to appear and be treated as one word. This is very helpful in programming and using the same form in documentation facilitates clear understanding. This document uses camel case, as it is shorter and less unaesthetic. Contrary to English use, variable names are not pluralized when used in text that would normal require it, e.g. the rule:

GivenNames = GivenName , { Space , GivenName } ; is written

GivenNames is formed by GivenName concatenating to zero or more ( Space concatenated to GivenName).

Endnotes

1. ["NEWORG"](mailto:BetterGEDCOM.GMail.com) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing data and other standards for genealogy and educating

   people on their use. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [The Unicode Consortium](http://www.unicode.org/) [Unicode 6.0.0](http://www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode6.0.0/) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. [International Organization for Standardization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Organization_for_Standardization) [ISO 14977:1966 Extended Backus-Naur Form Standard](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=26153) [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. [ISO 3166-1 Country Codes (2 Alpha)](http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes/iso_3166_code_lists.htm) [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. [ISO 639-1:1988 Language Codes (2 Alpha)](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_ics/catalogue_detail_ics.htm?csnumber=4766) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)