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Genealogical Data Acquisition and Request

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Different fields of human sciences (for example: ethnology, history, demography...) are concerned with the establishment of genealogical data basis. It is generally a hard task; if, on one hand, the fact that the researcher has to his disposal a rich body of archives material (certificates of birth, marriages, deaths, deeds executed by a notary, parochial registers...) is a guarantee per se, on the other hand it dramatically widens the possibilities of errors. The main problem is to be sure that such and such person has already been registered; the problem becomes crucial when we deal with marriages; because of the possibility of the multiple alliances, we have to be very cautious about the reduplication of every person's identification. Of course, the problem of the name is here primordial: have we the same person married twice? or have we two different persons with an equivalent name?

We have achieved a set of data processing tools which helps the researcher to make that work. Our programs fit to researcher who has already a good knowledge of his data: he is able to make unambiguous the identification of every person by a good knowledge of the studied population or by a minute inspection of available documents.

The first package we describe is a guide for genealogical data acquisition; it is a DBASE III program. It is called »SAISIE-GEN«.

The second one permits requests in that base; it is a Turbo-Pascal program. It is inspired by REFLEX from Borland. We have called it »INTER-GEN«.

They run on a PC computer: the interface between the first and the second one is very simple: it is just necessary to add some informations (number of records, name and dimension of each variable) at the top of each file created by SAISIE-GEN so that they can be handle by INTER-GEN.

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I) Representation of Genealogies in Computer

This is realized by a set of two files: the first one referring exclusively to individuals, and the second one referring exclusively to marriages. The first file is in fact a list of people including as many information data as necessary to describe each person: profession, residence, birth place, death place, title of nobility, ecclesiastical office... (See example: Figure 1). All examples are drawn out from a data base of the Bourbon dynasty established by Pierre Lamaison.

The file of marriages includes such informations as marriage date, marriage place, order number of the marriage of the husband and of the wife... (See example: Figure 2)

On the basis of these two files a minimum of three informations is necessary to identify a given person; they are: the identification number of the marriage (MAT IND) from which the person is issued, an indicium (1 I) which distinguishes him or her from other people issued from the same marriage (it means of the same phratry) and the sex (SEXE).

Seven informations are necessary for each marriage; they are: the number of the marriage (MAT MAR), the number of the marriage of the husband's parents (MAT HOM), the husband's indicium in its phratry (1 H), (the two last numbers define the identification number of the husband as individual), the ranking indication of the husband's marriage (N M H), the number of the marriage of the wife's parents (MAT FEM), the wife's indicium in her phratry (I F), (as it happens to the husband's side, the two last numbers define the identification number of the wife as individual), the ranking indication of the wife's marriage (N M F).

In order that these files represent genealogies, it is necessary and sufficient that from each people it would be possible to locate his children and his parents. It is obtained by the numeration described just before. We see it looking at an example (Figures 1-2-3): considering the individual's file, we find Don Louis Philippe de Bourbon and Ferdinand VI: their respectively identification numbers are: 13 1 and 13 2. It means that they are issued from the same marriage numbered 13. Now if we look for the marriage numbered 13 in the marriages file, we find the parents of Don Louis Philippe de Bourbon and Ferdinand VI; they are Philippe de France and Marie Louise Gabrielle de Savoie. Their respectively identification numbers are 11 2 and 22 2; it is easy to find them in the individual's file.

II) »SAISIE-GEN« Package

It allows the user to describe easily the variables desired in each file, then to present a screen corresponding to these descriptions. The user is guided so that he may enter children born from marriage as soon as he has

entered that marriage. Each person receives automatically an identification number derived from the number of the marriage which begot him or her. Different functions of the program allow to locate homonyms, to list husbands and wives not registered in the first file, to modify records already registered, to list on the screen or on a printer, people and marriages already registered.

III) »INTER-GEN« Package

It allows the following functions:

- the selection of any person of the base and then the scrutinizing of his genealogical environment (father, mother, brothers and sisters, husband, wife, children).
- the display of the set of all ascendants of any people: each ascendant is preceded by the description of the link between him and the selected people (Figure 5). For example Jeanne d'Albret is the father's father's mother of Louis XIV.
- the display of the set of all descendants of any people: each descendant is preceded by the description of the link between him and the selected people (Figure 6). For example, Louis Charles de France is the son (S) (D for daughter), second (2) child born from the first (a) marriage of Louis XVI (b for the second one, c for the third one...)
- the display of the set of people whose parents are unknown (we think here about the margins of the corpus, especially ancestors or anyone who falls out of the objective knowledge of the informant).
- the display of the filiation line between two persons if it exists. Several lines may be exist in the case where intermarriages have been contracted.
- the research of the ascending consanguinity of a person; we display then all people who are ascendants of that person by different ways.
- the research of the descending consanguinity of a person: we display the first child of each intermarriage of the descendants of that person.
- the research of consanguinity between two people; we display all their nearer common ascendants if some exist (Figure 7). For example Louis XIII is ascendant of Marie Adélaïde de Savoie and of Louis de France. He is at three generations higher.

Record No. 21
 MAT_IND 13
 I_I 1
 NOM Don Louis-Philippe de Bourbon
 N_D
 TITRE Prince des Asturies
 SEXE 1
 RANG 1
 DATE_NAI 25/8/1707
 LIEU_NAI Madrid
 DATE_DEC 31/8/1724
 LIEU_DEC

Record No. 22
 MAT_IND 13
 I_I 2
 NOM Ferdinand VI
 N_D
 TITRE Roi d'Espagne
 SEXE 1
 RANG 4
 DATE_NAI 23/9/1713
 LIEU_NAI Madrid
 DATE_DEC 10/8/1759
 LIEU_DEC

Figure 1: Individual file.

Record No. 12
 MAT_MAR 13
 TYPE
 NOMH Philippe de France
 I_D_H 2
 N_M_H 1
 MAT_HOM 11
 I_H 2
 NOMF Marie-Louise-Gabrielle de Savoie
 I_D_F
 N_M_F 1
 MAT_FEM 22
 I_F 2
 DATE_MAR 3/11/1701
 LIEU Figuières

Figure 2: Marriage's file.

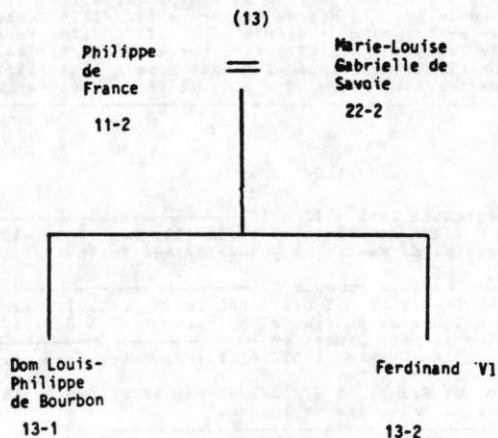


Figure 3.

Intergen - 6 Septembre 1988 - 12 h 30
 précédent: Henri IV 1 Roi de France 2 13/12/1553 Pau 14/5/1610 Paris
 ----- B O U R B O N -----
 Henri IV 1 Roi de France 2 13/12/1553 Pau 14/5/1610 Paris
 2' U. avec: F: Marie de Médicis 2 Princesse de Toscane
 parents de: Louis XIII 1 Roi de France 1 27/10/1601 Fontainebleau 14/5/1643 S
 1' U. avec: F: Anne d'Autriche 2
 ----- Enfant(s): (ou >n pour mémoriser) -----
 Louis XIV 1 Roi de France 1 5/9/1638 Saint Germain 1/8/1715 Versa
 Philippe de France 1 Duc d'Orléans 2 21/9/1640 Saint Germain 9/6/1

Figure 4.

Intergen - 6 Septembre 1988 - 12 h 30
 précédent: Louis XIII 1 Roi de France 1 27/10/1601 Fontainebleau 14/5/1643
 actuel : Louis XIV 1 Roi de France 1 5/9/1638 Saint Germain 1/8/1715 Versa
 ----- Ascendance de Louis XIV 1 Roi de France 1 5/9/1638 Saint Germain 1 -----
 choisissez : (ou >n pour mémoriser)
 F: Louis XIII 1 Roi de France 1 27/10/1601 Fontainebleau 14/5/1643
 FF: Henri IV 1 Roi de France 2 13/12/1553 Pau 14/5/1610 Paris
 FFF: Antoine de Bourbon 1 Roi de Navarre 2 22/4/1518 La Fere 17/11/1
 FFFF: Charles de Bourbon 1 1 Duc de Vendome 0
 FFFM: Françoise d'Alençon 2
 FFM: Jeanne d'Albret 2
 FM: Marie de Médicis 2 Princesse de Toscane
 M: Anne d'Autriche 2

Figure 5.

Intergen - 6 Septembre 1988 - 12 h 30
 précédent: Louis XV 1 Roi de France 3 15/2/1710 Versailles 10/5/1774 Versai
 actuel : Louis XVI 1 Roi de France 4 23/8/1754 Versailles 21/1/1793 Paris
 ----- Descendants de Louis XVI 1 Roi de France 4 23/8/1754 Versaille -----
 a1S: Louis Joseph Xavier François de France 1 1 22/10/1781 Versaille
 a2S: Louis Charles de France 1 2 27/3/1785 Versailles 8/9/1795 Priss
 a3D: Marie Thérèse Charlotte de France 2 Madame Royale 3 19/12/1778
 a4D: Sophie Hélène Béatrix de France 2 4 9/7/1786 Versailles 19/6/1

Figure 6.

Intergen - 6 Septembre 1988 - 12 h 30
 précédent: Henri IV 1 Roi de France 2 13/12/1553 Pau 14/5/1610 Paris
 actuel : Marie Adélaïde de Savoie 2 1 6/12/1685 Turin 12/2/1712 Versaille
 ----- "plus proches" Ascendants communs à -----
 Marie Adélaïde de Savoie 2 1 6/12/1685 Turin 12/2/1712 Versailles
 et Louis de France 2 1 Duc de Bourgogne, puis Dauphin 1 6/8/1682 Versa
 choisissez : (ou >n pour mémoriser)
 [3] Louis XIII 1 Roi de France 1 27/10/1601 Fontainebleau 14/5/1643
 [3] Anne d'Autriche 2
 [4] Henri IV 1 Roi de France 2 13/12/1553 Pau 14/5/1610 Paris
 [4] Marie de Médicis 2 Princesse de Toscane

Figure 7.