GEDCOM 5.5.1 Specification GEDCOM-L Addendum

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You can find a copy of this document at https://genealogy.net/GEDCOM

1 Copyright

This publication, *The GEDCOM 5.5.1 Specification GEDCOM-L Addendum* is based on the *GEDCOM 5.5.1 Specification*, which is a minor update of the *GEDCOM 5.5 Specification*. The GEDCOM 5.5 and 5.5.1 specifications were created by FamilySearch.

The *FamilySearch GEDCOM 5.5.1 specification,* dated 15 November 2019, contains the following copyright notice:

This publication, the *GEDCOM 5.5.1 Specification GEDCOM-L Addendum*, is published for the purposes of review and programming of genealogical software. It is based on *The GEDCOM 5.5.1 Specification* and an in-depth and in-place review (for the purposes of programming) of the *FamilySearch GEDCOM 5.5.1 specification* done by the Members of GEDCOM-L Group.

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All content-related changes to the previous publication are marked light yellow like this line.

2 Purpose

This document serves as an explanation of incorrect and wrong text parts of the GEDCOM Specification 5.5.1, interprets ambiguous statements of the specification, defines agreements for solving this situation and contains additional user-defined tags to allow extended functionality. Section by section the affected records, substructures, primitive elements and user-defined records are described in alphabetic order.

This is the result of the **GEDCOM-L Working Group**. This team of 23 authors, most of them German speaking, of genealogy programs was initiated in 2009 by the **Computer Genealogy Society of Germany e.V. (Compgen)** and is still active, so far 2 more authors joined the team. Therefore this document will have further releases in the future to cover new upcoming items.

The aim of the GEDCOM-L group is:

- to improve the communication between genealogy programs via GEDCOM files
- to reduce data loss during export and import of GEDCOM files
- to improve the common understanding and interpretation of the GEDCOM standard
- to agree on common solutions, in order to improve the users' satisfaction
- to use the GEDCOM Standard 5.5.1 as its base
- to add, when required, common user-defined tags for transferring data, where the standard does not offer solutions

Since 2009 almost every single GEDCOM record has been discussed. This discussion was very fruitful and a lot of different interpretations of the GEDCOM standard could be resolved. For most of them good agreements could be reached. The agreements where derived record by record from the discussion of the GEDCOM-L. They were decided by a vote of the program authors of the group and if more than 75 % of the votings agreed, this was documented as agreement.

These agreements have been documented in

- German at https://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:GEDCOM-Tag with all details including treatment and representation of difficult situations and the still open items.
- English at https://wiki-en.genealogy.net/Category:GEDCOM-Tag covering the basic assumptions, decisions and agreements available for international use and other software authors. For each of the English pages there is a link to the detailed German original version.

This document summarizes in one place the modifications, additions and, where necessary, explanations including new User-defined tags. This document is version controlled.

We know that even with these actions a completely lossless exchange of the data is not possible due to different setups of the databases of the programs.

3 Convention

3.1 GEDCOM File

A GEDCOM file is a text file that represents a database in the form of a sequential stream of related records. A record is represented as a sequence of tagged, variable-length lines, arranged in a hierarchy.

3.2 GEDCOM Records

A GEDCOM file consists of a sequence of (top-level) records. Each record takes up one or more lines. Most records consist of multiple lines. The beginning of any record marks the end of the previous record. Each record ends where the next record starts with level number 0 or at the *end of file* (EOF).

3.3 GEDCOM Lines

A GEDCOM line always contains two to three parts, each separated by one space. It starts with a hierarchical level number followed by a tag, and, depending on the tag, a value. A line may also contain a cross-reference identifier (in between the level number and the tag) or a pointer.

The hierarchical relationship of lines is given by the level numbers. Subordinated lines have a higher level number. Immediate subordinated lines have a level number exactly one higher than the enclosing line. The hierarchy allows a line to have sub-lines, which in turn may have their own sub-lines, and so forth.

3.3.1 Sub-lines Notation

Example, INDI.NAME is the subordinated NAME line of the INDI record, and HEAD.GEDC.VERS is the subordinated VERS line of the subordinated GEDC line of the HEAD record.

3.4 GEDCOM Structures

A line and its subordinated lines constitute a structure, that is, a cluster of information pertaining directly to the same thing.

3.5 GEDCOM Tags

The tag in the GEDCOM line, taken in its hierarchical context, specifies the information contained in the line. This means that the data is self-defining. Tags allow a field to occur any number of times within a record, including zero times. Different Structures may use the same tag. Examples are NAME, BIRT, DATE, PLAC, etc.

Records are identified by their tag in the first line. Lines are identified by their tag, but only fully identified by their complete tag hierarchy: the tag of the line and all the tags of the subordinated lines building a structure.

The standard also allows the introduction of new tags and structures without introducing incompatibility, as a reading system will ignore data which it does not understand. This allows so-called user extensions.

3.6 Additions, Modifications and Explanations

Record structures, substructures, tags and primitive elements of the Lineage-Linked Form are only listed in this document, if they are affected by additions, modification or clarifying explanations. All structures not listed are not affected. For more details see the GEDCOM 5.5.1 Standard.

3.6.1 Marking of Modification

Modifications and additions to the record structures and substructures are marked as follows within the affected structure:

- Modification: **bolded** Text grey marked
- Additions: ***bolded italics*** text grey marked
- The textual definitions of the GEDCOM-L are identified by the title line
  GEDCOM-L Addendum and the subsequent blue text

4 Top-Level Record Structures

4.1 HEADER

```
HEADER:=
n HEAD {1:1}
+1 SOUR <APPROVED_SYSTEM_ID> {1:1}
+2 VERS <VERSION_NUMBER> {0:1}
+2 NAME <NAME_OF_PRODUCT> {0:1}
+2 CORP <NAME_OF_BUSINESS> {0:1}
+3 <<ADDRESS_STRUCTURE>> {0:1}                      p. 14
+2 DATA <NAME_OF_SOURCE_DATA> {0:1}
+3 DATE <PUBLICATION_DATE> {0:1}
+3 COPR <COPYRIGHT_SOURCE_DATA> {0:1}
+4 [CONT|CONC]<COPYRIGHT_SOURCE_DATA> {0:M}
+1 DEST <RECEIVING_SYSTEM_NAME> * {0:1}
+1 DATE <TRANSMISSION_DATE> {0:1}
+2 TIME <TIME_VALUE> {0:1}
+1 SUBM @<XREF:SUBM>@ {1:1}                         p: 12
+1 SUBN @<XREF:SUBN>@ {0:1}
+1 FILE <FILE_NAME> {0:1}
+1 COPR <COPYRIGHT_GEDCOM_FILE> {0:1}
+1 GEDC {1:1}
+2 VERS <VERSION_NUMBER> {1:1}
+2 FORM <GEDCOM_FORM> {1:1}
+1 CHAR <CHARACTER_SET> {1:1}                       p: 17
+2 VERS <VERSION_NUMBER> {0:1}
+1 LANG <LANGUAGE_OF_TEXT> {0:1}
+1 PLAC {0:1}                                       p: 24
+2 FORM <PLACE_HIERARCHY> {1:1}
+1 NOTE <GEDCOM_CONTENT_DESCRIPTION> {0:1}
+2 [CONC|CONT] <GEDCOM_CONTENT_DESCRIPTION> {0:M}
+1 <<_SCHEMA_STRUCTURE>>                            p: 36
```

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- By HEAD.SOUR a name for the program chosen by the author, without its version number will be exported. This identifier should clearly identify the program and should not contain spaces (for a separation of text parts the "_" underscore may be used). It is recommended to choose a maximum of 20 characters long identifier.

- By HEAD.DEST information may be provided about the target system. This is especially recommended, if a special export is made for certain purposes (other than standard export).

- According to the GEDCOM standard the GEDCOM version must be specified. For all exports, following the standard 5.5.1 and the GEDCOM-L addendum, the following sequence must be contained in the HEADER:

  ```
  1 GEDC
  2 VERS 5.5.1
  2 FORM LINEAGE-LINKED
  ```

- By HEAD.NOTE remarks about the file may be exported. Except the continuation lines CONC/CONT no sub-structures are permitted.

4.2 RECORD

```
RECORD:=
[
n <<FAM_RECORD>> {1:1}                               p. 10
|
n <<INDIVIDUAL_RECORD>> {1:1}                        p. 11
|
n <<MULTIMEDIA_RECORD>> {1:1}                        p. 11
|
n <<NOTE_RECORD>> {1:1}
|
n <<REPOSITORY_RECORD>> {1:1}
|
n <<SOURCE_RECORD>> {1:1}                            p. 12
|
n <<SUBMITTER_RECORD>> {1:1}                         p. 12
|
n <<LOCATION_RECORD>> {1:1}                          p. 13
]
```

4.3 FAM_RECORD

```
FAM_RECORD:=
n @<XREF:FAM>@ FAM {1:1}
+1 RESN <RESTRICTION_NOTICE> {0:1}                   p. 25
+1 <<FAMILY_EVENT_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}                  p. 18
+1 HUSB @<XREF:INDI>@ {0:1}
+1 WIFE @<XREF:INDI>@ {0:1}
+1 CHIL @<XREF:INDI>@ {0:M}
+1 NCHI <COUNT_OF_CHILDREN>10 {0:1}
+1 SUBM @<XREF:SUBM>@ {0:M}                          p. 28
+1 <<LDS_SPOUSE_SEALING>> {0:M}
+1 REFN <USER_REFERENCE_NUMBER> {0:M}
+2 TYPE <USER_REFERENCE_TYPE> {0:1}
+1 RIN <AUTOMATED_RECORD_ID> {0:1}
+1 <<ASSOCIATION_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}                   p. 15
+1 <<STATUS_STRUCTURE>> {0:1}                        p. 27
+1 <<CHANGE_DATE>> {0:1}
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> 0:M}                          p. 26
+1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                         p. 21
```

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- It is recommended not to conclude from the tags HUSB and WIFE to the gender of the person (this is explicitly set by the tag SEX in the individual record or remains open in absence of tag SEX). Therefore **same-sex partnerships** can be exported in the family record by referring by HUSB to a woman or by WIFE to a man.
- It is recommended to export **multiple relations between the same persons** (e.g. remarriage after divorce) in several family records and export unmarried parents of a child in one joint family record.

4.4 INDI_RECORD

```
INDIVIDUAL_RECORD:=
n @XREF:INDI@ INDI {1:1}
+1 RESN <RESTRICTION_NOTICE> {0:1}                   p. 25
+1 <<PERSONAL_NAME_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}                 p. 23
+1 SEX <SEX_VALUE> {0:1}                             p. 26
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}              p. 20
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_ATTRIBUTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}          p. 19
+1 <<LDS_INDIVIDUAL_ORDINANCE>> {0:M}
+1 <<CHILD_TO_FAMILY_LINK>> {0:M}
+1 <<SPOUSE_TO_FAMILY_LINK>> {0:M}
+1 SUBM @<XREF:SUBM>@ {0:M}
+1 <<ASSOCIATION_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 ALIA @<XREF:INDI>@ {0:M}                          p: 15
+1 ANCI @<XREF:SUBM>@ {0:M}
+1 DESI @<XREF:SUBM>@ {0:M}
+1 RFN <PERMANENT_RECORD_FILE_NUMBER> {0:1}
+1 AFN <ANCESTRAL_FILE_NUMBER> {0:1}
+1 REFN <USER_REFERENCE_NUMBER> {0:M}
+2 TYPE <USER_REFERENCE_TYPE> {0:1}
+1 RIN <AUTOMATED_RECORD_ID> {0:1}
+1 <<CHANGE_DATE>> {0:1}
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                         p. 26
+1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                         p. 21
```

4.5 MULTIMEDIA_RECORD

```
MULTIMEDIA_RECORD:=                                  p. 21
n @XREF:OBJE@ OBJE {1:1}
+1 FILE <MULTIMEDIA_FILE_REFN> {1:M}
+2 FORM <MULTIMEDIA_FORMAT> {1:1}
+3 TYPE <SOURCE_MEDIA_TYPE> {0:1}
+2 TITL <DESCRIPTIVE_TITLE> {0:1}
+1 REFN <USER_REFERENCE_NUMBER> {0:M}
+2 TYPE <USER_REFERENCE_TYPE> {0:1}
+1 RIN <AUTOMATED_RECORD_ID> {0:1}
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                         p. 26
+1 <<CHANGE_DATE>> {0:1}
```

4.6 SOURCE_RECORD

```
SOURCE_RECORD:=                                          p. 26
n @<XREF:SOUR>@ SOUR {1:1}
+1 DATA {0:1}
+2 EVEN <EVENTS_RECORDED> {0:M}
+3 DATE <DATE_PERIOD> {0:1}
+3 PLAC <SOURCE_JURISDICTION_PLACE> {0:1}
+2 AGNC <RESPONSIBLE_AGENCY> {0:1}
+2 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 AUTH <SOURCE_ORIGINATOR> {0:1}
+2 [CONC|CONT] <SOURCE_ORIGINATOR> {0:M}
+1 TITL <SOURCE_DESCRIPTIVE_TITLE> {0:1}
+2 [CONC|CONT] <SOURCE_DESCRIPTIVE_TITLE> {0:M}
+1 ABBR <SOURCE_FILED_BY_ENTRY> {0:1}
+1 PUBL <SOURCE_PUBLICATION_FACTS> {0:1}
+2 [CONC|CONT] <SOURCE_PUBLICATION_FACTS> {0:M}
+1 TEXT <TEXT_FROM_SOURCE> {0:1}
+2 [CONC|CONT] <TEXT_FROM_SOURCE> {0:M}
+1 <<SOURCE_REPOSITORY_CITATION>> {0:M}
+1 REFN <USER_REFERENCE_NUMBER> {0:M}
+2 TYPE <USER_REFERENCE_TYPE> {0:1}
+1 RIN <AUTOMATED_RECORD_ID> {0:1}
+1 <<CHANGE_DATE>> {0:1}
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                             p. 21
```

4.7 SUBMITTER_RECORD

```
SUBMITTER_RECORD:=                                       p. 28
n @<XREF:SUBM>@ SUBM {1:1}
+1 NAME <SUBMITTER_NAME> {1:1}
+1 <<ADDRESS_STRUCTURE>>* {0:1}                          p. 14
+1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                             p. 21
+1 LANG <LANGUAGE_PREFERENCE> {0:3}
+1 RFN <SUBMITTER_REGISTERED_RFN> {0:1}
+1 RIN <AUTOMATED_RECORD_ID> {0:1}
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 <<CHANGE_DATE>> {0:1}
```

4.8 LOCATION_RECORD

```
LOCATION_RECORD:=                                               p. 31
0 @<XREF:_LOC>@ _LOC {1:1}
1 NAME <PLACE_NAME> {1:M}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 ABBR <ABBREVIATION_OF_NAME> {0:M}
3 TYPE <TYPE_OF_ABBREVIATION> {0:1}
2 LANG <LANGUAGE_ID> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
1 TYPE <TYPE_OF_LOCATION> {0:M}
2 _GOVTYPE <GOVID_OF_TYPE> {0:1}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
1 _POST <POSTAL_CODE> {0:M}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
1 _GOV <GOV_IDENTIFIER> {0:1}
1 MAP {0:1}
2 LATI <PLACE_LATITUDE> {1:1}
2 LONG <PLACE_LONGITUDE> {1:1}
1 _MAIDENHEAD <MAIDENHEAD_LOCATOR> {0:1}
1 RELI <DENOMINATION> {0:1}
1 EVEN [<EVENT_DESCRIPTOR>|<NULL>] {0:M}
2 <<EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
1 _LOC @<XREF:_LOC>@ {0:M}
2 TYPE <HIERARCHICAL_RELATIONSHIP> {1:1}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
1 _DMGD <DEMOGRAPHICAL_DATA> {0:M}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
2 TYPE <TYPE_OF_DEMOGRAPHICAL_DATA> {1:1}
1 _AIDN <ADMINISTRATIVE_IDENTIFIER> {0:M}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
2 TYPE <TYPE_OF_ADMINISTRATIVE_IDENTIFIER> {1:1}
1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}
1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
1 <<CHANGE_DATE>> {0:1}
```

5 Substructures and Primitive Elements

5.1 ADDR Structure

```
ADDRESS_STRUCTURE:=
n ADDR <ADDRESS_LINE> {0:1}
+1 CONT <ADDRESS_LINE> {0:M}
+1 _NAME <NAME_OF_ADDRESSEE> {0:1}
+1 ADR1 <ADDRESS_LINE1> {0:1}
+1 ADR2 <ADDRESS_LINE2> {0:1}
+1 ADR3 <ADDRESS_LINE3> {0:1}
+1 CITY <ADDRESS_CITY> {0:1}
+1 STAE <ADDRESS_STATE> {0:1}
+1 POST <ADDRESS_POSTAL_CODE> {0:1}
+1 CTRY <ADDRESS_COUNTRY> {0:1}
n PHON <PHONE_NUMBER> {0:3}
n EMAIL <ADDRESS_EMAIL> {0:3}
n FAX <ADDRESS_FAX> {0:3}
n WWW <ADDRESS_WEB_PAGE> {0:3}
```

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- The GEDCOM standard has contradictory specifications between the ADDRESS_STRUCTURE and the general rule that a line without a line_value and without a subsequent line is not allowed. Therefore, it is agreed that the tags PHON, FAX, WWW and EMAIL may also be exported without the line n ADDR if no address details are available. Therefore the specified frequency for n ADDR is modified from {1:1} to {0:1}.

- The max value of CONT <ADDRESS_LINE> increased from 3 to M to allow more lines, if required.

- NAME_OF_ADDRESSEE

  If the mailing address also includes the **name of the addressee**, it is recommended to export this by means of a tag _NAME as a subordinated tag of ADDR.

- A tag EMAI must be changed to EMAIL

- The following assignments applies:

  1 ADDR == 2 ADR1 (1st line of an address field)
  2 CONT == 2 ADR2 (2nd line of an address field, 1st CONT line)
  2 CONT == 2 ADR3 (3rd line of an address field, 2nd CONT line)
  2 CONT (4th line of an address field, only by 3rd CONT line)

- Import of Postal Address

  For programs with a limited number of continuation lines in the data field or insufficient data fields, it is recommended to include this information in the following form:

  ```
  1 ADDR (ADDR)
  2 CONT (ADR1)
  2 CONT (ADR2), (ADR3)
  2 CONT (POST), (CITY), (STAE), (CTRY)
  ```

  This means to add the text following the parenthetical tags.

- The above address structure must be used exclusively in the following cases:
  - at the submitter record (SUBM, level 1)
  - at the repository record (REPO, level 1)
  - at the header of the file (HEAD, below 2 CORP as level 3)
  - at EVENT_DETAIL and therefore in all events and attributes in personal and family records (always as level 2)

- Addresses in Individual (INDI) and Family (FAM) Records
  If during importing a file, the address structure is found in individual or family records on level 1, contrary to the requirements of the GEDCOM standard, it is recommended for a potential following re-export, to place the address structure under the tag RESI, e.g.:

```
0 @I1@ INDI
1 NAME Tom /Jones/
1 RESI
2 ADDR Jonesstreet 3
3 CONT 12345 Jonestown
...
```

5.2 AGE Line

```
n AGE <AGE_AT_EVENT>
```

```
AGE_AT_EVENT:= {Size=2:15} [ < +Space | > +Space | <NULL> ] [
YYYy+Space+MMm+Space+DDDd | YYYy | MMm | DDDd | YYYy+Space+MMm |
YYYy+Space+DDDd | MMm+Space+DDDd | CHILD | INFANT | STILLBORN ]
```

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- In 5.5.1 there is no definition how many digits are allowed for the values of YY, MM, DDD. To indicate that the YY may be 100 or more, YY is replaced by YYY.
- YYY, MM and DDD are integer positive numbers. They may have one or more digits.
- A space is added after the "<" and ">" sign.
- The shortest value for the content of AGE is one digit and one of the letters y, m, or d. So the minimum length is 2, and not 1 as shown in the standard 5.5.1.
- To avoid conflicts with these statements the definition {1:12} of 5.5.1 for the length of AGE_AT_EVENT is corrected from {1:12} to {2:15}.

5.3 ALIA Line

```
1 ALIA @<XREF:INDI>@ {0:M}
```

An indicator to link different record descriptions of a person who may be the same person.

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- Tag ALIA may be used to point to possibly duplicated persons in the GEDCOM file.
- If during import the tag ALIA is found in the form
  n ALIA text
  the text may be interpreted as "alias name" of the person to be exported by NAME.TYPE aka. The user should get a warning, if this interpretation is made.

5.4 ASSO / _ASSO Structure

```
ASSOCIATION_STRUCTURE:=
n ASSO @<XREF:INDI>@ {1:1}
  +1 RELA <RELATION_IS_DESCRIPTOR> {1:1}
  +1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
  +1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
```

A substantial restriction in the GEDCOM standard is that this must only be used in INDI records, and then only at level 1. The association pointer only associates INDI (Individual) records to INDI (Individual) records.

Example:
```
0 @I1@ INDI
1 NAME Fred /Jones/
1 ASSO @I2@
2 RELA Godparent
```
This indicates that the person described in record "I2" is the Godparent of Fred Jones.

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- For the description of relations from a family to an individual (e.g. witness of marriage) the tag **_ASSO** is used. Beside the assignment to the family record for _ASSO apply the same rules from the standard as for ASSO.
  ```
  ASSOCIATION_STRUCTURE:=
  n _ASSO @<XREF:INDI>@ {1:1}
    +1 RELA <RELATION_IS_DESCRIPTOR> {1:1}
    +1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}
    +1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
  ```
- For the description of relations from an event at level 2 of an individual or a family to an individual (e.g. witness of civil marriage) the tag _ASSO is used too.
  Example:
  ```
  0 @F1@ FAM
  1 MARR
  2 _ASSO @I1@
  3 RELA witness_of_marriage
  ```
  This indicates that the person described in record "I1" is a Witness of Marriage of the partners defined by FAM "F1".
- For programs with fixed data fields for such relations it is recommended to use following text behind RELA:
  - Godparent
  - Witness_of_Birth
  - Witness_of_Death

  respective
  - Witness_of_Marriage
  - Witness_of_Civil_Marriage
  - Witness_of_Religious_Marriage
- If the relation is not referenced to an individual record, but by a textual description of the person(s), it is recommended to use the tag
  - _GODP (for godparents) and
  - _WITN (for witnesses).

  The tag _GODP should be used in the individual record as subordinated tag of CHR or BAPM, the tag _WITN in the individual or family record as subordinated tag of the event with the witness.

5.5   CHAR Line

```
1 CHAR <CHARACTER_SET> {1:1}
```

The CHARACTER_SET is an indicator of the character set used for writing the GEDCOM file.

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- The export in UTF-8 must be supported. This character set should be set as the default encoding.
- The character sets ANSEL, ASCII, UNICODE (includes UCS-2 BE, UCS-2 LE, UTF-16 BE, UTF-16 LE) may be supported optional. The use of the character set UNICODE is not recommended.
- The support of the character set ANSI (not permitted by the GEDCOM 5.5.1 Standard) will be tolerated; it may be supported as an option.
- Other character sets as defined above may not be used in the export.
- For import UTF-8 and ANSEL must be supported.
- The above defined optional character sets may be supported on import without limitation.
- For a transitional period, the import of ANSI-encoded files must be supported.
- If an imported file can't be fully processed because of their encodings, the user should get a warning.
- At export the Byte Order Mark (BOM) must be issued for the character set UTF-8 and UNICODE (USC-2 and UTF-16).
- At import an automatic detection must ensure if a BOM is present in the file to be read, and if found, which BOM.
- For files without Byte Order Mark (BOM) CHAR should be put as far to the top, that no characters outside the scope of US_ASCII occur prior to the tag CHAR.

5.6   CONT Line

```
n CONT <XXX> {0:M}
```

The XXX represents a text according the definitions of the superior tag.

According to the Grammar Rules all GEDCOM lines have either a value or a pointer unless the line contains subordinate GEDCOM lines.

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This is waved for CONT. CONT lines with no following text are allowed.

5.7   DATE Line

The specification of the DATE line in GEDCOM 5.5.1 standard was discussed by Gedcom-L to ensure the correct use. It was not modified or enhanced.

5.8 EVENT_DETAILS

```
EVENT_DETAIL:=
n TYPE <EVENT_OR_FACT_CLASSIFICATION> {0:1}
n DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
n <<PLACE_STRUCTURE>> {0:1}                          p. 24
n <<ADDRESS_STRUCTURE>> {0:1}                         p. 14
n AGNC <RESPONSIBLE_AGENCY> {0:1}
n RELI <RELIGIOUS_AFFILIATION> {0:1}
n CAUS <CAUSE_OF_EVENT> {0:1}
n RESN <RESTRICTION_NOTICE> {0:1}                     p. 25
n <<ASSOCIATION_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}                     p. 15
n <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
n <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                           p. 26
n <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                           p. 21
```

EVENT_DETAILS are part of the FAMILY_EVENT_DETAILS and INDIVIDUAl_EVENT_DETAILS.

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- The ASSOCIATION_STRUCTURE is used to define associations from events to individuals included in the GEDCOM file.

5.9 FAMILY_EVENT_STRUCTURE

```
FAMILY_EVENT_STRUCTURE:=
[
n [ ANUL | CENS | DIV | DIVF ] {1:1}
+1 <<FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n [ ENGA | MARB | MARC ] {1:1}
+1 <<FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n MARR [Y|<NULL>] {1:1}
+1 <<FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n [ MARL | MARS ] {1:1}
+1 <<FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n RESI [ <RESIDENCE_DESCRIPTOR> | <NULL>] {1:1}
+1 <<FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n EVEN [ <EVENT_DESCRIPTOR> | <NULL>] {1:1}
+1 <<FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
]
```

The definitions for the tags are described at page 43 List of Standard GEDCOM Tags.
An EVEN (Event) structure is usually subordinated by the TYPE tag to define the type of the event.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- The tag **RESI** can also contain a line_value for the RESIDENCE_DESCRIPTOR, although this is not explicitly mentioned in the GEDCOM standard. Tag RESI will be used to define the place of residency.
  - **<RESIDENCE_DESCRIPTOR>** := {Size=1:90} Text containing information about the residence of the family. This text supplements the information given in the FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL on DATE, PLAC, etc. if necessary.
- The {Min:Max} values have been added to RESI, they are missing in the 5.5.1 Specification.

- The use of all tags for an event, explicitly described by the GEDCOM standard, is permitted. It is also recommended to give priority to use these tags instead of a possible construction of EVEN plus TYPE, e.g. preferably

  ```
  n ENGA
  ```
  and not:
  ```
  n EVEN
  n+1 TYPE Engagement
  ```

- The event MARR describes the marriage between the (marital) partners. If the program offers the opportunity to add to MARR the nature of marriage or wedding ceremony, then the following should be used for civil marriage

  ```
  n MARR
  n+1 TYPE CIVIL
  ```
  and for religious marriage
  ```
  n MARR
  n+1 TYPE RELI
  ```
  Programs with only a fixed data field for marriage exporting it as a
  ```
  n MARR
  ```
  and can provide the option to the user to describe more weddings by self-entered descriptions, for example, a religious marriage after a civil marriage to be exported in the form
  ```
  n EVEN
  n+1 TYPE Religious wedding
  ```

5.10 INDIVIDUAL_ATTRIBUTE_STRUCTURE

```
INDIVIDUAL_ATTRIBUTE_STRUCTURE:=
[
n CAST <CASTE_NAME> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n DSCR <PHYSICAL_DESCRIPTION> {1:1}
+1 [ CONC | CONT ] <PHYSICAL_DESCRIPTION> {0:M}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n EDUC <SCHOLASTIC_ACHIEVEMENT> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n IDNO <NATIONAL_ID_NUMBER> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n NATI <NATIONAL_OR_TRIBAL_ORIGIN> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n NCHI <COUNT_OF_CHILDREN> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n NMR <COUNT_OF_MARRIAGES> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n OCCU <OCCUPATION> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n PROP <POSSESSIONS> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n RELI <RELIGIOUS_AFFILIATION> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n RESI [ <RESIDENCE_DESCRIPTOR> | <NULL> ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
```

```
|
n SSN <SOCIAL_SECURITY_NUMBER> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n TITL <NOBILITY_TYPE_TITLE> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n FACT <ATTRIBUTE_DESCRIPTOR> {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
]
```

The definitions for the tags are described at page 43 List of Standard GEDCOM Tags.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- For all of these tags a text may be added on the same line. This is also agreed here for the tag **RESI**, although this is not explicitly mentioned in the GEDCOM standard. Tag RESI will be used to define the place of residency.
  - **<RESIDENCE_DESCRIPTOR> :=** {Size=1:90} Text containing information about the residence of the person. This text supplements the information given in the FAMILY_EVENT_DETAIL on DATE, PLAC, etc. if necessary.
- All tags for events and attributes **can** be described by a subordinate **TYPE** tag. A description with TYPE for the tag FACT and IDNO **must** be exported.
- Facts often can be represented in GEDCOM by an explicit tag or by the tag FACT, in combination with TYPE. For this purpose, it is agreed:
  - It is recommended to export the attributes in the structure corresponding to the exporting program.
  - It is permitted to replace an explicit attribute tag by a FACT.TYPE representation with a corresponding plaintext after TYPE. This can occur for export especially for programs, which cannot handle the explicit tags.
  - For programs that internally represent only one of these alternatives for attributes, it is recommended to convert incoming information in their own representation of attributes. In cases where this is not possible, the transfer into a comment is recommended.

5.11 INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_STRUCTURE

```
INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_STRUCTURE:=
[
n [ BIRT | CHR ] [ Y | <NULL> ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
+1 FAMC @<XREF:FAM>@ {0:1}
|
n DEAT [ Y | <NULL> ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n [ BURI | CREM ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n ADOP {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
+1 FAMC @<XREF:FAM>@ {0:1}
+2 ADOP <ADOPTED_BY_WHICH_PARENT> {0:1}
```

```
|
n [ BAPM | BARM | BASM | BLES ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n [ CHRA | CONF | FCOM | ORDN ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n [ NATU | EMIG | IMMI ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n [ CENS | PROB | WILL] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n [ GRAD | RETI ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
|
n EVEN [ <EVENT_DESCRIPTOR> | <NULL> ] {1:1}
+1 <<INDIVIDUAL_EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
]
```

The definitions for the tags are described at page 43 List of Standard GEDCOM Tags.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- Due to contradictory statements of the GEDCOM standard about a line content after the EVEN tag in individual records, it is agreed, that also in individual records a text may follow the tag EVEN. So EVEN is here treated the same way as in the family record.
- All tags for events and attributes **can** be described by a subordinate **TYPE** tag. A description with TYPE for the tag EVEN **must** be exported.
- Events often can be represented in GEDCOM by an explicit tag or by the tag EVEN, in combination with TYPE. For this purpose, it is agreed:
  - It is recommended to export the events in the structure corresponding to the exporting program.
  - It is permitted to replace an explicit event tag by an EVEN.TYPE representation with a corresponding plain text after TYPE. This can occur for export especially for programs, which cannot handle the explicit tags.
  - For programs that internally represent only one of these alternatives for events, it is recommended to convert incoming information in their own representation of events. In cases where this is not possible, the transfer into a comment is recommended.

5.12 MULTIMEDIA_LINK
```
MULTIMEDIA_LINK:=
[
n OBJE @<XREF:OBJE>@ {1:1}
|
n OBJE
+1 FILE <MULTIMEDIA_FILE_REFN> {1:M}
+2 FORM <MULTIMEDIA_FORMAT> {1:1}
+3 MEDI <SOURCE_MEDIA_TYPE> {0:1}
+1 TITL <DESCRIPTIVE_TITLE> {0:1}
]
```

Note the different tags for the <SOURCE_MEDIA_TYPE> in the embedded version (MEDI) compared to the record version (TYPE), and the different level of TITL: In OBJE records TITL is subordinated to FILE. This is probably due to the immature state of the GEDCOM 5.5.1.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- A reference to multimedia files will be done by specifying the path and file name information (in OBJE.FILE). After the tag FILE following information may optionally be exported:
  1. Just the plain filename „Filename".
  2. The absolute path „absPath+Fileiname".
  3. A relative path „relPath+Filename".

  For this purpose, the following definitions apply:
  a) The file name must be fully listed together with the file extension.
  b) The absolute path includes also the drive letter; it may also be issued a full URI – Uniform_Resource_Identifier.
  c) The relative path relPath always starts with a dot, e.g.: ./directory_name/
  d) It is recommended to implement more than the minimum length of 30 characters as defined by the standard for the data field OBJE.FILE to accommodate even longer file names incl. the above path information.
- The content of FILE depends on what action the user wants to implement:
  o For a transfer within a computer (without moving/copying of media files) the absolute path information is required by the receiving program. It is recommended to enter the absolute path in this case.
  o For a transfer to another computer (with simultaneous transfer of media files) the exporting program doesn't know the (future) directory structure of the receiving computer. Therefore, it is recommended to use relative paths for FILE. At the same time the media files should be copied in accordance with these paths to the transport medium and/or to provide copy rules to the user.
- It is allowed to reference any files as a multimedia file. The list of file types under MULTIMEDIA_FORMAT, included in the GEDCOM standard, is interpreted as a not finalized list of examples.
- If in a parent record several media objects are referenced, according to the GEDCOM standard the priority is determined by the sequence of OBJE tags in the parent record: Highest priority has the first call. If there are multiple files referenced by FILE within an OBJE record, the first file specified has priority. It is allowed to support the priority by an additional tag **_PRIM** with Y as content. It is recommended to follow the prioritizing according the standard, for example:

```
0 @I1@ INDI
...
1 OBJE @O1@
2 _PRIM Y
1 OBJE @O2@

0 @O1@ OBJE
...
1 FILE "file1"
2 FORM "..."
2 _PRIM Y
1 FILE "file2"
2 FORM "..."
```

5.13 NAME Structure

Text to describe the name of an object like an individual, a file, position. Multiple NAME lines should be used, if the individual is known by various names.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- In opposite to the tag NAME the standard defines for name parts GIVN, NPFX, NSFX, SPFX, SURN a separation of their name pieces by a comma. This requirement is waived; in particular the separation by space or a content entered by the user will be tolerated.
- When importing NAME and the name parts GIVN, NICK, NPFX, NSFX, SPFX, SURN, _RUFNAME they must be taken in the appropriate fields unchanged, if the program supports these name fields. If name parts are missing in the file to be imported, the content of NAME may be interpreted and distributed to the name parts.
- When importing into programs supporting multiple names, the data of TYPE
  - aka, birth, immigrant, maiden, married
  may be changed only by the user himself prior to a subsequent export. A name without a declaration of the type (by TYPE or other means) a type may not be assigned by a program.
- When importing multiple names in programs that do not support these multiple names, the first occurred NAME structure (according standard the most important one) in the individual record must be used. The other names can be stored suitably, e.g. as comment.

5.13.1 "Rufname"

This part describes the data transfer of the "**Rufname**". "Rufname" is one part of official German documents (i.e. birth records), and describes in case of multiple given names one selected given name by underlining it in the document. By this the "Rufname" is always one of the official given names of a person. A nickname of a person is a very different information (tag: NICK), the nickname is used by family members or friends to call a person, and in most cases this nick is not one of the officially documented given names.

- The data transfer for the "Rufname" will be done by using the user-defined tag **_RUFNAME**, which is located as n+1 _RUFNAME subordinated to tag n NAME. The exporting program has to make sure, that the content of the tag _RUFNAME is one of the given names of the content of NAME resp. GIVN.

Example:
Name in the official document: Maria Elisabeth Johanna Alt
```
1 NAME Maria Elisabeth Johanna /Alt/
2 SURN Alt
2 GIVN Maria Elisabeth Johanna
2 _RUFNAME Elisabeth
```

5.14 PLAC_STRUCTURE

```
PLACE_STRUCTURE:=
n PLAC <PLACE_NAME> {1:1}
+1 FORM <PLACE_HIERARCHY> {0:1}
+1 FONE <PLACE_PHONETIC_VARIATION> {0:M}
+2 TYPE <PHONETIC_TYPE> {1:1}
+1 ROMN <PLACE_ROMANIZED_VARIATION> {0:M}
+2 TYPE <ROMANIZED_TYPE> {1:1}
+1 MAP {0:1}
+2 LATI <PLACE_LATITUDE> {1:1}
+2 LONG <PLACE_LONGITUDE> {1:1}
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 _POST <POSTAL_CODE> {0:M}
+2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
+1 _MAIDENHEAD <MAIDENHEAD_LOCATOR> {0:1}
+1 _GOV <GOV_IDENTIFIER> {0:1}
+1 _LOC @<XREF:_LOC>@ {0:1}                        p. 31
```

Locations are described by the tag PLAC. For places there are no separate records as for NOTE or SOUR defined by the standard. Locations will be described with the following structure:

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- PLACE_HIERARCHY:= {Size=1:120}
  This shows the jurisdictional entities that are named in a sequence from the lowest to the highest jurisdiction. The jurisdictions are separated by commas, and any jurisdiction's name that is missing is still accounted for by a comma. When a PLAC.FORM structure is included in the HEADER of a GEDCOM transmission, it implies that all place names follow this jurisdictional format and each jurisdiction is accounted for by a comma, whether the name is known or not. When the PLAC.FORM is subordinate to an event, it temporarily overrides the implications made by the PLAC.FORM structure stated in the HEADER. This usage is not common and, therefore, not encouraged. It should only be used when a system has over-structured its place-names.

- As additional information for PLAC may be used
  ```
  +1 _POST <POSTAL_CODE> {0:M}
  +2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
  +1 _MAIDENHEAD <MAIDENHEAD_LOCATOR> {0:1}
  +1 _GOV <GOV_IDENTIFIER> {0:1}
  ```

- Precedence over the user-defined location records have explicitly defined tags subordinated to tag PLAC according GEDCOM standard. Whenever the data fields are available in the program, these tags must be exported directly subordinated to PLAC. In addition, it is recommended to provide as far as the program provides these data field, to add the GOV code also subordinated to PLAC to allow a receiving program without location record during import to get the GOV code. By this the additional information to PLAC may be
  ```
  +1 _GOV <GOV_IDENTIFIER> {0:1}
  +1 _LOC @<XREF:_LOC>@
  ```

- Bürgerort (Place of Citizenship)
  For the important place "Place of Citizenship" in Switzerland it is recommended to export the following variant:
  ```
  1 EVEN
  2 TYPE Bürgerort
  2 PLAC <User input for Bürgerort>
  ```

The user input for place of citizenship (e.g. community name plus two-letter abbreviation of the canton out of the official documents) may not be changed. Further in the standard defined subordinated tags to EVEN may be exported too, e.g. DATE, SOUR etc.

During import already existing, different versions should also be supported. They may be transferred to the proposed export version:

```
1 _BUERGERORT <User input for Bürgerort>
or
1 _HEIM <User input for Bürgerort>
or
1 FACT
2 TYPE Bürgerort        ("ü", U+00FC)
2 PLAC <User input for Bürgerort>
```

5.15 RESN Line

```
+1 RESN <RESTRICTION_NOTICE> {0:1}
```

A processing indicator signifying access to information has been denied or otherwise restricted and is called by the structures of:

```
FAM_RECORD
INDIVIDUAL_RECORD
EVENT_DETAIL
```

RESN can have the following values:

```
RESTRICTION_NOTICE:=
[ confidential | locked | privacy ]
```

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- In the standard it is explicitly mentioned that RESN is used and exported from Ancestral File. In addition to the standard use restricted information may be indicated by the tag RESN during GEDCOM export. This can be used by the user of the receiving program for differentiated ways of handling such information, e.g. preparation of reports or further GEDCOM exports. The tag RESN is used only in individual records, family records and in EVENT_DETAIL. It only can get the above listed values.
  For German translation it is recommended to use the words **vertraulich | gesperrt | privat**.
- The responsibility for dealing with restricted information, especially the compliance with the provisions of data protection laws, remains with the user. In particular, no one can be sure that the receiving programs support the tag RESN. If RESN is not supported, the labeling of data as confidential is ineffective in the importing program. GEDCOM files offer as plain text files basically full access to its contents. This must be taken into account for a transfer of GEDCOM files by the user.

5.16 SEX Line

```
n SEX <SEX_VALUE>
```
Indicates the gender of an individual.

SEX can have the following values:

```
SEX_VALUE :=
[ M | F | U | X ]
```

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- According to the newest regulations by law for marking gender the additional value is defined
  `"X" for interseX`
- If other values are found during import, the program should try to convert to the agreed value set. In particular, the value "U" (unknown) should be selected instead of the value "N" (for "not recorded").

5.17 SOURCE_CITATION

```
SOURCE_CITATION:=
[
n SOUR @<XREF:SOUR>@ {1:1}
+1 PAGE <WHERE_WITHIN_SOURCE> {0:1}
+1 EVEN <EVENT_TYPE_CITED_FROM> {0:1}
+2 ROLE <ROLE_IN_EVENT> {0:1}
+1 DATA {0:1}
+2 DATE <ENTRY_RECORDING_DATE> {0:1}
+2 TEXT <TEXT_FROM_SOURCE> {0:M}
+3 [CONC|CONT] <TEXT_FROM_SOURCE> {0:M}
+1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                          p. 21
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 QUAY <CERTAINTY_ASSESSMENT> {0:1}
|
n SOUR <SOURCE_DESCRIPTION> {1:1}
+1 [CONC|CONT] <SOURCE_DESCRIPTION> {0:M}
+1 TEXT <TEXT_FROM_SOURCE> {0:M}
+2 [CONC|CONT] <TEXT_FROM_SOURCE> {0:M}
+1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                          p. 21
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 QUAY <CERTAINTY_ASSESSMENT> {0:1}
]
```

The data provided in the <<SOURCE_CITATION>> structure is source-related information specific to the data being cited. Systems that do not use a (SOURCE_RECORD) must use the non-preferred second Source Citation Structure option. When systems that support the zero-level source record format encounters a source citation that does not contain pointers to source records, then that system needs to create a SOURCE_RECORD format and store the source description information found in the non-structured source citation in the title area for the new source record.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

The discussion in the GEDCOM-L was strongly influenced by the fact that the programs involved are very different in the internal treatment of sources. Beside solutions with a multi-line field for source information per individual or family record, solutions that offer a highly differentiated and structured source management exists. This leads to a noticeable difference of information during export.

Therefore, not all information of an extensive source management can be transferred to another application with simpler treatment of the sources.

Agreements to SOUR have therefore essentially the purpose that …
- Between programs working with the same structural depth for source management the exchanges per GEDCOM will perform without loss of information.
- Between programs with different structure of the source management at least the common elements will be assigned to the right place during a transmission.

The standard strongly recommends that you use the source records. This recommendation is also followed here; however, the export without source records remains allowed.

A program needs to import from a GEDCOM file those structural contents of sources correctly which can be handled internally. Structured data which can't be handled internally are usually lost. In order to reduce the loss of information, it is permissible to transfer structured information which can't be processed internally as substitute to a subordinated note. The standard recommends as minimum for such an approach, to incorporate information about TITL, AUTH, PUBL and REPO. This recommendation is followed. For REPO records the NAME content should be taken, i.e. the description of the location of the source.

If a program doesn't have the capability to assign source-citations to individual events, etc., the source citation should nevertheless be taken into account and assigned during the import to the superior record (individual or family).

5.18 STATUS_STRUCTURE / _STAT

```
<STATUS_STRUCTURE> :=
n _STAT <STATUS_TEXT> {1:1}
+1 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
+1 <<PLACE_STRUCTURE>> {0:1}                    p. 24
+1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
+1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                    p. 26
```

The standard explicitly prohibits exporting the statement "The persons are not married" with a negative argument instead of Y.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

Programs with internal data fields "not married" or "never married" or a data field "Status", should introduce a user-defined tag **_STAT** directly below of FAM:

_STAT can have the following values:

```
<STATUS_TEXT> :=
[NOT MARRIED | NEVER MARRIED | UNKNOWN | <plain text of the user>]
```

5.19 SUBM Record

The submitter record identifies an individual or organization that contributed information contained in the GEDCOM transmission. All records in the transmission are assumed to be submitted by the SUBMITTER referenced in the HEAD (Header), unless a SUBM (Submitter) reference inside a specific record points at a different SUBMITTER record.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- In a GEDCOM file as many SUBM records {1:M} can be used. To exactly one of them the tag SUBM refers to the header.
- Each individual record and each family record may be assigned (at level 1) any number {0:M} of SUBM references. This identifies the authors of this record.

5.20 XREF Line

```
XREF {XREF_ID}
```

Cross-Reference_Id (XREF_ID) and **Pointer** allow creating a cross reference from one record to another unique defined record by using the XREF_ID.

Pointer and XREF_ID must be formed in the following format:

```
Pointer :=
[(0x40) + alphanum + pointer_string + (0x40) ]
where:
(0x40)=@
pointer_char := [non_at]
alphanum := [a to z|A to Z|_ (underscore)|0 to 9]
pointer_string := [null | pointer_char | pointer_string + pointer_char ]
```

GEDCOM-L Addendum

For the notation of XREF_ID the following is recommended:
The notation is composed of @Xnnnn@, where the "X" represents the type of the record by one letter and "nnnn" represents a positive number assuring uniqueness.

- @**I**nnnn@ for Individual records
- @**F**nnnn@ for Family records
- *@**P**nnnn@ for Location records (Places)*
- @**N**nnnn@ for Note records
- @**O**nnnn@ for Multimedia records (Objects)
- @**R**nnnn@ for Repository records
- @**S**nnnn@ for Source records

6   General Items

6.1   Syntax of GEDCOM Lines

6.1.1   Minimum Content of a GEDCOM Line
All GEDCOM lines have either a value or a pointer unless the line contains subordinate GEDCOM lines.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- A blank line in NOTE (notes) is represented by the GEDCOM code as:

  n+1 CONT

6.1.2   Terminator
The terminator signals the end of the GEDCOM line and must be exported according one of the alternatives.

   CR/LF | LF | CR | LF/CR

GEDCOM-L Addendum

For standard export the use of CR/LF or LF is recommended. LF/CR should not be used.

6.1.3   Use of UNICODE-Characters
Formally the standard allows only the use of characters of the ANSEL scope, since the use of UNICODE is not yet incorporated in the grammar description of the syntax of the GEDCOM line.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

To use the UNICODE characters it is agreed, to supplement the definitions for **otherchar** by the UNICODE characters >= U+00A0. Therefor these characters are allowed within the line_item. This includes utf-8.

6.1.4   Handling of @ in Line_Item
In line_item no simple @ may stand in the exported GEDCOM file.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

To be able to transfer user input of simple @ according to the standard by line_item, the approach of the standard GEDCOM 5.5 will be used as default export: Each @ in the line_item will be doubled to a @@ when exporting.

For standard import of line_values the @@ must be re-converted back into a simple @. In case of non-standard simple @ in line_values, they will be taken unchanged.

6.2 Field Size

The discussion in the GEDCOM-L has clearly shown that there are very different approaches regarding the possible length of individual data fields in the programs. There are both, programs that limit the possible length of fields such as names, occupations, places etc. (the respective maximum length varies greatly by programs) and programs that can handle any number of characters in the fields. The GEDCOM-L has set itself the task to improve the data transfer between programs, but it is not the task to regulate internal program specifics.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- With respect to the length of data field in the programs it is therefore only referred to the GEDCOM standard, RECOMMENDING a minimum length of the data fields for such programs using length-limited fields.
- During export, the requirements of the standards must be met. This applies in particular to the following points:
  - The **cross-reference identifier**s have a maximum length of 22 characters, including the framing 'at' characters (@).
  - The **length of a GEDCOM tag** is limited to 31 characters, and the first 15 must be unique.
  - The **overall length of a GEDCOM line** along with the level number, cross-reference id, tag, value, limiters and end of line must not exceed 255 (wide) characters.

  All length limits are shown here as characters rather than bytes. If "wide characters" (characters that are wider than 8 bits) are used, the number of bytes is correspondingly higher.
- The complete contents of the data fields must be exported. Where this would lead to exceeding the line length of 255 characters the lines must be wrapped (for all tags) with CONC or CONT. CONT should not be used except for the cases explicitly defined by the GEDCOM standard:
  - in the HEADER after COPR and NOTE,
  - in NOTE_RECORD after NOTE,
  - in SOURCE_RECORD after AUTH, TITL, PUBL, TEXT
  - in INDIVIDUAL_ATTRIBUTE_STRUCTURE after DSCR
  - in NOTE_STRUCTURE after NOTE
  - in SOUR_CITATION after TEXT and SOUR

  In addition, CONT is allowed {0:M}:
  - in ADDRESS_STRUCTURE after ADDR

7 User-defined Tags

7.1 Introduction

User-defined tags may be used only to transfer information by GEDCOM files that cannot be represented by the tags and structures explicitly described according to standard GEDCOM 5.5.1.

According to the standard all user-defined tags must begin with an underscore character "_" (0x95), should only be interpreted in the context of the sending system and are defined as follows:

```
NEW_TAG:= {Size=2:15}
```

GEDCOM-L Addendum

- There is no restriction, which tags may be subordinated to a user-defined tag. In particular, it is permissible to subordinate to a user-defined tag further user-defined tag.
- It is agreed that explicitly defined tags in the standard may be used as subordinated tags to user-defined tags. In this case all provisions of the standards apply for the subordinated tag with the exception of the in the Standard not listed assignment to its superior tag
- It is recommended to explain user-defined tags used in a GEDCOM file in the file header by the _SCHEMA_STRUCTURE – See details on page 36.
- In agreements for the implementation of the GEDCOM standard 5.5.1 the program authors have already defined for instance following user-defined tags:

  - **_LOC** - Location record - See details on pages 13, 31 and as part of the PLAC record on page 23.
  - **_RUFNAME** - See details as part of the tag NAME on page 23 "Rufname".
  - **_SCHEMA_STRUCTURE** – See details on page 36.

7.2 Location Record

Tag **_LOC {LOCATION}**

Locations are described using the PLAC tag. In the GEDCOM standard, this tag is not sufficient to represent the data of a hierarchical structure, the historical relationships between different locations and their higher-level administrative units, geographical units, or the structures of church hierarchies.

GEDCOM-L Addendum

Location records were added to the GEDCOM structure to describe the data of a location at which events or facts took place. For this purpose an user-defined tag **_LOC** was introduced. These location records are referenced by a subrecord with tag _LOC subordinated to the PLAC tag:

```
...
2 PLAC New York
3 _LOC @P1@
...
0 @P1@ _LOC
1 NAME New York
...
```

The two tags PLAC and _LOC are closely linked. The use of _LOC in other data records (subordinated to the PLAC record) is further described in the section for PLAC on page 24.

7.2.1 Syntax

For a comprehensive location management, the use of location records is permitted.

The location record is referenced by the following line, subordinated to PLAC:

```
+1 _LOC @<XREF:_LOC>@
```

It is recommended to use for <XREF:_LOC> the form @Pnnn@ with nnn as a positive integer.

The location record itself is structured as follows:

```
0 @<XREF:_LOC>@ _LOC {1:1}
1 NAME <PLACE_NAME> {1:M}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 ABBR <ABBREVIATION_OF_NAME> {0:M}
3 TYPE <TYPE_OF_ABBREVIATION> {0:1}
2 LANG <LANGUAGE_ID> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                              p. 26
1 TYPE <TYPE_OF_LOCATION> {0:M}
2 _GOVTYPE <GOVID_OF_TYPE> {0:1}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                              p. 26
1 _POST <POSTAL_CODE> {0:M}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                              p. 26
1 _GOV <GOV_IDENTIFIER> {0:1}
1 MAP {0:1}
2 LATI <PLACE_LATITUDE> {1:1}
2 LONG <PLACE_LONGITUDE> {1:1}
1 _MAIDENHEAD <MAIDENHEAD_LOCATOR> {0:1}
1 RELI <DENOMINATION> {0:1}
1 EVEN [<EVENT_DESCRIPTOR>|<NULL>] {0:M}
2 <<EVENT_DETAIL>> {0:1}
1 _LOC @<XREF:_LOC>@ {0:M}
2 TYPE <HIERARCHICAL_RELATIONSHIP> {1:1}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                              p. 26
1 _DMGD <DEMOGRAPHICAL_DATA> {0:M}
2 TYPE <TYPE_OF_DEMOGRAPHICAL_DATA> {1:1}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                              p. 26
1 _AIDN <ADMINISTRATIVE_IDENTIFIER> {0:M}
2 TYPE <TYPE_OF_ADMINISTRATIVE_IDENTIFIER> {1:1}
2 DATE <DATE_VALUE> {0:1}
2 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                              p. 26
1 <<MULTIMEDIA_LINK>> {0:M}                              p. 21
1 <<NOTE_STRUCTURE>> {0:M}
1 <<SOURCE_CITATION>> {0:M}                              p. 26
1 <<CHANGE_DATE>> {0:1}
```

with

<ABBREVIATION_OF_NAME> := {Size=1:20} Abbreviation for place name, the type of abbreviation can be further explained with the optional TYPE.

<ADMINISTRATIVE_IDENTIFIER> := {Size=1:35} Identifier for a location with the intention of an administrative authority, e.g. community identifier.

<DATE_VALUE> := {Size=1:35} according 5.5.1. In the _LOC record, the DATE is used to define the validity period of the higher-level property. This is the case, for example, if locations were given new names at certain points in time, or the type of object changed (e.g. city rights granted). In the case of postal codes, the system has changed several times so that each postal code has a validity period from ... to ... (until can be empty, if still valid today). For demographic data, DATE is used to indicate the time of the survey.

<DEMOGRAPHICAL_DATA> := {Size=1:120} A number of objects, during an ascertainment, e.g. the count of households.

<GOV_IDENTIFIER> := {Size=1:12} The official GOV[1] Id. ID of the object in the Historical Place Register / Historic Gazetteer (GOV), see http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/GOV. The GOV-ID, for example, has the form CREGENJO52HG for "Cremlingen". A list of the GOV-ID is available via the MiniGOV files (download via http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/GOV/Mini-GOV) or online via the web service of the GOV system http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/GOV/Webservice .

<GOVID_OF_TYPE> := {Size=1:3} An integer positive number as defined in the GOV system. The definition in the GOV system http://gov.genealogy.net/type/list is binding for the interpretation of this line and allows an interpretation of the superior line 1 TYPE for all languages stored in the GOV system. The multilingual RDF file with the definitions of the object types of the GOV system is also available for this purpose https://gov.genealogy.net/types.owl .

<HIERARCHICAL_RELATIONSHIP> := [POLI|RELI|GEOG|CULT]
Used to differentiate political (administrative), religious, geographical or cultural associations. For the superior location object the details of its type are defined by the <TYPE_OF_LOCATION> in its record.

<LANGUAGE_ID> := {Size=1:15} (Language Identification) All languages listed in 5.5.1 are accepted.

<MAIDENHEAD_LOCATOR> := {Size=1:8} The maidenhead code.

<PLACE_LATITUDE> := {Size=5:10} (location, latitude) The maximum size of 8 characters specified in the standard is too small for the common resolution of GPS coordinates, and is therefore replaced by 10 characters**.**

<PLACE_LONGITUDE> := {Size=5:11} (location, longitude) A value that indicates the longitude of a location. The longitude is in degrees with decimal places east or west of the prime meridian (Greenwich). Example: 168 degrees, 9 minutes and 3.4 seconds eastern latitude would be formatted as E168.150944. The maximum size of 8 characters given in the standard is too small for the common resolution of GPS coordinates; it also directly contradicts the example given there. It is therefore replaced by 11 characters.

<POSTAL_CODE> := {Size=1:10} The official ZIP code, called ADDRESS_POSTAL_CODE in the standard.

<TYPE_OF_ABBREVIATION> := {Size=1:20} Type of abbreviation, e.g. ISO 3166

<TYPE_OF_ADMINISTRATIVE_IDENTIFIER> := {Size=1:35} Type of official or public identifier.

---

[1] GOV: Historic Gazetteer, a project of the "Computer Genealogy Society of Germany" (CompGen)

<TYPE_OF_DEMOGRAPHICAL_DATA> := {Size=1:35} Type the demographic data for a place.

[HSHO | CITI] means: household | resident

<TYPE_OF_LOCATION> := {Size=1:35} House, District, Borough, Village, Town, City, County, Street, Cemetery, Estate, Settlement, … It is recommended to use the types defined in the GOV system http://gov.genealogy.net/type/list, together with its GOV_ID_TYPE which is independent from any language.

7.2.2 Example of Hierarchical _LOC Records

As example, Thalkirchen in Munich is chosen, with 4 levels: part of town, city (regional authority), county (middle administration level), federal state.

```
...
1 DEAT
2 PLAC Thalkirchen, München, Oberbayern, Bayern
2 _LOC @P1@
...
0 @P1@ _LOC
1 NAME Thalkirchen
2 LANG German
1 TYPE part of town
2 _GOVTYPE 54
2 DATE FROM 1 JAN 1900
1 TYPE municipality
2 _GOVTYPE 18
2 DATE TO 31 DEC 1899
1 _GOV THAHENJN58SC
1 _POST 80331
2 DATE FROM 1 JUL 1993
1 _POST W8000
2 DATE TO 30 JUN 1993
1 _LOC @adm_139184@
2 TYPE POLI
2 DATE FROM 1 JAN 1880 TO 31 DEC 1899
1 _LOC @P2@
2 TYPE POLI
2 DATE FROM 1 JAN 1900
1 MAP
2 LATI N48.1439
2 LONG E11.5186
...
0 @P2@ _LOC
1 NAME Munich
2 LANG English
1 NAME München
2 LANG German
1 TYPE CITY (regional authority)
2 _GOVTYPE 150
1 _GOV adm_139162
1 WWW http://www.muenchen.de
1 _DMGD 169693
2 TYPE POPULATION
2 DATE 1871
1 _DMGD 1210223
2 TYPE POPULATION
2 DATE 2000
1 _AIDN 09162000
2 TYPE MUNICIPAL-ID
1 _LOC @P3@
2 TYPE POLI
```

```
1 MAP
2 LATI N48.114388552941
2 LONG E11.563171788235
...
0 @P3@ _LOC
1 NAME Upper Bavaria
2 LANG English
1 NAME Oberbayern
2 LANG German
2 DATE FROM 1 JAN 1838
1 NAME Isarkreis
2 LANG German
2 DATE FROM 1 OCT 1808 TO 31 DEC 1837
1 TYPE county (middle administration level)
2 _GOVTYPE 222
2 DATE FROM 1 OCT 1808 TO 31 DEC 1939
1 TYPE administrative district
2 _GOVTYPE 46
2 DATE FROM 1939
1 _GOV adm_369091
1 _LOC @object_217953@
2 TYPE POLI
2 DATE FROM 1 OCT 1808 TO 31 DEC 1946
1 _LOC @P4@
2 TYPE POLI
2 DATE FROM 1946
1 MAP
2 LATI N48.110966041567
2 LONG E11.922907132372
...
0 @P4@ _LOC
1 NAME Bayern
2 LANG German
1 NAME Bavière
2 LANG French
1 NAME Bavaria
2 LANG English
1 NAME Beieren
2 LANG Dutch
1 NAME Бавария
2 LANG Russian
1 TYPE federal state
2 _GOVTYPE 7
1 _GOV adm_369090
1 _DMGD 12468726
2 TYPE POPULATION
2 DATE 2005
1 _LOC @object_810122@
2 TYPE POLI
2 DATE FROM 1 JAN 1945 TO 23 MAY 1949
1 _LOC @object_149273@
2 TYPE POLI
2 DATE FROM 24 MAY 1949
1 MAP
2 LATI N48.58176726069
2 LONG E11.922565628925
```

7.3 _SCHEMA_STRUCTURE

The GEDCOM 5.5.1 standard provides no structure to explain user-defined tags used in a GEDCOM file.

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The _SCHEMA structure allows a receiving system to interpret the associated data.

It is recommended to explain user-defined tags used in a GEDCOM file in the file header. For this purpose, an approach based on the GEDCOM 5.3 draft is agreed:

a) The explanation of the user-defined tags used will take place in the header of the GEDCOM file and is initiated at level 1 (i.e. directly subordinated to the HEAD record) by the tag _SCHEMA {0:1}.

b) Subordinated to _SCHEMA follows first the description of the context {1:M}, in which the user-defined tag is used. As much as necessary higher levels can be used for the description of the context.

c) The BASE_TAG is one of the standard GEDCOM tags

d) Below of the BASE_TAG the NEW_TAG EXPLANATION follows.

e) The NEW_TAG_EXPLANATION is formed by 2 lines containing

    a. An additional BASE_TAG and an associated NEW_TAG_EXPLANATION or

    b. The NEW_TAG and its explanation initiated with _DEFN. The definition should be written in English.

```
<_SCHEMA_STRUCTURE> :=
1 _SCHEMA {1:1}
2 <BASE_TAG> {1:M}
3 <NEW_TAG_EXPLANATION> {1:M}
```

with

```
<NEW_TAG_EXPLANATION> :=
[
n <BASE_TAG> {1:M}
n+1 <NEW_TAG_EXPLANATION> {1:M}
|
n <NEW_TAG> {1:M}
n+1 _DEFN <USER_TAG_DEFINITION> {1:1}
]
```

The contents are defined as follows:

<BASE_TAG> := a standard GEDCOM tag

<NEW_TAG_EXPLANATION> := the new tag and its explanation

<NEW_TAG> := the new user-defined tag – must always start with an underscore (_).

<USER_TAG_DEFINITION> := description of the user-defined tag

This allows you to add any number of BASE_TAG levels before the NEW_TAG. It is not necessary that the first BASE_TAG must be from level 0 or 1, but can also be from a higher level.

Example:

```
0 HEAD
...
1 _SCHEMA
2 PLAC
3 _GOV
4 _DEFN ID of location in GOV system
2 INDI
3 _CDAT
4 _DEFN Creation DATE of INDI record
3 _GODP
4 _DEFN Godparent
3 NAME
4 _RUFNAME
5 _DEFN German "Rufname" (underlined given name)
3 _UID
4 _DEFN Unique identification of record
2 FAM
3 _NAME
4 _DEFN Common family NAME after marriage
```

7.4 _UID Line

Tag _UID {Unique ID for Records}

Universal identification numbers (UUID) can be used to retrieve records even after further processing or export/import. A UUID claims to assign an unique value worldwide and for all times , so that no collisions take place (= no multiple assignment of the same value). The allocation of the UUID is decentralized and not coordinated by a superior system. The generation of UUID is described in RFC4122. UUID can only fulfill their function as long as they remain unchanged in export and import of GEDCOM files.

Due to the requirement of decentralized generation and free of collision UUID are complex and not suitable by the user for a directly identification feature. They are intended for a check by programs, whether two records have the same origin.

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This description contains information about the use of the user-defined tag _UID. An explicit representation is not included in the GEDCOM 5.5.1 standard.

PAF had at first introduced a user-defined identifier _UID, which has now been adopted by a number of programs.

- For recognizing and tracking of records in GEDCOM files unique identifiers are used worldwide and unlimited in time. The value of the tag _UID is a string that contains the identifier of the record.
- The tag _UID may be used as often as {0:M} in each record, it is directly associated with the record on level 1. The first 36 characters of a _UID describe the identifier. If applicable, more existing characters are not significant.

- Record identification is usually generated on the basis of 16-byte bit sequences that are generated in accordance with certain regulations (UUID). For export to GEDCOM files, these bit sequences must be converted into a text value (string), for which different representations are possible. In order to achieve the highest possible compatibility of the representation, the following form is recommended for newly created _UID: The value of the _UID consists of 16 bytes (32 hexadecimal digits) and is represented by the characters 0-9 and A-F (capital letters!). A checksum of 2 bytes in hexadecimal format is appended to these 16 bytes B1 to B16, which is calculated according to the following regulation:
  - Check byte 1: [TOTAL OF (B_n)] MODULO 256 , (for n=1 to 16)
  - Check byte 2: [TOTAL OF ((17-n) * B_n)] MODULO 256 (for n=1 to 16)
- During generation of the 16-byte bit string (UUID) it is recommended to create them according to version 1 or preferably version 4 of the standard protocol RFC 4122. Windows systems have access to *CoCreateGuid()*.
- At least for individual records _UID should be supported. Programs that support merging of records should support multiple _UID per record and keep all _UID unchanged.
- If a program supports _UIDs, the first 36 characters of imported _UIDs may not be modified in the export.

8 Appendix

8.1 Further Functionality under Discussion

There are more requirements for transferring additional data by the GEDCOM file which are not covered by the GEDCOM Standard 5.5.1. **These are under discussion, but not decided yet.**

8.1.1 _TODO

Tag _TODO {TODO}

Contains the description of still to be completed or already completed tasks.

8.1.1.1 Potential Structure and Syntax

The structure used for the description of tasks is introduced via the user-defined tag _TODO. The tag _TODO may be used as often as {0: M} in individual records and in family records at level 1.

The _TODO record is structured as follows:

```
1 _TODO {0:M}
2 DESC <description> {1:1}
2 _CAT <category> {0:1}
2 _PRTY <priority> {0:1}
2 TYPE <type of todo> {0:1}
2 DATE <date of creating the todo> {0:1}
2 NOTE <details of problem> {0:1}
3 CONT <details of problem> {0:M}
2 DATA <details of solution> {0:1}
3 CONT <details of solution> {0:M}
2 STAT <status> {0:1}
2 _CDATE <date when completing the todo> {0:1}
2 _RDATE <reminder date> {0:1}
2 REPO <XREF:REPO> {0:1}
2 _UID <GUID> {0:M}
```

The contents are defined as follows:

<description> := single-line text field, Description of the task

<category> := single-line text field, Category (for classification of tasks)

<priority> := integer 0 to 8, Priority, defined values: 0 = high, 5 = medium, 8 = low

<type of todo> := integer 0 to 2, Type of task, 0=Research 1=Correspondence 2=Others

<date of creating the todo> := Creation date, Format see Standard Case DATE.

<details of problem> := text field, detailed presentation of the task

<details of solution> := text field, detailed presentation of the decision and solution

<status> := Status, by values [open | completed | auto] ("auto" = created by the program)

<date when completing the todo> := completion date, Format see Standard Case DATE.

<reminder date> := Reminder date, Format see Standard Case DATE.

<XREF:REPO> := pointer to the repository record

<GUID> := unique, universal identification number

- The tag _TODO itself carries no content (this would be ignored at import into the programs Legacy, Brother's Keeper, etc.). If during import a text after _TODO is found, it is recommended to treat this as description and to export it as _TODO.DESC.

8.1.2 Section of Pictures

There is a requirement to define a cutout of a rectangle, circle or ellipse as section of a full image file as part of an OBJE structure.

8.1.3 Documentation of the Origin of Source Citations

There are user requirements to document the origin of source citations which should remain permanent, even during merging of records.

For traceability purpose following questions should be answered and documented by the GEDCOM file:

a. Who has viewed and evaluated the source entry?
b. When did this happen?
c. With which GEDCOM file or other information transmission was this information transmitted?
d. Who transmitted it?
e. When was this transferred?

For "who" the tag SUBM, for "when" the tag DATE already exists. For the remaining items a new structure using user-defined tags and records are required.

The discussion just started.

8.2 Corrections to GEDCOM Files

Corrections to (improper) deviations of a GEDCOM file (export) from the GEDCOM standard.

Base

GEDCOM 5.5.1
Agreements of the working group

Purpose

Support of program authors to improve data import despite deviations from GEDCOM standard specifications

Method

The correction shall be preceded by a reference to the violated requirement of the GEDCOM standard. The proposed correction should be accompanied by at least one concrete example. In the example, the incorrect code is prefixed, then a "=>" is entered and the corrected code is appended.

Solutions agreed by GEDCOM-L that extend the GEDCOM standard will not be considered as deviations from the standard, so no corrections will be made for them.

These suggestions are for guidance, there is no obligation to follow these suggestions when importing a faulty file.

8.2.1 AGE - Tag: Age Information

Description of the standard requirement

The line_content for AGE must be specified in the form:

AGE_AT_EVENT:= {Size=2:15} [<+Space | >+Space | <NULL>] [
YYYy+Space+MMm+Space+DDDd | YYYy | MMm | DDDd | YYYy+Space+MMm |
YYYy+Space+DDDd | MMm+Space+DDDd | CHILD | INFANT | STILLBORN]

Example:

```
2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

Corrections

Contents plain number: interpret as age in years, append missing "y":

```
2 AGE 65 => 2 AGE 65y; 2 AGE 0 => 2 AGE 0y
```

If there is a space between the number and ymd: delete this space:

```
2 AGE 65 y 10 m 25 d => 2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

If exactly three groups of numbers separated by spaces are offered: add ymd:

```
2 AGE 65 10 25 => 2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

If exactly three groups of numbers are offered separated by hyphens: add ymd:

```
2 AGE 65-10-25 => 2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

If "Y M D" resp. "J M T" are offered: Convert to ymd:

```
2 AGE 65J 10M 25T => 2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

When texts "year, years, month, months, day, days" are offered: Convert to ymd:

```
2 AGE 65 years 10 months 25 days => 2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

When texts "Jahr, Jahre, Monat, Monate, Tag, Tage" are offered: Convert to ymd:

```
2 AGE 65 Jahre 10 Monate 25 Tage => 2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

When abbreviations yr, mo, da are offered: Convert to ymd:

```
2 AGE 65 yr 10 mo 25 da => 2 AGE 65y 10m 25d
```

If number and "week(s)" resp. "Woche(n)" are offered: Convert to days and add to existing days d data if available:

```
2 AGE 5 weeks 2 days => 2 AGE 37d
```

If "inaccuracies" ABT | ABOUT | ~ are offered (not provided by GEDCOM standard), delete this prefix in front of the numbers:

```
2 AGE ABOUT 65y => 2 AGE 65y ; 2 AGE ~ 65y => 2 AGE 65y
```

If negative months and/or days are found: Convert to positive numbers. Adjust the preceding year or month (and year, if necessary). Months can generally be set to 30 days:

```
2 AGE 65y -5d => 2 AGE 64y 11m 25d
```

All the above conversions can also be combined:

```
2 AGE 65 years -5 days => 2 AGE 64y 11m 25d
```

AGE at level 1 in the personal data record (INDI) (not allowed by GEDCOM standard): Interpretation as age at death, and thus AGE is subordinated to DEAT:

```
1 AGE 65y
```

=>

```
1 DEAT
2 AGE 65y
```

8.3   List of Standard GEDCOM Tags

List of all tags (field names), used in GEDCOM Specification 5.5.1. Tags may have different meaning and content depending on their position in the data structure.

Tag	Formal description	Description
ABBR	ABBREVIATION	A short name of a title, description, or name.
ADDR	ADDRESS	The contemporary place, usually required for postal purposes, of an individual, a submitter of information, a repository, a business, a school, or a company.
ADR1	ADDRESS1	The first line of an address.
ADR2	ADDRESS2	The second line of an address.
ADR3	ADDRESS3	The third line of an address.
ADOP	ADOPTION	Pertaining to creation of a child-parent relationship that does not exist biologically.
AFN	AFN	Ancestral File Number, a unique permanent record file number of an individual record stored in Ancestral File.
AGE	AGE	The age of the individual at the time an event occurred, or the age listed in the document.
AGNC	AGENCY	The institution or individual having authority and/or responsibility to manage or govern.
ALIA	ALIAS	An indicator to link different record descriptions of a person who may be the same person.
ANCE	ANCESTORS	Pertaining to forbearers of an individual.
ANCI	ANCES_INTEREST	Indicates an interest in additional research for ancestors of this individual. (See also DESI)
ANUL	ANNULMENT	Declaring a marriage void from the beginning (never existed).
ASSO	ASSOCIATES	An indicator to link friends, neighbors, relatives, or associates of an individual.
AUTH	AUTHOR	The name of the individual who created or compiled information.
BAPL	BAPTISM-LDS	The event of baptism performed at age eight or later by priesthood authority of the LDS Church. (See also BAPM)
BAPM	BAPTISM	The event of baptism (not LDS), performed in infancy or later. (See also BAPL and CHR)
BARM	BAR_MITZVAH	The ceremonial event held when a Jewish boy reaches age 13.
BASM	BAS_MITZVAH	The ceremonial event held when a Jewish girl reaches age 13, also known as "Bat Mitzvah."
BIRT	BIRTH	The event of entering into life.
BLES	BLESSING	A religious event of bestowing divine care or intercession. Sometimes given in connection with a naming ceremony.
BURI	BURIAL	The event of the proper disposing of the mortal remains of a deceased person.
CALN	CALL_NUMBER	The number used by a repository to identify the specific items in its collections.
CAST	CASTE	The name of an individual's rank or status in society, based on racial or religious differences, or differences in wealth, inherited rank, profession, occupation, etc.
CAUS	CAUSE	A description of the cause of the associated event or fact, such as the cause of death.
CENS	CENSUS	The event of the periodic count of the population for a designated locality, such as a national or state Census.
CHAN	CHANGE	Indicates a change, correction, or modification. Typically used in connection with a DATE to specify when a change in information occurred.
CHAR	CHARACTER	An indicator of the character set used in writing this automated information.
CHIL	CHILD	The natural, adopted, or sealed (LDS) child of a father and a mother.
CHR	CHRISTENING	The religious event (not LDS) of baptizing and/or naming a child.
CHRA	ADULT_CHRISTENING	The religious event (not LDS) of baptizing and/or naming an adult person.
CITY	CITY	A lower level jurisdictional unit. Normally an incorporated municipal unit.
CONC	CONCATENATION	An indicator that additional data belongs to the superior value. The information from the CONC value is to be connected to the value of the superior preceding line without a space and without a carriage return and/or new line character. Values that are split for a CONC tag must always be split at a non-space. If the value is split on a space the space will be lost when concatenation takes place. This is because of the treatment that spaces get as a GEDCOM delimiter, many GEDCOM values are trimmed of trailing spaces and some systems look for the first non-space starting after the tag to determine the beginning of the value.

CONF	CONFIRMATION	The religious event (not LDS) of conferring the gift of the Holy Ghost and, among protestants, full church membership.
CONL	CONFIRMATION_L	The religious event by which a person receives membership in the LDS Church.
CONT	CONTINUED	An indicator that additional data belongs to the superior value. The information from the CONT value is to be connected to the value of the superior preceding line with a carriage return and/or new line character. Leading spaces could be important to the formatting of the resultant text. When importing values from CONT lines the reader should assume only one delimiter character following the CONT tag. Assume that the rest of the leading spaces are to be a part of the value.
COPR	COPYRIGHT	A statement that accompanies data to protect it from unlawful duplication and distribution.
CORP	CORPORATE	A name of an institution, agency, corporation, or company.
CREM	CREMATION	Disposal of the remains of a person's body by fire.
CTRY	COUNTRY	The name or code of the country.
DATA	DATA	Pertaining to stored automated information.
DATE	DATE	The time of an event in a calendar format.
DEAT	DEATH	The event when mortal life terminates.
DESC	DESCENDANTS	Pertaining to offspring of an individual.
DESI	DESCENDANT_INT	Indicates an interest in research to identify additional descendants of this individual. (See also ANCI)
DEST	DESTINATION	A system receiving data.
DIV	DIVORCE	An event of dissolving a marriage through civil action.
DIVF	DIVORCE_FILED	An event of filing for a divorce by a spouse.
DSCR	PHY_DESCRIPTION	The physical characteristics of a person, place, or thing.
EDUC	EDUCATION	Indicator of a level of education attained.
EMAIL	EMAIL	An electronic address that can be used for contact such as an email address
EMIG	EMIGRATION	An event of leaving one's homeland with the intent of residing elsewhere.
ENDL	ENDOWMENT	A religious event where an endowment ordinance for an individual was performed by priesthood authority in an LDS temple.
ENGA	ENGAGEMENT	An event of recording or announcing an agreement between two people to become married.
EVEN	EVENT	A noteworthy happening related to an individual, a group, or an organization.
FACT	FACT	Pertaining to a noteworthy attribute or fact concerning an individual, a group, or an organization. A FACT structure is usually qualified or classified by a subordinate use of the TYPE tag.
FAM	FAMILY	Identifies a legal, common law, or other customary relationship of man and woman and their children, if any, or a family created by virtue of the birth of a child to its biological father and mother.
FAMC	FAMILY_CHILD	Identifies the family in which an individual appears as a child.
FAMF	FAMILY_FILE	Pertaining to, or the name of, a family file. Names stored in a file that are assigned to a family for doing temple ordinance work.
FAMS	FAMILY_SPOUSE	Identifies the family in which an individual appears as a spouse.
FAX	FAX	A FAX telephone number appropriate for sending data facsimiles
FCOM	FIRST_COMMUNION	A religious rite, the first act of sharing in the Lord's supper as part of church worship.
FILE	FILE	An information storage place that is ordered and arranged for preservation and reference.
FONE	PHONETIC	A phonetic variation of a superior text string.
FORM	FORMAT	An assigned name given to a consistent format in which information can be conveyed.
GEDC	GEDCOM	Information about the use of GEDCOM in a transmission.
GIVN	GIVEN_NAME	A given or earned name used for official identification of a person.
GRAD	GRADUATION	An event of awarding educational diplomas or degrees to individuals.
HEAD	HEADER	Identifies information pertaining to an entire GEDCOM transmission.
HUSB	HUSBAND	An individual in the family role of a married man or father.
IDNO	IDENT_NUMBER	A number assigned to identify a person within some significant external system.
IMMI	IMMIGRATION	An event of entering into a new locality with the intent of residing there.
INDI	INDIVIDUAL	A person.
LANG	LANGUAGE	The name of the language used in a communication or transmission of information.
LATI	LATITUDE	A value indicating a coordinate position on a line, plane, or space.
LEGA	LEGATEE	A role of an individual acting as a person receiving a bequest or legal devise.

LONG	LONGITUDE	A value indicating a coordinate position on a line, plane, or space.
MAP	MAP	Pertains to a representation of measurements usually presented in a graphical form.
MARB	MARRIAGE_BANN	An event of an official public notice given that two people intend to marry.
MARC	MARR_CONTRACT	An event of recording a formal agreement of marriage, including the prenuptial agreement in which marriage partners reach agreement about the property rights of one or both, securing property to their children.
MARL	MARR_LICENSE	An event of obtaining a legal license to marry.
MARR	MARRIAGE	A legal, common-law, or customary event of creating a family unit of a man and a woman as husband and wife.
MARS	MARR_SETTLEMENT	An event of creating an agreement between two people contemplating marriage, at which time they agree to release or modify property rights that would otherwise arise from the marriage.
MEDI	MEDIA	Identifies information about the media or having to do with the medium in which information is stored.
NAME	NAME	A word or combination of words used to help identify an individual, title, or other item. More than one NAME line should be used for people who were known by multiple names.
NATI	NATIONALITY	The national heritage of an individual.
NATU	NATURALIZATION	The event of obtaining citizenship.
NCHI	CHILDREN_COUNT	The number of children that this person is known to be the parent of (all marriages) when subordinate to an individual, or that belong to this family when subordinate to a FAM_RECORD.
NICK	NICKNAME	A descriptive or familiar that is used instead of, or in addition to, one's proper name.
NMR	MARRIAGE_COUNT	The number of times this person has participated in a family as a spouse or parent.
NOTE	NOTE	Additional information provided by the submitter for understanding the enclosing data.
NPFX	NAME_PREFIX	Text which appears on a name line before the given and surname parts of a name. i.e. (Lt. Cmndr.) Joseph /Allen/ jr. In this example Lt. Cmndr. is considered as the name prefix portion.
NSFX	NAME_SUFFIX	Text which appears on a name line after or behind the given and surname parts of a name. i.e. Lt. Cmndr. Joseph /Allen/ (jr.) In this example jr. is considered as the name suffix portion.
OBJE	OBJECT	Pertaining to a grouping of attributes used in describing something. Usually referring to the data required to represent a multimedia object, such an audio recording, a photograph of a person, or an image of a document.
OCCU	OCCUPATION	The type of work or profession of an individual.
ORDI	ORDINANCE	Pertaining to a religious ordinance in general.
ORDN	ORDINATION	A religious event of receiving authority to act in religious matters.
PAGE	PAGE	A number or description to identify where information can be found in a referenced work.
PEDI	PEDIGREE	Information pertaining to an individual to parent lineage chart.
PHON	PHONE	A unique number assigned to access a specific telephone.
PLAC	PLACE	A jurisdictional name to identify the place or location of an event.
POST	POSTAL_CODE	A code used by a postal service to identify an area to facilitate mail handling.
PROB	PROBATE	An event of judicial determination of the validity of a will. May indicate several related court activities over several dates.
PROP	PROPERTY	Pertaining to possessions such as real estate or other property of interest.
PUBL	PUBLICATION	Refers to when and/or were a work was published or created.
QUAY	QUALITY_OF_DATA	An assessment of the certainty of the evidence to support the conclusion drawn from evidence.
REFN	REFERENCE	A description or number used to identify an item for filing, storage, or other reference purposes.
RELA	RELATIONSHIP	A relationship value between the indicated contexts.
RELI	RELIGION	A religious denomination to which a person is affiliated or for which a record applies.
REPO	REPOSITORY	An institution or person that has the specified item as part of their collection(s).
RESI	RESIDENCE	The act of dwelling at an address for a period of time.
RESN	RESTRICTION	A processing indicator signifying access to information has been denied or otherwise restricted.
RETI	RETIREMENT	An event of exiting an occupational relationship with an employer after a qualifying time period.

RFN	REC_FILE_NUMBER	A permanent number assigned to a record that uniquely identifies it within a known file.
RIN	REC_ID_NUMBER	A number assigned to a record by an originating automated system that can be used by a receiving system to report results pertaining to that record.
ROLE	ROLE	A name given to a role played by an individual in connection with an event.
ROMN	ROMANIZED	A Romanized variation of a superior text string.
SEX	SEX	Indicates the sex of an individual--male or female.
SLGC	SEALING_CHILD	A religious event pertaining to the sealing of a child to his or her parents in an LDS temple ceremony.
SLGS	SEALING_SPOUSE	A religious event pertaining to the sealing of a husband and wife in an LDS temple ceremony.
SOUR	SOURCE	The initial or original material from which information was obtained.
SPFX	SURN_PREFIX	A name piece used as a non-indexing pre-part of a surname.
SSN	SOC_SEC_NUMBER	A number assigned by the United States Social Security Administration. Used for tax identification purposes.
STAE	STATE	A geographical division of a larger jurisdictional area, such as a State within the United States of America.
STAT	STATUS	An assessment of the state or condition of something.
SUBM	SUBMITTER	An individual or organization who contributes genealogical data to a file or transfers it to someone else.
SUBN	SUBMISSION	Pertains to a collection of data issued for processing.
SURN	SURNAME	A family name passed on or used by members of a family.
TEMP	TEMPLE	The name or code that represents the name a temple of the LDS Church.
TEXT	TEXT	The exact wording found in an original source document.
TIME	TIME	A time value in a 24-hour clock format, including hours, minutes, and optional seconds, separated by a colon (:). Fractions of seconds are shown in decimal notation.
TITL	TITLE	A description of a specific writing or other work, such as the title of a book when used in a source context, or a formal designation used by an individual in connection with positions of royalty or other social status, such as Grand Duke.
TRLR	TRAILER	At level 0, specifies the end of a GEDCOM transmission.
TYPE	TYPE	A further qualification to the meaning of the associated superior tag. The value does not have any computer processing reliability. It is more in the form of a short one or two word note that should be displayed any time the associated data is displayed.
VERS	VERSION	Indicates which version of a product, item, or publication is being used or referenced.
WIFE	WIFE	An individual in the role as a mother and/or married woman.
WILL	WILL	A legal document treated as an event, by which a person disposes of his or her estate, to take effect after death. The event date is the date the will was signed while the person was alive. (See also PROB)
WWW	WEB	World Wide Web home page.

8.4 List of User-defined GEDCOM Tags

The GEDCOM standard permits "User-defined tags" (one of the major causes of "misunderstandings" of different GECOM-compliant programs). They have to begin with an underscore "_".

Overview of Known Users-defined Tags

The overview is created to represent the discussed and known user-defined tags by GEDCOM-L (also from third-party programs). For program authors it is recommended to use, if applicable, the following list instead of re-inventing new user-defined tag.

For the listing switch to the following German/English GenWiki page, where the list is maintained, including the description of the table columns:
wiki-de.genealogy.net/GEDCOM/_Nutzerdef-
Tag#.C3.9Cbersicht_bekannter_Nutzerdefinierter_Kennzeichen.

8.5 List of None-standard Tags

Overview of Known None-standard Tags w/o underscore "_"

The GEDCOM standard permits the use of user-defined tags, but they have to start with an underscore. There are programs that do not meet these requirements and there are also GEDCOM files from older versions with tags, which are no longer valid. The following table provides an overview of such deviations from the requirements of the standard.

For the listing switch to the following German/English GenWiki page, where the list is maintained:
http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/GEDCOM/_Nutzerdef-Tag#Tabelle_2.
This table is mainly based on "GEDCOM tags - www.gencom.org.nz/GEDCOM_tags.html".

8.6 Members of GEDCOM-L Group

The following program authors with their programs and links are the members of GEDCOM-L:

Program name	Author / Contact	Link
Acquisition programs:		
Ages!	Jörn Daub	www.daubnet.com
Ahnen-Chronik	Hans-Werner Hennes	www.ahnen-chronik.de
Ahnenblatt	Dirk Böttcher	www.ahnenblatt.de
Ahnenforscher 2000	Remo Schlauri	www.ahnenforscher.ch
Ahnenwin	Heribert Reitmeier	wiki-de.genealogy.net/Ahnenwin
Familienbande	Stefan Mettenbrink	www.familienbande-genealogie.de/en/
Familienbuch	Jan Escholt	www.familienbuch.net
GedTool	Peter Schulz	www.gedtool.de
GEN_DO!	Albert Emmerich	www.gen-do.de
Gen_Plus	Gisbert Berwe	www.genpluswin.de
GenLogix	Michael Züfle	www.genlogix.de
GENprofi - Stammbaum	Carsten Leue	www.genprofi-stammbaum.net/wiki/index.php?title=Hauptseite
GES-2000	Josef Schnieder	www.ges-2000.de
GFAhnen	Werner Bub	www.gfahnen.de
GHome	Michael Suhr	www.suhrsoft.de
Gramps	Paul Culley	gramps-project.org/blog
Omega	Dr. Boris Neubert	neubert-volmar.de
PC-AHNEN	Günther Schwärzer	www.pcahnen.de
PRO-GEN	Johan Mulderij	www.pro-gen.nl/dhome.htm
RS-AHNEN	Karsten Rudorf	www.rsahnen.info
Stammbaumdrucker	Ekkehart v. Renesse	www.stammbaumdrucker.de
webtrees	TBD	webtrees.net
Programs without own data acquisition:		
GEDBAS	Jesper Zedlitz	gedbas.genealogy.net
OFB – Our Family Book GSP – Gedcom Service Programs	Diedrich Hesmer	ofb.hesmer.name
Online-OFB	Herbert Juling	www.online-ofb.de
PhotoIdent	Marko Fischer	www.photoident.de

9   What's New

Starting with the second release the changes to the previous one will be listed here.