

23 August 2019

Data services: elimination of records for names of persons in the GND to affect the bibliographic data of the DNB

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to draw your attention to the following change within the Integrated Authority File (GND)¹ and the concomitant effects on the bibliographic data of the DNB (German National Library).

In accordance with a decision made by the GND Committee, the Tn sets (records for names of persons) will no longer form part of the GND from mid-June 2020 onwards.

A record for names of persons (Tn) could hitherto apply to different people with the same name. These data records have previously always been created when there were insufficient distinguishing characteristics for the creation of a record for persons (Tp). However, the name-based data records do not meet today's requirements for authority files that unambiguously and reliably identify and describe entities.

Schedule

In accordance with the decision of the GND Committee, the DNB and library unions will cease to record Tn data records no later than 1 September 2019.

In future – with a scheduled date of 16 June 2020 – the link with records for names of persons within the bibliographic data is to be retroactively removed and the existing records for names of persons deleted from the GND. This streamlining and modernisation of the GND facilitates easier usage and greater acceptance.

It doesn't create any disadvantages in terms of research, as all current systems can handle links to GND data records as well as text strings in name indexes and other indexes.

The guidelines on individualising people's names ("Individualisation Guidelines") have been updated accordingly (EH-P-16²).

¹ <https://www.dnb.de/EN/gnd>

² <https://wiki.dnb.de/download/attachments/90411361/EH-P-16.pdf> (available only in German)

The first changes in the recording of bibliographic data at the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie therefore arise as of 1 September 2019.

Effects on the catalogue, data services and interfaces

You can find comprehensive information on the effects on individual services by visiting the DNB ILTIS WIKI³.

³ <https://wiki.dnb.de/x/aJDOC> (available only in German)