

IFLA Cataloguing Section

Names of Persons

Introduction:

According to the International Cataloguing Principles (ICP)¹ the **Form of Name for Persons as an authorized access point** should be constructed following a standard: "*When the name of a person consists of several words, the choice of first word for the authorized access point should follow conventions of the country and language most associated with that person, as found in manifestations or reference sources*". Thus, this set of documents summarizes the conventions for each country, established by each national cataloguing agency, to help other cataloguing agencies creating authority data worldwide.

Please access *IFLA Names of Persons*² to submit updates from your country and to access more information.

Country name in English: France

Country name in official language(s): France

Official language in English: French

Language name in official language: Français

Last updated: 2009

In France, at the beginning of the Middle Ages, the main name was the personal name (Christian name) to which was sometimes added a nickname. During the 10th century, the usage of an individual nickname following the personal name became widespread. During the 12th century, nicknames began to become hereditary and to turn into family names. From the 15th century, family names became widespread.

In 1474, King Louis XI forbade name changes without royal permission. Parish registers were declared compulsory from 1539 onward.

Registers of births, marriages and deaths were established by decree on September 20 1792 (6 fructidor an II). The use of surnames and forenames other than those recorded in the registers was forbidden by law on August 23 1794.

Titles of nobility were abolished during the French Revolution. Nevertheless, titles of nobility were bequeathed or conferred after this time. Some of them might, under certain conditions, appear on the registers of births, marriages and deaths and on identity

¹ <http://www.ifla.org/publications/statement-of-international-cataloguing-principles>

² <http://www.ifla.org/node/4953>

documents. Titles of nobility used after the French Revolution are considered as courtesy titles.

In 1870, the family record book was established, by which the spelling of one's surname became definitively set.

Since 2006, a child may be called by his father's or his mother's name, or both. (Code civil, Article 311-21, modified by Ordonnance n°2005-759, with effect as of July 1 2006)

NAME ELEMENTS

Elements normally forming part of a name

<i>Element</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Examples</i>
1. Forename (<i>prénom</i>)	simple	Jean
	compound, sometimes with a hyphen	Jean Joseph Jean-Pierre
2. Family name (<i>nom de famille</i>)	simple	Brunet
	with prefix	
	-- consisting of a preposition <i>de</i> or <i>d'</i>	d'Aubigné de Musset
	-- consisting of a definite article, abbreviated	Le Cordier Le Floc'h L'Herbier
	-- consisting of a preposition and an article, or a contraction of a preposition and an article	de La Fontaine Des Cloizeaux Du Bellay
	compound	
	-- consisting of two names without a hyphen	Dupont Delestraint
	-- consisting of two names joined by a hyphen	Beuve-Méry
	-- consisting of a forename and a family name (always joined by a hyphen)	Charles-Roux
	consisting of two names linked by "dit"	Ono-dit-Biot Désiré dit Gosset
	-- including a definite article	Picart Le Doux
	-- including a preposition	Teilhard de Chardin Chevassus-au-Louis
	-- including a combination of a preposition and an	Bouthier de La Tour Martin Du Gard

	article, or a contraction of a preposition and an article	Trudon Des Ormes
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Additional elements to names

<i>Element</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Examples</i>
1. Nickname (name of a place or occupation etc.)	following personal name (<i>names of the Middle Ages</i>)	Guillaume d'Auvergne Chrétien de Troyes Guillaume le Clerc
2. Number	following forename (<i>kings, popes, etc.</i>)	Louis XIV (or Louis 14) Sylvestre II (or Sylvestre 2)
3. Title of sovereigns (<i>souverains</i>)	following name	Louis XIV roi de France (or Louis 14 roi de France) Charles le Téméraire duc de Bourgogne
4. Nickname	following family name	Michel Eyquem de Montaigne Joseph Bodin de Boismortier Henry Millon de Montherlant
5. Title of nobility followed by a name of land under which the person is best known	following family name (<i>until the 18th century</i>)	Louis de Rouvroy, duc de Saint Simon Charles de Secondat, baron de La Brède et de Montesquieu Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, marquise de Sévigné Roger de Rabutin, comte de Bussy
6. Title of nobility (<i>used as a courtesy title after the 18th century</i>)	preceding forename	Prince Louis de Broglie
7. Saints	Preceding personal name Preceding personal name and nickname Preceding forename and family name Preceding religious name	Saint Denis Saint Grégoire de Tours Saint Jean-Marie Vianney Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus
8. Popes	Preceding forename	pape Sylvestre II (or pape Sylvestre 2)
9. Religious title	Preceding or following religious name	Emmanuelle-Marie O. P. Mère Marie-Yvonne O. S. B.

10. Title of courtesy	preceding husband's forename and family name (married woman's name)	Madame Jean Delbée
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ORDER OF ELEMENTS IN CATALOGUE HEADINGS

General rule

<i>Type of name</i>	<i>Entry element</i>	<i>Examples</i>
1. Simple family name	Family name	Brunet, Bernard
2. Family name with prefix de or d'	part of the name following the prefix <i>de</i> or <i>d'</i>	Aubigné, Agrippa d' Musset, Alfred de
3. Family name with other prefix than de or d' (article alone, or contraction of a preposition and an article)	prefix	Des Cloizeaux, Jacques Du Bellay, Joachim La Fontaine, Jean de Le Cordier, Roland L'Herbier, Marcel Le Floc'h, Yves
4. Compound family name	first part of the name	Beuve-Méry, Hubert Bouthier De La Tour, Claire Charles-Roux, Edmonde Dupont Delestraint, Pierre Martin Du Gard, Roger Ono-dit-Biot, Christophe Désiré dit Gosset, Gilles Picart Le Doux, Jean Teilhard De Chardin, Pierre Chevassus-au-Louis, Nicolas Trudon Des Ormes, Amédée
5. Family name accompanied by a title of nobility	family name (<i>courtesy title omitted after the 18th century</i>)	Broglie, Louis de

Exceptions:

<i>Type of name</i>	<i>Entry element</i>	<i>Examples</i>
1. Personal names followed by nickname (<i>names of the</i>	personal name	Guillaume d'Auvergne Chrétien de Troyes

<i>Middle Ages)</i>		Guillaume le Clerc
2. Forenames with numbers (kings, popes, etc.)	forename <i>(followed by number and title)</i>	Louis XIV (roi de France) <i>or</i> Louis 14 (roi de France) Sylvestre II (pape) <i>or</i> Sylvestre 2 (pape)
3. Family name followed by nickname under which the person is best known	nickname under which the person is best known <i>(family name omitted)</i>	Montaigne, Michel de Boismortier, Joseph de Montherlant, Henry de
4. Family name followed by title of nobility and name(s) of land <i>(until the 18th century)</i>	name of land followed by title of nobility if the person is best known under title followed by name of land name of land under which the person is best known without title of nobility, when this name is not equivalent to the exact name of land associated with the title of nobility	Saint Simon, duc de Sévigné, marquise de Montesquieu Bussy-Rabutin
5. Saints	personal name forename and family name religious name <i>(followed by saint or sainte)</i>	Denis (saint) Grégoire de Tours (saint) Jean-Marie Vianney (saint) Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus (sainte)
6. Popes	forename <i>(followed by number and pape)</i>	Sylvestre II (pape) <i>or</i> Sylvestre 2 (pape)
7. Religious name preceding or following religious title	religious name <i>(followed by religious order)</i>	Emmanuelle-Marie (dominicaine de Béthanie) Marie-Yvonne (bénédictine)
8. Title of courtesy preceding husband's forename and family name	family name <i>(followed by courtesy title and husband's forename)</i>	Delbée, Madame Jean

National cataloguing code

Norme française NF Z 44-061 : documentation, catalogage : forme et structure des vedettes noms de personnes, des vedettes titres, des rubriques de classement et des titres forgés / Association française de normalisation. - Paris-La Défense : Association française de normalisation, 1986.

Authorities responsible for issuing library rules about names

Association française de normalisation, Commission générale 46 (CG 46)

AFNOR
11, rue Francis-de-Pressensé
93571 La Plaine Saint-Denis Cedex

<http://www.afnor.org>

National authority file of names

BnF catalogue général – Autorités : <http://catalogue.bnf.fr>

Sources and recommended references

Archives biographiques françaises. World Biographical Information System (WBIS) Online : <http://db.saur.de/WBIS>

Dictionnaire de biographie française / sous la direction de M. Prévost et J.-C. Roman d'Amat. – Paris : Letouzey, 1933- . - ISBN 2-7063-0158-9

Who's who in France : qui est qui en France. – Lafitte, 1953- . – 30 cm. (Biennial until 1987, and then annual). ISSN 0083-9531

Grand Larousse universel. - Éd. revue et corrigée. - Paris : Larousse, 1994.

Authority for information provided

Bibliothèque nationale de France,
Direction des services et des réseaux,
Département de l'information bibliographique et numérique,
Service coordination et administration des métadonnées,
Données d'autorité.

Checked and approved by : Sylvie Sollier, Service coordination et administration des métadonnées, Données d'autorité, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 2009.