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Person and Placenames

People

Personal names (including all titles, ranks and honorific titles) are to be tagged using the `<persName>` element. The children of `<persName>` provide further detail about the significance of the individual parts of the name.

`<surname>` is used to indicate surname.

`<foreName>` to indicate the forename(s) of an individual

`<roleName>` should be used to record any portion of a name that indicates the individual's role, rank or title, such as Dr, Captain, Chief or Lord. A description of the significance of this role should be indicated using a type attribute, such as nobility, honorific, office, military and epithet.

`<nameLink>` is to be used to indicate any connecting phrase within a name, such as "de", "of", or "van der".

`<genName>` is used to record components of names based on generation, such as Senior, Junior and "the Second".

`<addName>` is used to record anything else that does not readily fit into the above elements, such as aliases and nicknames.

According to this scheme, David Livingstone would be transcribed as

`<persName><foreName>David</foreName><surname>Livingstone</surname>`

While it is also possible to indicate nominal phrases, such as wife, brother, sister, son, daughter, as well as personal pronouns using the `<name>` element, this level of detailed content mark-up would not take place until the secondary phase of the project. Moreover, it would only be implemented once a dynamic database management system was established that automatically allowed editors to extract, compile and cross-reference proper names easily into an online database.

Places

Place names are tagged using the `<placeName>` element. The children of `<placeName>` are used to provide further supplemental detail to identify the place. They can be divided into two broad categories. The first contains elements

concerning specific places, such as `<settlement>`, `<region>`, `<country>`, `<bloc>`, `<geogName>` and `<geog>`. The second category is used to refer to locations that are not identified simply using a proper name, such as an unnamed mountain, a valley 15 miles north of Victoria Falls or a encampment west of Cape Town. These features will be tagged using `<distance>` and `<offset>` respectively representing the spatial or temporal distance from the focus and the direction.

`<settlement>` is used to indicate cities, towns and villages. The significance of the name could be indicated using a type attribute (i.e. `<placeName>`

`<settlement type="City">London</settlement></placeName>`

`<region>` is used to indicate a geo-political unit that is larger than a `<settlement>` and smaller than a `<country>`.

`<country>` is used to indicate countries

`<bloc>` if for some reason we wanted to go beyond countries and denote larger geo-political entities containing more than one nation state, we would use `<bloc>`.

`<geogName>` is used to tag specific geographical features, such as Victoria Falls, Mount Kilimanjaro. Type is used to provide any specific information used to explain the tagged text.

`<geog>` is used to tag a non-specific geographical feature, such as a mountain, vale or waterfall.

`<distance>` is used to indicate the distance of the location from a specific location, such as 15 miles north from Cape Town. It should also be used for temporal distances like 5 days north of Cape Town. It can also contain the attribute `exact` to denote the level of accuracy in the measured distance.

`<offset>` is used to tag the direction or the part of a temporal distance that indicates the 'direction' from the name location. The offset for 15 miles north of Cape Town or 5 days north of Cape Town would both be "north".

Find out about encoding [Dates & Times](#)