Identity Linking

An Alternative to Merging

A comprehensive model for sharing genealogical evidence extracts and conclusions-in-progress

Bill Harten

UNIconnect

bill.harten@uniconnect.com

Match Merge

The single-valued, ideal view requires us to make unfounded decisions that *merge identities* arbitrarily, without justification.

This replaces true ambiguity with false simplicity.

Conclusion-only Databases

- A conclusion-only database offers no basis for future evidence evaluation: no researcher can build on the work published by another.

The Challenge

How to represent evidence and conflicting conclusions in collaboration

Three Essential Views

1. Evidence: identity

2. Matching identities with possible conflicts: individual

3. Single-valued, dynamically-assembled *best view* with simple conflict resolution.

Technology

- **Links, intra-database or across the Net**

- **Dynamically assembled views**

- **Structured Text Records**

- **Tags**

Tags

Family Relationships:

father   mother   child   spouse

Four Basic Events:

birth   marriage   death   event

Identity Link:

tie

Evidence Identities

3:239 identity Tom Jones birth 1903 Ohio marriage 1922

5:330 identity Thomas Jones birth 1901 Ohio death 1946

Evidence Identities

3:239 identity Tom Jones birth 1903 Ohio marriage 1922

5:330 identity Thomas Jones birth 1901 Ohio death 1946

Conclusion Individuals

6:101 individual Thomas Jones birth 1901 Ohio tie 3:239
   tie 5:330

7:333 individual tie 5:330

7:334 individual tie 3:239

Dynamically Extended Complete View For Evidence Evaluation

Before Expansion

6:101 individual Thomas Jones birth 1901 Ohio tie 3:239 tie 5:330

After Expansion

6:101 individual Thomas Jones birth 1901 Ohio tie 3:239 identity Tom Jones birth 1903 Ohio marriage 1922 tie 5:330 identity Thomas Jones birth 1901 Ohio death 1946

Collaboration

Building on the Work of Others

8:932 individual Mary Jones father 933

8:933 individual Thomas Jones death 06 JUN 1946 tie 6:101
    child 932

Future

- Move to web transaction platform

- Open source development

- Field testing to learn from usage patterns