

Family database user notes

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March 2014

These are a few notes of guidance for anyone wishing to use my family tree database, FamilyDatabase.mdb.

Overview

FamilyDatabase.mdb is a Microsoft Access 2000 database developed for use within a Microsoft Windows XP operating system. It comprises:

- A collection of tables with sample family tree data;
- A collection of SQL (Sequential Query Language) queries for extracting family tree data from the tables;
- A collection of VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) programs for running the queries and outputting the data in a variety of formats;
- A front-end form for operating the various programs.

FamilyDatabase.mdb has been developed by me and it is provided as a free download from my website www.ideallectic.com for use by individuals undertaking private genealogical research.

Operation

To use the database, double-click on its icon within Windows Explorer, then double-click on form 'VBAScripts'. This form has three buttons:

- 'Write tree to file' outputs the family tree headed by a nominated individual to a text, Excel or GED format file;
- 'Write root to file' outputs the inverted family tree of a nominated individual (*i.e.* tracing back through his/her forebears) to a text, Excel or GED format file;
- 'Find relation between X and Y' specifies the relationship between two nominated individuals, outputting the family tree headed by their common ancestor to a text, Excel or GED format file.

Each of these operations requires the user to specify nominated individual(s) using unique ID (identification) codes. These IDs are specified in the first field/column of each of the family database tables (which can be viewed by double-clicking on the appropriate icon in the list of tables).

Development

- To view and customise the VBA scripts used in this database, double-click on module 'VBAModule'.
- To add or modify family data, use the samples provided (*i.e.* any of the tables other than 'People' and 'MyPeople', see below), both for the mandatory table design and for examples of suitable data. Tables may be edited directly but changes to data will not be reflected in the output from 'VBAScripts' until

query 'MakePeopleUnion' is run (by double-clicking on its icon). This query (which can be modified in design view) creates table 'People' based on the family tree data in the sample tables, and it is this table which is used by 'VBAScripts'. (As for table 'MyPeople', this is an intermediate data store used by 'VBAScripts' when outputting GED format data. Neither 'People' nor 'MyPeople' should be edited directly, as this may have unpredictable effects.)

Contact

I can't offer any support other than these brief notes, but I'm always open to enthusiastic appreciation (particularly if you liked my very neat recursive tree algorithm). I can be contacted by email at the address given on my web page footer.