RUG Meeting of 8 April 2023 – Presentation of HRE Development, Current Status

Following questions and comments were extracted from the Zoom Chat log and edited to combine similar questions/comments. Some answers were supplied during the presentation, but the following may provide more complete explanations.

Relative to locations changing their name over time and multiple location name handling

From Holt Anderson M, Durham, NC: In some US States some areas previously known as a County are now known as a "City". Should we be using each of the two designations with a date range?

From Jan Rodriguez (M) NC USA: Can you assign two place names to an event. For example, 1) the location at the time of the event and 2) the location as of a certain date?

From Rob Roy (WV): Possibly add an element "Now County"

From Bob Hunter (M), WYK, UK: Can a place have two names?

From Ed Feustel, M NH: Projection of one name style on another: your earlier example?

HRE Team: Obviously you can have two (or more) names for the same place. As with TMG, all person and location names can have a date range applicable to them. Its then somewhat up to you how you handle the 'was A, is now B' problem for a location – adding an element called 'Is now' to a Location style seems a great way of handling this. Attaching 2 different Location names to an event is an interesting concept for us to consider…..

Handling a person's name variations

From Linda D, M, Iowa: How are married names accommodated?

HRE Team: TMG has a number of Name type tags (e.g., Nickname, Married name, Baptism name, Name Changed and the generic Name-Variation). In the Frank Alexander screen used in the HRE demonstration a number of imported TMG Name-Var tags were showing with the name type of 'Other'. Imports of TMG Married Name, Nickname, etc would have been identified appropriately in HRE.

Relative to elements in (or not in!) the Location All-element list

From Joy Shong - M Wisconsin: I suggest adding Farm Name and Farm Number for Norwegian location elements.

From Larry Olson - Chicago IL: Reacted to "I suggest adding Farm..." with 👍

From Ed Feustel, M NH: Lot number for Cemetery

From Dick Vogel - FL M: In Louisiana County names are called Parishes

From Holt Anderson M, Durham, NC: Add to list "Independent City"

From Ed Feustel, M NH: Latitude and Longitude, Planet, Celestial Object

HRE Team: Our preloaded list has a 'Grave' entry, 'Parish' and 'Latitude/Longitude'. We considered adding the Norwegian Farm entries but decided against it due to it being of limited value to the majority of users as we're mindful of the list becoming too long and unwieldy. You can, of course, add whatever extra entries you wish, as well as changing the names of the existing elements.

Relative to finding entries in the All-element lists

From Carol Whitton, St. Louis, MO: Can you put elements in alphabetical order so they're easier to locate?

From Carol Whitton, St. Louis, MO: Or maybe create sections in the long list

From KatrinaH (m) Canada: In lieu of location element alpha sort, could there be a search function?

HRE Team: We could change the provided and preloaded list to a sorted one, but the intent was to provide the list with items grouped in a logical 'usage' arrangement. Adding a sort function to the list

would make the ability to add new entries extremely complicated, due to the list entries having a hidden code attached to them which provides the multi-language capability.
We also thought of having groups of entries like 'Postal' and 'Geographic' etc, but then it gets complicated as to what entries belong in which group, etc.
However, the addition of a Search function would be a simple solution.

Re GEDCOM
From Ed Feustel, M NH: Is there a GEDCOM style? Naming styles seem more like an XML descriptor. How will one move from your database to a program that does not have all these?
HRE Team: *As with TMG, there will probably be much data held in HRE that GEDCOM can't handle. HRE will have to have GEDCOM import/export added and it will ONLY be for GEDCOM 7, so it is heartening to see the major commercial products working on GEDCOM 7 implementations. Obviously we can use GEDCOM 'extensions' to help support data GEDCOM can't handle, but you then have the problem of other programs not being able to accept these as import.*

Release date?
From Wendy McGuire - EC MD: This question may be the elephant in the room...Do you have a time frame at this point for release?
HRE Team: *short answer – no. We hope that after we have revised TMG Event import that we can expand the test team while we finish off the final import items. Then when we complete the ability to update/save all data, some sort of limited release is intended.*

Following Questions are individual self-explanatory items, followed by our answers
From Bob Hunter (M), WYK, UK: **If you can't delete, can you combine elements?**
HRE Team: *no. But if you don't want to separate 'Town' and 'City' (for example) then you can change the 'Town' element name to 'Town/City' and never use the 'City' element. Up to you.*

From Ed Feustel, M NH: C**an you use name styles to implement source types?**
HRE Team: *Yes, there is already a Source designation in the Output Styles area of the screen. The radio buttons in this part of the screen work to (a) identify the Output style type and (b) allow you to change the type, as was demonstrated.*

From Holt Anderson M, Durham, NC: **When printing information for each individual, do only the elements used for that individual show (no blank lines/descriptions) used.** This might mean that care must be taken to create specific information for each individual???
HRE Team: *Yes, for report output only the non-blank elements would be used.*

From Dick Vogel - FL M: **Have you considered that as you introduce more complexity it becomes more difficult to use?**
HRE Team: *a good point. Also a cause of some arguments amongst us from time to time! We've found that many (most?) TMG users barely use name styles – and if they do an import to HRE then the basic imported name styles will support them just fine. In other words, as with TMG, users can ignore the Name Style administration screens.*
This is also why, on the Person Selector screen, users can just use the 2 simple formats of 'Surname, Given' or 'Given + Surname'. Only if they want to get a bit more adventurous need they click the 'Use Name Styles' button and use those selections.

Then a bunch of nice comments we couldn't help repeating:
great job!
A very interesting discussion!!
Thanks Don & team!
Thank you. Appreciate all of your efforts.
Thank you, this is quite exciting.
Thank you Don, that was great.
Outstanding update. Thank you, Don.
Looking forward to HRE!

And finally, from David Hopper - Toronto: Hope the development cycle does not exceed the life span of the developers.
HRE Team: we do too….