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: Ireland

Country name in official language(s): Ireland, Eire

Official language in English: English, Irish Gaelic

Language name in official language: English, An Ghaelige

Last updated: February 1995

For name usage in English, see the entry under UNITED KINGDOM.

Irish Gaelic usage follows in this entry.

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[1] http://www.ifla.org/publications/statement-of-international-cataloguing-principles
[2] http://www.ifla.org/node/4953

1. An Ghaelige

NAME ELEMENTS

Elements normally forming part of a name

Element	Type		Examples	
1. Forename (*Christian name*)	simple		Máire Séan	
2. Surname	simple		Réamonn	
	compound, consisting of two surnames with prefix. The majority of Irish surnames have prefixes. Each prefix has a masculine and feminine form with the exception of *De* which is the same in both genders:		Mac Donnchadha Ó Briain De Róiste	
	masculine	*feminine*	*masculine*	*feminine*
	Ó* *or* Ua	Ní	Ó Briain	Ni Bhriain*
	Mac Nic		Ó hAirt	Ni Airt
	Mag Nig		Mac Néill	Nic Néill
	Note: After the prefix *Ó* an *h* is inserted before an initial vowel.		Mag Uidhir	Nig Uidhir
			Note: After the prefix *Ni* an *h* is inserted after an initial consonant, except in the case of *l*, *n*, and *r*.	
	A married woman uses the genitive form of the masculine prefix to her husband's surname:			
	husband	*wife*	*husband*	*wife*
	Ó or Ua	Uí or Í	Ó Néill	Uí Néill
	Mac	Mhic	Ua Néill	Í Néill
	Mag	Mhig	Mac Néill	Mhic Néill
			Mag Uidhir	Mhig Uidhir

Additional elements to names

Element	Use	Examples
Included in catalogue headings:		
1. Epithet signifying a personal characteristic, place of birth or of residence, placed between the forename and surname	to distinguish two persons having the same forename and surname	Eoghan *Ruadh* Ó Briain Aodh *Muimhneach* Ó hAirt Brian *an Doire* Mac Néill
2. Agnomen added to surname	to distinguish branches of a family	Séan Ó Conchobhair *Donn*

ORDER OF ELEMENTS IN CATALOGUE HEADINGS

General rule

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
1. Simple surname	surname	RÉAMONN, Séan
2. Surname with prefix	prefix	MAC NÉILL, Séan NIC NÉILL, Máire
3. Surname with inserted epithet	surname	MHIC NÉILL, Máire Ó HAIRT, Aodh *Muimhneach*
4. Compound surname		
-- consisting of two surnames	last part of surname	Ó BRIAIN, Domhnall Mac Donnchadha
-- consisting of surname and agnomen	surname	Ó CONCHOBHAIR DONN, Séan

Romanization schemes in use

> Older works in Irish Gaelic were frequently printed in the so-called Gaelic type, an alphabet of eighteen letters of the roman alphabet in slightly unfamiliar form in the case of a few letters. The only real change, however, is the substitution of the roman letter *h* for the superscript unctum of the Gaelic letter. Thus ꝣ becomes *gh*. *[Unicode U+012C and U+012D for the letter but lacks the dot over the character.]*

Authority for information provided

Largely based on the entry in the 1967 edition authorized by the Library of University College, Dublin, in consultation with eight other libraries; and, Leabharlann Náisiúnta Na hÉireann = National Library of Ireland.

Checked and approved by: Brian McKenna, Keeper - Systems, National Library of Ireland, Dublin, February 1995.