

# Chapter 8 - Concepts in TMG

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TMG is designed to assist the researcher in recording and later examining data about people and their relationships -- the underlying subject of all our research. The data is generally organized around a focus person or Subject.

Five of the seven windows available in the TMG Window menu relate to the **Subject** -- they are the Details, Flags, Children, Siblings, and Image windows. Chief of these is the Details window, which has three views, the Person View, the Family View and the Tree View.

## Tags and Flags<sup>1</sup>

Most of the information about the subject appears in the Person View and is recorded in **tags**. A major exception is the sex of the subject, which is recorded in a **flag** rather than a tag, and appears in the Flag window<sup>2</sup> rather than the Person View of the Details window. Some other bits of information such as Birth Order may also be recorded in flags.

In general, *tags* have several fields and each can be linked to more than one person. All people in the data set have the same *flags*, but usually different people have different sets of *tags*. Except for Sex, *flags* are not generally useful for basic information about the subject but are used in analysis of your data. For example, flags can serve to simplify the grouping of people for accents and filters (see *Chapter 11, Filtering and Sorting*).

You can enter a source for a tag but not for a flag, so sometimes it is useful to have *a tag in addition to a flag*. For example, if you need to enter a source for Sex, you can use a custom Sex tag (in the Other event Group) to supplement the Sex flag.

TMG has **Name** tags, **Relationship** tags, and **Event** tags. On the Tag Type List, tags are classified into ten Tag Groups. Name and Relationship tags each have their own Group. The remaining eight groups

are collectively called Event tags but do not necessarily record real events in the ordinary sense of the word "event." Five event groups chronicle life events -- the four "BMDB" groups (Birth, Marriage, Death and Burial) and the Divorce Group. The other three groups of Event tags are the Address Group, the History Group and the Other Group (see *Chapter 5, Customizing the Data*). Tag groups are significant in the context of filtering (see *Chapter 11, Filtering and Sorting*). Later in this chapter, some implications of using particular Tag Groups are discussed.

The **automatic 'relation' tag** that can be selected in **File > Preferences > Current Project Options > Other** is not really a tag, even though it displays in the tag box.

## Principals, Witnesses and Events

**Event tags** are used to record information other than a Name or a Relationship<sup>3</sup>. Except for History tags, Event tags have at least one **Principal** and some may have two. All Event tags may have one or more **Witnesses**. History tags have **Witnesses** only; they do not have a Principal.

A **Principal** is a person who is a chief participant in an event. '**Principal**' is the default Role<sup>4</sup> on the Tag Entry screen for Event tags. While for some purposes a Principal is included in the term 'witness,' a **Witness** in TMG is primarily *a person who is associated with an event tag in some way other than as a Principal* and is not necessarily an actual witness to an event. A Witness is entered on the **Other witnesses** tab of the Tag Entry screen. Note that '**Witness**' is also the default Role on the Add witness screen.

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<sup>1</sup> See also *Chapter 5, Customizing the Data*.

<sup>2</sup> The Flag window is not part of the Standard layout. It can be contained in a custom layout, or can be accessed from the **Window** menu.

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<sup>3</sup> Strictly speaking, even names and relationships can be recorded in a tag in the Other event group. However, TMG will not process tags in the Other event group in the same manner as Name tags or Relationship tags.

<sup>4</sup> Roles are a powerful feature of TMG and are discussed in Chapters 5, *Customizing the Data* and 6, *Sentence Structures* and in *TMG Help*.