Database Scenario

MedievalDB is a new interactive website that allows history students to explore the past through a web of interconnected data about the lives of medieval rulers. For only £2.99 per month, subscribers have instant access to records on major historical figures, the titles they held, the battles they participated in, and references to books and manuscripts that mention them, down to the exact page number.

Each historical person on the website has a name, a gender, a summary of their life, the dates of their birth and death, and their age (at death, or at present if still alive). They also have a list of other historical people they were married to, along with the date of their marriage, and if appropriate, the date of their divorce. Each person's parents and children are also recorded.

Many of the historical persons were feudal lords or ladies, who held important *titles* of political power. A title consists of a *fief* and a *rank*. A fief is a geographical name such as 'England' or 'Fife', while a rank is one of 'Barony', 'County', 'Duchy', 'Kingdom' or 'Empire'. Hence the title 'Duchy of Lancaster' has fief 'Lancaster' and rank 'Duchy'. The system contains information on who held which titles at which times. People would sometimes hold several titles at once, and would usually pass their titles to another member of their family on their death.

Each title exists as part of an independent *state*, which will have a name and a description, and a list of modern countries whose land that state overlaps with. One title in each state is the *ruling title*, which represents the person in charge of the whole state; usually this will be a 'Kingdom' title. Within a given state, all titles have fiefs with different names.

Another great feature of *MedievalDB* is the information it holds about famous *battles*! Each battle is presented on its own page, and has a name, a date, and a geographical location (as well as the state it was in at the time). Each battle also has a list of some of the historical people who took part in it, and whether each one was victorious or not.

To take students' learning even further, *MedievalDB* contains a large bibliography of references to other *sources* that mention the battles and people involved. For each historical person and each battle, there is a list of references to books, papers and manuscripts, each one with an exact page number where the battle or person is mentioned. Each source has a title, an ISBN, and one or more authors. Some authors are modern writers, but some 'primary sources' might have been authored by famous historical people who have their own records in *MedievalDB*! Some sources are *anonymous*, usually in cases where a historical document has been rediscovered and its original author is unknown.

The system boasts a wide range of historical persons, stretching back as far as AD 700, and as far forward as AD 1550. For a small additional payment, the *'Modern People'* expansion extends some dynastic lines to the present day, with the world's existing aristocrats and royal families placed in their full historical context. Each user can log into the system using their email address and password, and if they have paid for the expansion, they can view these additional pages.

Example Historical Figures

Alfred the Great
Male
A learned and merciful man of a gracious and level-headed nature who encouraged education, proposing that primary education be conducted in Old English rather than Latin and improving the legal system and military structure and his people's quality of life. He was given the epithet "the Great" in the 16th century.
Born: 17 September 848
Died: 26 October 899
Titles: County of Dorset (12 March 867–26 October 899), Kingdom of Wessex (13 April 871–26 October 899)
Parents: Æthelwulf, Osburh
Children: Æthelflæd, Edward the Elder, Æthelgifu, Ælfthryth, Æthelweard
Spouse: Ealhswith (1 February 868–26 October 899)
References: The Last Will and Testament of Alfred the Great (p1), Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (p33)

Edward the Elder
Male
Edward was admired by medieval chroniclers, and in the view of William of Malmesbury, he was "much inferior to his father in the cultivation of letters" but "incomparably more glorious in the power of his rule".
Born: 15 May 874
Died: 17 July 924
Titles: Kingdom of Wessex (26 October 899–17 July 924)
Parents: Alfred the Great, Ealhswith
Children: Æthelstan, Ælfweard, Edwin, Eadgifu, Eadhild, Eadgyth, Edmund I, Eadred, Eadburh
Spouses: Ecgwynn (12 April 890–26 September 899), Ælfflæd (2 February 901–27 October 910), Eadgifu (18 March 916–17 July 924)

Isabella MacDuff
Female
Isabella was a Scottish noblewoman who was Countess of Fife until she was persuaded to resign her title in favour of her brother-in-law.
Born: 1 April 1330
Died: 12 August 1389
Titles: County of Fife (10 August 1363–12 July 1371)
Parents: Duncan IV, Mary de Monthermer
No children
Spouses: William de Felton (19 August 1349–1 July 1357), Walter Stewart (8 December 1360–20 June 1368), Sir Thomas Bisset of Upsetlington (29 January 1370–12 July 1371)

Example Titles

County of Fife
Rank: County
Fief: Fife
Country: Scotland

Duchy of York
Rank: Duchy
Fief: York
Country: England

Example States
Castille
A large and powerful state on the Iberian Peninsula during the Middle Ages. Its name comes from the host of castles constructed in the region.
Modern countries: ES, PT, AD
Ruling title: Kingdom of Castille

Scotland
It suffered many invasions by the English, but under Robert the Bruce it fought a successful War of Independence and remained an independent state throughout the late Middle Ages.
Modern countries: GB, IM
Ruling title: Kingdom of Scotland

Example Battles
Battle of Edington
Date: 8 May 878
Location: 51° 15' 50" N, 2° 8' 34" W
State: Wessex
Participants: Alfred the Great (victorious), Guthrum (defeated)

Battle of Agincourt
Date: 25 October 1415
Location: 50° 27' 49" N, 2° 8' 30" E
State: France
Participants: Henry V (victorious), Thomas Camoys (victorious), Charles d'Albret (defeated)
References: The Great Warbow (p28)

Example Sources
The Great Warbow
by Matthew Strickland & Robert Hardy
ISBN 978-0-7509-3167-0

The Last Will and Testament of Alfred the Great
by Alfred the Great
ISBN 1425001580

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
(anonymous)
ISBN 178158043X

Example Users

Email: michael.young@gmail.com
Password: ilovehats1991

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Password: henrytheeighth4eva

Example data taken from Wikipedia (with some modifications).

Note that the above examples are not presented in a normalised form. Your database should be capable of holding the information in some form, but the choice of entity sets, relationship sets, and relations is up to you.