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Proposal to Defining a Preferred Vocabulary

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Description: Proposal to define a Preferred Vocabulary and Glossary

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Contents

1. Abstract

This proposal is to develop a preferred vocabulary for FHISO standards work, and a comprehensive glossary to help understand variant terms.

2. Goal

Genealogy and Family History have been around for a long time but there is no standard set of terms. Different countries obviously have different terms but even English-speaking countries differ from each other. With the advent of technology, and particularly technological R&D, the available subjects have expanded and so have the necessary terms.

FHISO needs a preferred set of terms, or vocabulary, so that we can work together more easily. However, we also need a comprehensive glossary of terms in common usage that we will encounter during R&D work.

The vocabulary and glossary could both be supplemented with corresponding ones in other languages.

3. Not Covered or Not Required

It is too late to impose any type of standard vocabulary on the external genealogical community. This proposal is primarily for a "common currency" within FHISO's work.

4. Use Cases

FHISO's members will be from different geographical regions and from different disciplines. It is essential for us to be able to work together and understand each others documents and comments. Having both a preferred vocabulary and a comprehensive glossary will help us communicate better.

When FHISO prepares standards documents, the language they use must be unambiguous for readership both within and outside of the genealogical community. The ANSI/NISO Z39.19 standard, *Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies*, makes many recommendations on this subject. Details can be found at: http://www.niso.org/apps/group_public/project/details.php?project_id=46.

5. References

Some sample glossaries. This is far from a complete list but it illustrates the many sources of such lists.

BetterGEDCOM. http://bettergedcom.wikispaces.com/Glossary+Of+Terms.

Supplementary BetterGEDCOM glossaries (http://BetterGEDCOM.wikispaces.com/Supplemental+Glossary+from+_Evidence+Explained_%2C+2007, and http://bettergedcom.wikispaces.com/Pending+Definitions).

Family Search. https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Genealogical_Terms.

Dick Eastman. http://www.eogen.com/_Index.

STEMMA. http://www.parallaxview.co/familyhistorydata/home/glossary.