

**Arabic authors of the Middle Ages  
in the German authority file  
*Personennamen des Mittelalters***

[http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd\\_e.htm](http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd_e.htm)

**Content and access**

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*[Abridged translation by Annick Bernard]*

**Personennamen des Mittelalters (PMA) : the authority file for  
personal names of the Middle Ages**

Since 1986, the Bavarian State Library has been building the authority file *Personennamen des Mittelalters* (PMA), dedicated to personal names used in bibliographic records, whatever the related responsibility (author, editor, illustrator, translator...) including subject cataloguing. Currently, it contains about 16.000 name authority records.

The standard form of names of the Middle Ages are not easy to establish, since they appear under a variety of forms and writings, in manuscripts as well as in books published in different countries and different languages from the beginnings of printing to nowadays.

Such an authority file cannot limit its scope to the European Middle Ages, but includes authors of non-European countries whose books were published in Europe. Among them, are Oriental authors writing in Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, etc...

To have the PMA field of action well defined, conventional limits of dates had to be adopted, even if this does not fit the concept of Middle Ages in all countries and all cultures.

*Every author who died after the year 500 and before the year 1501 is taken into account. Authors dead before the year 500 are part of the Antiquity file.*

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## Personennamen des Mittelalters. Working method

Two approaches were adopted:

- using the main reference dictionaries or encyclopaedias to define the standard form of a name according to the German cataloguing rules; adding the variant forms found in these sources or in the large library catalogues. Not surprisingly, the main German encyclopaedias dedicated to the Middle Ages include a number of Oriental authors;
- current cataloguing of newly acquired material: each name not found in PMA has to be introduced. German libraries cooperate by pointing out names to be established. Most of Oriental authors in PMA came this way, and the non-European part of PMA is still growing significantly. Even if the case of missing Oriental authors is a majority, every widely known person however (this means authors published or translated in Europe) is already there.

### ➤ Influence of cataloguing rules

The German cataloguing rules, RAK [*Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung*], appeal to international cooperation and comply with the IFLA Principle which recommends to build the standard form of a name after the person's

nationality, for authors from Antiquity and Middle Ages after the language they used in their writings, and for Greek authors the Latin.

Names of persons who have not left any writing are mainly requested for subject cataloguing, and are standardized after the current German form of their name, as prescribed by the rules for subject cataloguing, RSWK [Regeln für der Schlagwortkatalog].

RSWK : Regeln für des Schlagwortkatalog. (3., überarbeitete und erweiterte Auflage). *Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut, Berlin, 1998* <http://deposit.ddb.de>.

As a result of recent discussions about the adoption of the AACR2 by German libraries, it was proposed to standardize names from the Middle Ages after the common form used in Germany. Thanks to the widespread use of PMA, the proposal was largely opposed to, all the more because the German common form is a reference entry in the authority record already.

In PMA, the standard form has to be unique. Biographical dates are part of the record, but, unlike the Library of Congress, they are not part of the standard form, except when it is necessary to distinguish homonyms.

Rules are very formal for names of kings, princes, and other sovereigns: following the name, comes the country, the title, and when appropriate, the order number.

### ➤ Transliteration

Transliteration follows German rules, which comply with international standards, but regrettably not those prescribed by the Anglo-American rules. Nevertheless, the standard form found in the *Library of Congress Authorities* is entered as a reference form, even when its transliteration scheme is different.

### ➤ PMA authority record

PMA collects all the different forms of a name in an authority record, which also mentions references of sources and give information about the author, so that the cataloguer can select the right form.

PMA is rather generous by including all possible forms of a name, whether reference or parallel entries, often in other languages or writing, in order to make sure the user can retrieve an author's books whatever the form of the name he/she knows.

Regarding Islamic names, the standard form is built after the most widely known form of a name, and other parts of the name are entered as reference entries, eg *laqab, kunya, ism*, first member *nasab*, second member *nasab, nisba*.

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## From imprint to online publication: PMA, PAN, PND

### *The first edition of PMA*

**Personennamen des Mittelalters : PMA** ; Ansetzungs- und Verweisungsformen gemäss den RAK / erarb. von der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek. (Redaktionelle Bearbeitung: Claudia Fabian). – Autoris. Ausg. – Wiesbaden : Reichert. – (Regeln für die Alphabetische Katalogisierung ; 6)

1. A – Jai. – 1989. XXIV, 408 S.
  2. Jak – Z. – 1989. – S. 409-878
- Supplement. – 1992. – IX, 147 S.

The first edition of PMA was published in 1989, with about 3500 names in two volumes. A supplement was published in 1992, with 760 new names, among them 350 were Arabic [*cf. infra, a fac-simile of 4 records in the Appendix*]



**Personennamen der Antike : PAN** ; Ansetzungs- und Verweisungsformen gemäss den RAK / Erarbeitet von der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek. (Red. Bearb.: Claudia Fabian und Ute Klier). – Autoris. Ausg. – Wiesbaden : Reichert, 1993 – (Regeln für die Alphabetische Katalogisierung ; 7)

As a result of the success obtained by PMA, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft - the German research Foundation – provided the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek with a grant to build up the **PAN** or **Personennamen der Antike**, ie names of authors dead up to 500 AD. Limited to Greco-Roman classical authors, this corpus was published in 1993. Later on, its scope was enlarged to cover Antiquity in general.



### *A new edition of PMA in 2000*

**Personennamen des Mittelalters = Nomina Scriptorum Medii Aevi = Personal Names of the Middle Ages : PMA** ; Namensformen für 13.000 Personen gemäss den Regeln für die Alphabetische Katalogisierung (RAK). – Zweite, erweiterte Ausgabe. – München : Saur, 2000. – 696 S.

The second edition of PMA contains 3.000 names. Such an enrichment of the file for personal names of the Middle Ages was achieved through systematic use of reference works, mainly those useful to manuscripts cataloguers.

Work for establishing and enlarging authority files for classical authors dating from Antiquity and Middle Ages was funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, whereas the responsibility of current maintenance of the files is taken by the Bavarian State Library. Due to the large number of authors names already standardized, regular growth is rather slow: about 1000 new names were introduced in PMA since 2000, and around a hundred in PAN.

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**PERSONENNAMENDATEI (PND): the German national authority file for personal names**

[http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd\\_e.htm](http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd_e.htm)

PMA and PAN have been integrated in the German national authority file for personal names, **Personennamendatei (PND)**, since its very beginning in 1990. PND is available online (it is also published on CD-ROM twice a year). Die Deutsche Bibliothek, the German national library, is in charge of its maintenance, as it is for the national authority files for corporate bodies (**Gemeinsame Körperschaftdatei, GKD**) and subject headings (**Schlagwortnormdatei, SWD**).

The three authority files are accessible via **ILTIS**, the Deutsche Bibliothek's integrated information system, through Z39.50 protocol:

[http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd\\_e.htm](http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd_e.htm) / Z39.50 Gateway.

Nowadays, establishing and entering data for new authorities has to be done in *Personennamendatei* directly. Authors from classical Antiquity and the Middle Ages are coded properly, so that they can be extracted within distinct files when necessary. PND covers all authors needed by descriptive and subject cataloguing in German libraries and, as a result of retroconversion of German catalogues covering early printed books collections, is particularly rich in "historic" authors.

PND is of general use in German libraries networks, and, of course, in the national bibliography. Cataloguing books by Middle Ages authors is made easier, and the PMA authority file grows from new names having to be submitted to its editors.

Another usage of PAN and PMA is in building indexes of manuscripts catalogues, according to a recommendation by the Deutsche

Forschungsgemeinschaft. PAN and PMA are used in the **Manuscripta medievalia** database likewise [<http://www.manuscripta-mediaevalia.de> ]

**Kalliope**, the database for modern manuscripts, uses PND [Kalliope Portal : <http://kalliope.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/> ]

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### The CERL Thesaurus

<http://www.cerl.org/Thesaurus/thesaurus.htm>

In 2003, 425 000 records for authors from the very beginning to about 1850 - among them those of the Middle Ages - were downloaded from PND in order to have them integrated in the Thesaurus the CERL, Consortium of European research libraries, builds up for *imprint places*, *imprint names*, and *personal names* found in material printed before the middle of the nineteenth century.

This file, accessible on the web for free, has been constructed from authority files from various sources. It merges authority records dedicated to the same person in order to gather together a number of standard and variant forms and much related information.

Besides being a useful source of information in itself, the CERL Thesaurus is used to assist searching the CERL's **Hand Press Book Database (HPB)**. This database, which currently contains 1.600.000 records, is full of heterogeneous data resulting of bibliographic files from various origins being integrated together. The Hand Press Book Database is accessible via RLG (<http://www.rlg.org>).

➤ *Bibliographie*

Claudia Fabian, *The CERL Thesaurus File* .

Paper presented at the international workshop *Authority Control*, Florence, 10-12 February 2003

[http://www.unifi.it/universita/biblioteche/ac/relazioni/fabian\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unifi.it/universita/biblioteche/ac/relazioni/fabian_eng.pdf)

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## Towards a virtual international authority file: VIAF

Along with other projects - at an European level – aiming at building up a virtual authority file, ie virtually linking authority records instead of merging them, **VIAF, Virtual international authority file**, is going to link the German *Personennamendatei* and the *Name authorities* of the Library of Congress. This project was initiated by the Deutsche Bibliothek, in order to make bibliographic data exchange easier by harmonizing standard forms of personal names, and more particularly to facilitate re-use of American records.

In this common project lead by the Deutsche Bibliothek, the Library of Congress and OCLC, a logical link has to be created between both separate files. VIAF is a linkfile, the missing link in the chain:  
<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/viaf/>.

For a particular name, VIAF must contain the standard form and the record number from the authority record of both files.

To create the link, OCLC has developed a program to detect duplicates by taking in account the bibliographic records and the authority records linked to these bibliographic records as well.

In early 2004, 2.5 million records from *Personennamendatei* had to be checked against 3,8 millions of the Library of Congress *Name authorities* <http://authorities.loc.gov/> with the help of 5 million bibliographic records from Bavaria and 6 million records from the Deutsche Bibliothek.

Such a link will help for sure ! It would be of particular interest to upgrade existing German authority records by adding elements in non-Roman scripts from the *Library of Congress authorities*.

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## A common challenge: integrating non-Roman scripts

A major deficiency in the *Personennamen des Mittelalters*, and in the *Personennamendatei* as well, comes from not having allowed to include non-Roman scripts. Forthcoming Unicode compliant releases of library information systems are on the point of making librarians able to take other scripts into account.

But adding non-Roman forms to existing records means a large amount of work. Data exchange or re-use of records created by other libraries would be a great help.

Such a specialised file as PMA has an international scope. In the field of non-European authors, it would benefit of enhancements coming from Middle East libraries or librarians.

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**Appendix:**  
**fac-simile of four authority records from PMA**

Averroes ; Avicenna ; Ibn-‘Abbād ; Ibn-Ḥaldūn

NB: PMA records are available online, with fewer diacritics, in *Personennamendatei*

[http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd\\_e.htm](http://www.ddb.de/professionell/swd_e.htm) / Z39.50 Gateway

and in *CERL Thesaurus* <http://www.cerl.org/Thesaurus/thesaurus.htm> .



**Averroes**

1126 – 1198

*CSGL; LMA, I, 1291/1296*

Abenrust

Abū-l-Walīd Ibn-Ruṣd

Averroes (Cordubensis)

Averrois

Ebn-Rhost

Ḥafīd Ibn-Ruṣd, Abu-

Ibn Rochd, Abu El-Walid

Ibn Ruṣd

Ibn-Ruschd

Ibn-Ruṣd

Ibn-Ruṣd, Abu-'l-Walīd

Muḥammad Ibn-Aḥmad

(al-Ḥafīd)

Ibn-Rushd

Muḥammad Ibn-Aḥmad

Ibn-Ruṣd, Abu-l-Walīd

## **Avicenna**

980 – 1037

*Rep.Font. VI,208-214; CSGL;*

*LMA,I,1298/1300*

Aben Sina

Abitianus

Abitzianus

Aboali (Abinscenus)

Abohali (Abinscenus)

Abu Ali (Filius Sinae)

Abū-‘Alī Sīnā

Avicenne

Ibn Sina

Ibn-Sīnā

Ībn-Sīnā, ...

Ibn-Sīnā, Abū-‘Alī al-Ḥusain

Ibn-‘Abdallāh

Ibn-Sīnā, Abū-‘Alī al-Hussain

Ibn-‘Abdallāh

Ibn-Sīnā, al-Husain

‘ibn-‘Abdallāh

Ibn-Sīnā al-Qānūnī, Abū-

Sīnā, Abū-‘Alī

Avicenne

→ **Avicenna**

**Ibn-‘Abbād, Muḥammad**

**Ibn-Abī-Ishāq**

**1333 – 1390**

Ibn-‘Abbād (de Ronda)

Ibn-‘Abbād (of Ronda)

Ibn-‘Abbād, Muḥammad

Ibn-Ibrāhīm

Ibn-‘Abbād an-Nafzī ar-Rundī

Ibn-‘Abbād ar-Rundī

Ibn-Abī-Ishāq, Muḥammad

Ibn-‘Abbād

Muḥammad Ibn-Abī-Ishāq

Ibn-‘Abbād

**Ibn-Ḥaldūn, ‘Abd-ar-Raḥmān  
Ibn-Muḥammad**

**1332 – 1406**

***Rep.Font. VI,174-77;***

***LMA,V,316/17***

**‘Abdarraḥman Ibn-Ḥaldun**

**‘Abd-ar-Raḥmān**

**Ibn-Muḥammad Ibn-Ḥaldūn**

**Caliduno**

**Eben Caliduno**

**Ibn Chaldun, Abd Ar Rahman**

**Ibn Ḥaldūn, Abū Zayd ‘Abd**

**al-Raḥmān Muḥammad b.**

**Muḥammad b. Ḥaldūn Waṭī**

**al-Dīn al-Tūnisī al-Ḥadramī**

**al-Iṣbīlī al-Mālikī**

**Ibn Khaldun**

**Ibn Khaldun, ‘Abdarraḥmān**

**Ibn-Chaldun**

**Ibn-Chaldun, Abd-ar-Rahman**

**Ibn-Ḥaldūn**

**Ibn-Khaldoun**

**Ibn-Khaldoun al-Hadramī**

**al-Maghrībī, Abd-ar-Rahman**