Grzegorz Ochała
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Project "IaM Nubian" (grant no. 842112)

Database of Medieval Nubian Identity Markers: Upload documentation
version 1.0
20/10/2021

DATABASE OF MEDIEVAL NUBIAN IDENTITY MARKERS: UPLOAD DOCUMENTATION

1.   General information

1.1.   The Database of Medieval Nubian Identity Markers (DBMNIM) has been created in the framework of the project *IaM NUBIAN. Identity and Memory in Christian Nubia: A study on strategies of (self-)presentation and preservation of the past in medieval African society*, funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 842112. It is made publicly available under the conditions of the Open Research Data Pilot.

1.2.   The DBMNIM is a relational database which fits into a bigger structure of a database of written sources originating from the Middle Nile Valley in Middle Ages, under continuous development by Grzegorz Ochała. The basic component of this structure is the Database of Medieval Nubian Texts (DBMNT), available online at www.dbmnt.uw.edu.pl, from which the DBMNIM draws the basic metadata for any given text included in the database. Another component of this large database is the Database of Medieval Nubian Names (DBMNN), collecting and analysing all instances of anthroponyms found in Nubian sources. DBMNN was created in the framework of a previous project and is currently being prepared to be put on-line. DBMNIM draws from the latter basic data about personal names in so far as they can be perceived as "identity markers" (IM).

1.3.   Within the three-level structure of the large database, the DBMNIM has been designed as a second-level element, linking the most general level of the basic metadata describing the sources (DBMNT) with the databases of the third level dealing with detailed phenomena occurring in these texts. The DBMNN is so far the only existing third-level database, but the DBMNIM will serve as a point of departure for future projects dealing with, for instance, designations of functions, titles of address, or toponyms occurring in medieval Nubian sources.

1.4.   The whole database, including the DBMNIM, has been designed in FileMaker Pro 16. The upload includes the original .fmp12 file, but in order to ensure a broad accessibility, it also features files that can be opened without a specialist software (.xml, .csv, .xlsx).

1.5.   Because the export options of FileMaker Pro do not allow for representing the relational structure of the database in a single file, the three tables of which the DBMNIM consists had to be exported separately. As a result, each file format has three separate files labelled accordingly: "DBMNIM_IM" (Identity markers), "DBMNIM_IMVar" (IM Variants), and "DBMNIM_IMRef" (IM References).

1.6.   Note that while the exported files contain a complete collection of data included in the DBMNIM, data in the fields that draw information directly from two other components of the large Nubian database may not be displayed in the original .fmp12 file without access to the remaining files.

1.7.   The upload includes the following files:

- DBMNIM_upload_documentation_1_0.pdf

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version 1.0
20/10/2021

- DBMNIM_IMVar_list_1_0.pdf
- DBMNIM_1_0.fmp12
- DBMNIM_IM_1_0.xml
- DBMNIM_IMVar_1_0.xml
- DBMNIM_IMRef_1_0.xml
- DBMNIM_IM_1_0.csv
- DBMNIM_IMVar_1_0.csv
- DBMNIM_IMRef_1_0.csv
- DBMNIM_IM_1_0.xlsx
- DBMNIM_IMVar_1_0.xlsx
- DBMNIM_IMRef_1_0.xlsx
- DBMNIM_illustr.zip

2. Description of the structure

2.1.   The DBMNIM has a three-level structure, represented by three tables: "Identity markers", "IM Variants", and "IM References".

2.2.   Identity markers

2.2.1.   This is the table of the first level containing the basic information on different types of identity markers found in medieval Nubian sources.

2.2.2.   "Identity marker" is defined here as any kind of information, textual or contextual, included in the description of a person that allows establishing their identity(-ies).

2.2.3.   <u>Description of the fields</u>

2.2.3.1.   "IM_id": serial number designating various types of identity markers; written in the format "IM_x", where "x" are consecutive numbers assigned to identity markers (see 2.2.3.2)

2.2.3.2.   "Identity marker": general label of various types of identity markers. The following types have so far been included in the DBMNIM:

- IM_1 – Name
- IM_2 – Function
- IM_3 – Title of address
- IM_4 – Epithet
- IM_5 – Family relation
- IM_6 – Origin
- IM_7 – Occupation
- IM_8 – Social status

2.2.3.3.   "IM type": defines the general type if on an IM; it can be "direct" (directly indicates an identity) or "indirect" (the information about an identity can be gleaned from the context).

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2.2.3.4.　　　"IM form": three possible forms of an IM are distinguished, "textual" (identity is expressed in written words), "graphic" (identity is expressed with graphic designs, signs, and forms), and "contextual" (identity can be recognised from archaeological context).

2.2.3.5.　　　"IM type: category": it lists different types of identities that an IM can convey; the following identities have been included:

- gender
- family
- ethnic/regional
- religion
- social status
- social function
- physical appearance

2.2.3.6.　　　"IM description": a brief characterisation of a given IM, including Nubian peculiarities, and explanation of identities that the IM may reveal.

2.2.3.7.　　　"created": date of the creation of the record.

2.2.3.8.　　　"modified": date of the modification of the record.

2.3.　　IM Variants

2.3.1.　　This is the table of the second level containing the basic information on different variants of particular types of IMs.

2.3.2.　　"IM Variant" is defined here as any subtype of a particular identity marker that differs in its general meaning and function from other subtypes and possibly reveals different identities.

2.3.3.　　Description of the fields

2.3.3.1.　　　"IMVar_id": serial number designating variants of particular identity markers; written in the format "IM_x.y", where "x" is the number of an appropriate identity marker (see 2.2.3.2) and "y" are consecutive numbers assigned to concrete subtypes (see 2.3.3.2).

2.3.3.2.　　　"IM Variant": general label of different variants of particular identity markers. For the list of variants available to date, see the file "Database of Nubian Identity Markers – IM variants list" available in the upload.

2.3.3.3.　　　"IM_id": serial number of the "Identity marker", to which a given IM variant belongs, linking this table with the "Identity markers" table.

2.3.3.4.　　　"Identity marker": general label of the IM, to which a given IM variant belongs.

2.3.3.5.　　　"IMVar description": a concise characterisation of a given IM Variant, including Nubian peculiarities, and explanation of identities that the IM Variant may reveal.

2.3.3.6.　　　"IM type": "direct" or "indirect" (see above, 2.2.3.3).

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Database of Medieval Nubian Identity Markers: Upload documentation
version 1.0
20/10/2021

2.3.3.7.	"IM form": "textual", "graphic", or "contextual" (see above, 2.2.3.4).

2.3.3.8.	"Identity type: gender": indicates whether a given IM Variant can reveal the gender of a person ("1" when true, no value when not true); when true, a further specification follows, including the following options:

- male
- male?
- female
- female?
- unknown

2.3.3.9.	"Identity type: religion": indicates whether a given IM Variant can reveal the religion of a person ("1" when true, no value when not true); when true, a further specification follows, including the following options:

- Christian
- Christian?
- Muslim
- Muslim?
- unknown

2.3.3.10.	"Identity type: ethnic/regional": indicates whether a given IM Variant can reveal the origin of a person ("1" when true, no value when not true); when true, a further specification follows, including the following options:

- Nubian
- Nubian?
- Nubian: Nobadian
- Nubian: Nobadian?
- Nubian: Makurian
- Nubian: Makurian?
- Egyptian
- Egyptian?
- Arabic-speaking
- Arabic-speaking?
- Nubian or Arabic
- Nubian or Blemmyan
- Blemmyan/Beja
- Blemmyan/Beja?
- Arabic or Blemmyan/Beja

2.3.3.11.	"Identity type: family": indicates whether a given IM Variant can reveal the family relations of a person ("1" when true, no value when not true); when true, a further specification follows, including the following options:

- father
- mother

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Database of Medieval Nubian Identity Markers: Upload documentation
version 1.0
20/10/2021

- parent
- son
- son?
- daughter
- child
- grandfather
- grandmother
- grandparent
- grandson
- granddaughter
- grandchild
- great grandson
- great granddaughter
- great grandparent
- great grandfather
- great grandmother
- nephew
- niece
- uncle
- aunt
- spouse
- husband
- wife
- descendant
- ancestor
- brother
- sister
- child
- sibling
- father-in-law
- child-in-law

2.3.3.12.   "Identity type: social status": indicates whether a given IM Variant can reveal the social status of a person ("1" when true, no value when not true); when true, a further specification follows, including the following options:

- elite
- elite?
- commoner
- commoner?
- slave
- slave?
- wealthy
- wealthy?

Grzegorz Ochała   Database of Medieval Nubian Identity Markers: Upload documentation
Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow   version 1.0
Project "IaM Nubian" (grant no. 842112)   20/10/2021

2.3.3.13.   "Identity type: social function": indicates whether a given IM Variant can reveal the social function of a person ("1" when true, no value when not true); when true, a further specification follows, including the following options:

- ecclesiastic
- monastic
- ecclesiastic/monastic?
- civil officer
- civil officer?
- ruling family
- ruling family?
- military officer
- military officer?
- civil or military officer
- ecclesiastic or civil
- working class

2.3.3.14.   "Identity type: physical appearance": indicates whether a given IM Variant can reveal the social function of a person ("1" when true, no value when not true).

2.3.3.15.   "created": date of the creation of the record.

2.3.3.16.   "modified": date of the modification of the record.

2.4.   IM References

2.4.1.   This is the table of the third level containing the detailed information on particular attestations of different IM Variants.

2.4.2.   Description of the fields

2.4.2.1.   "IMRef_id": serial number designating attestations of all possible identity markers; written in the format "IM_x", where "x" are consecutive numbers assigned to concrete attestations.

2.4.2.2.   "Transcription": rendering of a fragment of the text containing a given attestation of the identity marker following the editorial conventions (including the use of brackets and underdots) and reflecting as much as possible the original appearance of the text. The field uses a Coptic typeface for sources written in Greek, Coptic, and Old Nubian, and an Arabic typeface for Arabis sources. The field is filled in only for textual identity markers.

2.4.2.3.   "Transcription_clean": rendering of the fragment of the text included in the "Transcription" field in a standard orthographic and/or grammatical version for a given language, including the resolution of known abbreviations.

2.4.2.4.   "Transliteration": rendering of the fragment of the text included in the "Transcription" field in Latin typeface according to the rules of transliteration for particular languages (for the time being, only the anthroponyms and Arabic phrases are rendered in this field).

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Database of Medieval Nubian Identity Markers: Upload documentation
version 1.0
20/10/2021

2.4.2.5.   "Translation": English translation of the fragment of the text included in the "Transcription" field.

2.4.2.6.   "IMRef description": a brief characterisation of a given IM Reference, including Nubian peculiarities, and explanation of identities that the IM Variant may reveal.

2.4.2.7.   "IMVar description": drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.5).

2.4.2.8.   "Summary information": a concise summary of the information contained in the "IMRef description" field.

2.4.2.9.   "Illustration": the field includes illustrations of "graphic" identity markers. As they can be properly viewed only in the original FileMaker Pro file of the database and cannot be exported to other file formats, the upload includes a folder with illustrations used in the DBMNIM. Please note that included are only illustrations from old publications, for which copyrights do not longer hold.

2.4.2.10.   "Illustration source": bibliographic information on the source of illustration; references are given according to G. Ochała and G. R. Ruffini, *A Guide to the Texts of Medieval Nubia*, available on-line at http://www.medievalnubia.info/dev/index.php/Guide_to_the_Texts.

2.4.2.11.   "Illustration access path": access path to the illustration file.

2.4.2.12.   "IMVar_id": serial number of the "IM Variant", to which a given IMRef belongs, linking this table with the "IM Variants" table.

2.4.2.13.   "IM Variant": general label of the IM Variant, to which a given IMRef belongs.

2.4.2.14.   "IM_id": serial number of the identity marker, to which a given IMRef belongs, linking this table with the "Identity Markers" table.

2.4.2.15.   "Identity marker": general label of the IM, to which a given IMRef belongs.

2.4.2.16.   "IM type": "direct" or "indirect" (see above, 2.2.3.3).

2.4.2.17.   "IM form": "textual", "graphic", or "contextual" (see above, 2.2.3.4).

2.4.2.18.   "Identity type: gender": drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.8).

2.4.2.19.   "Identity type: religion": drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.9).

2.4.2.20.   "Identity type: ethnic/regional" drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.10).

2.4.2.21.   "Identity type: family" drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.11).

2.4.2.22.   "Identity type: social status": drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.12).

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Project "IaM Nubian" (grant no. 842112)   20/10/2021

2.4.2.23.   "Identity type: social function": drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.13).

2.4.2.24.   "Identity type: physical appearance": drawn from the "IM Variants" table (see above, 2.3.3.14).

2.4.2.25.   "People_id": serial number assigned to particular persons in the DBMNN, linking the DBMNIM with the database of Nubian anthroponyms.

2.4.2.26.   "Name": name of the person bearing a given identity marker; drawn from the DBMNN.

2.4.2.27.   "Gender": gender of person bearing a given identity marker; drawn from the DBMNN.

2.4.2.28.   "NAM Ref_id": serial number assigned to particular attestations of personal names occurring in Nubian sources in the DBMNN and linking the latter with the DBMNIM; the field is not empty only for IMRefs belonging to the category "Name" of the identity markers (IM_1).

2.4.2.29.   "NAM_id": serial number assigned to particular personal names occurring in Nubian sources in the DBMNN and linking the latter with the DBMNIM; the field is not empty only for IMRefs belonging to the category "Name" of the identity markers (IM_1).

2.4.2.30.   "NAM_id 2": serial number assigned to particular personal names occurring in Nubian sources in the DBMNN and linking the latter with the DBMNIM; the field is not empty only for IMRefs belonging to the category "Name" of the identity markers (IM_1) and for persons featuring a double name.

2.4.2.31.   "Tex_id": serial number assigned to all sources recorded in the DBMNT, linking DBMNIM to the central database of the whole structure.

2.4.2.32.   "Latest edition": basic bibliographic information about the publication of the text in which a given IMRef is found; drawn from DBMNT. References are given according to G. Ochała and G. R. Ruffini, *A Guide to the Texts of Medieval Nubia*, available on-line at http://www.medievalnubia.info/dev/index.php/Guide_to_the_Texts.

2.4.2.33.   "Side/page": indication of the place in the text where in which a given IMRef is found.

2.4.2.34.   "Column": indication of the place in the text where in which a given IMRef is found.

2.4.2.35.   "Line": indication of the place in the text where in which a given IMRef is found.

2.4.2.36.   "Language": indication of the language of the source in which a given IMRef is found; drawn from the DBMNT

2.4.2.37.   "Linguistic context": indication of the linguistic context in which a given IMRef is found within a text; the field is different from the "Language" field only in the case of non-monolingual sources.

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Database of Medieval Nubian Identity Markers: Upload documentation
version 1.0
20/10/2021

2.4.2.38. "y1": annual date of the source in which a given IMRef is found, either precise or the beginning of a period to which the source can be dated.

2.4.2.39. "y2": the ending date of a period to which the source in which a given IMRef is found can be dated.

2.4.2.40. "Provenance": indication of the findspot of the source in which a given IMRef is found; drawn from the DBMNT.

2.4.2.41. "Kingdom/region": indication of the region from which originates the source in which a given IMRef is found; drawn from the DBMNT.

2.4.2.42. "Comment": various remarks on IMRefs, including grammatical and interpretative problems.

2.4.2.43. "created": date of the creation of the record.

2.4.2.44. "modified": date of the modification of the record.