



# A Tree in the



GEMEINSAME  
NORMDATEI



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## Why Authority Files?

Authority files are useful because they establish a **standardized form of name or subject heading for entities such as people, organizations, and concepts**. This helps to avoid confusion and ensure consistency across different catalogues, databases, and libraries. Authority files also enable users to **easily locate and access relevant information by linking related terms or entities** together.

## GND in a Nutshell

The authority file Gemeinsame Normdatei (GND) is a service for the **cooperative use and administration of authority files**.

Records in the GND authority file represent and describe entities such as persons, corporate bodies, conferences, geographies, subject terms and works that are related to cultural property and cultural and scientific collections.

The GND is maintained and supervised by the German National Library (DNB) and **links to VIAF (Virtual International Authority File), Wikidata, GeoNames and others**. By GNDmul it offers a **mapping environment**.

## Concordances with GNDmul

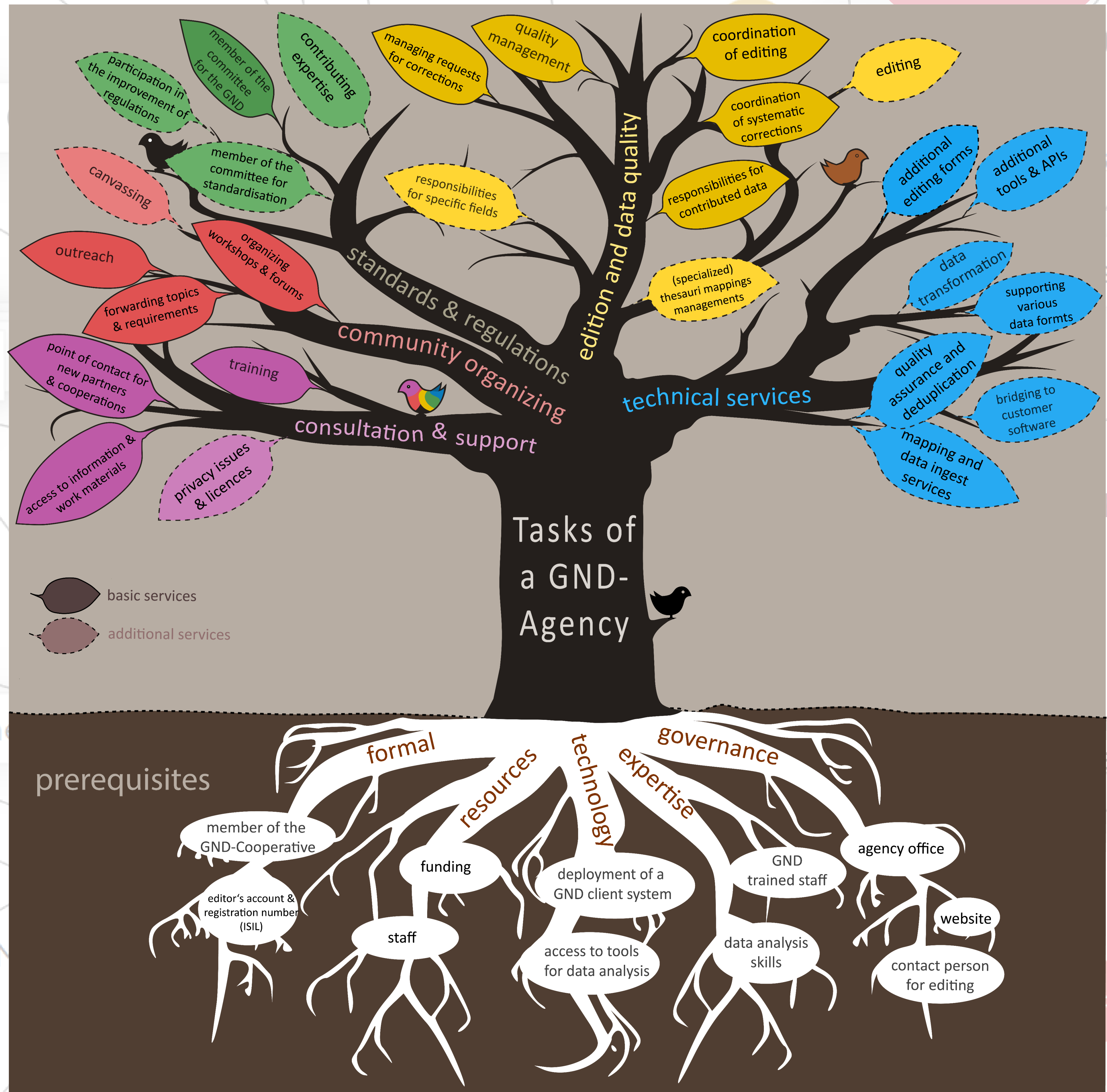
Concordances play an important role in **opening the GND for cross-discipline use**. In addition to the linking of geographic names, personal names and others with VIAF or GeoNames, the **multilingual mapping of subject terms plays a decisive role**.

The goal of the GNDmul project (2020-2022) was to optimally support administration of concordances, but also to design processes and regulations for the cooperative maintenance and use of mapping data.

GNDmul is to be understood as a data-structuring basic project - as a reference for all types of cross-concordances to the GND. A uniform data model was developed for the presentation of the mappings on the basis of the MARC21 data format. All cross-concordances between the GND and other controlled vocabularies are **also provided as Linked Data terminology in RDF**.

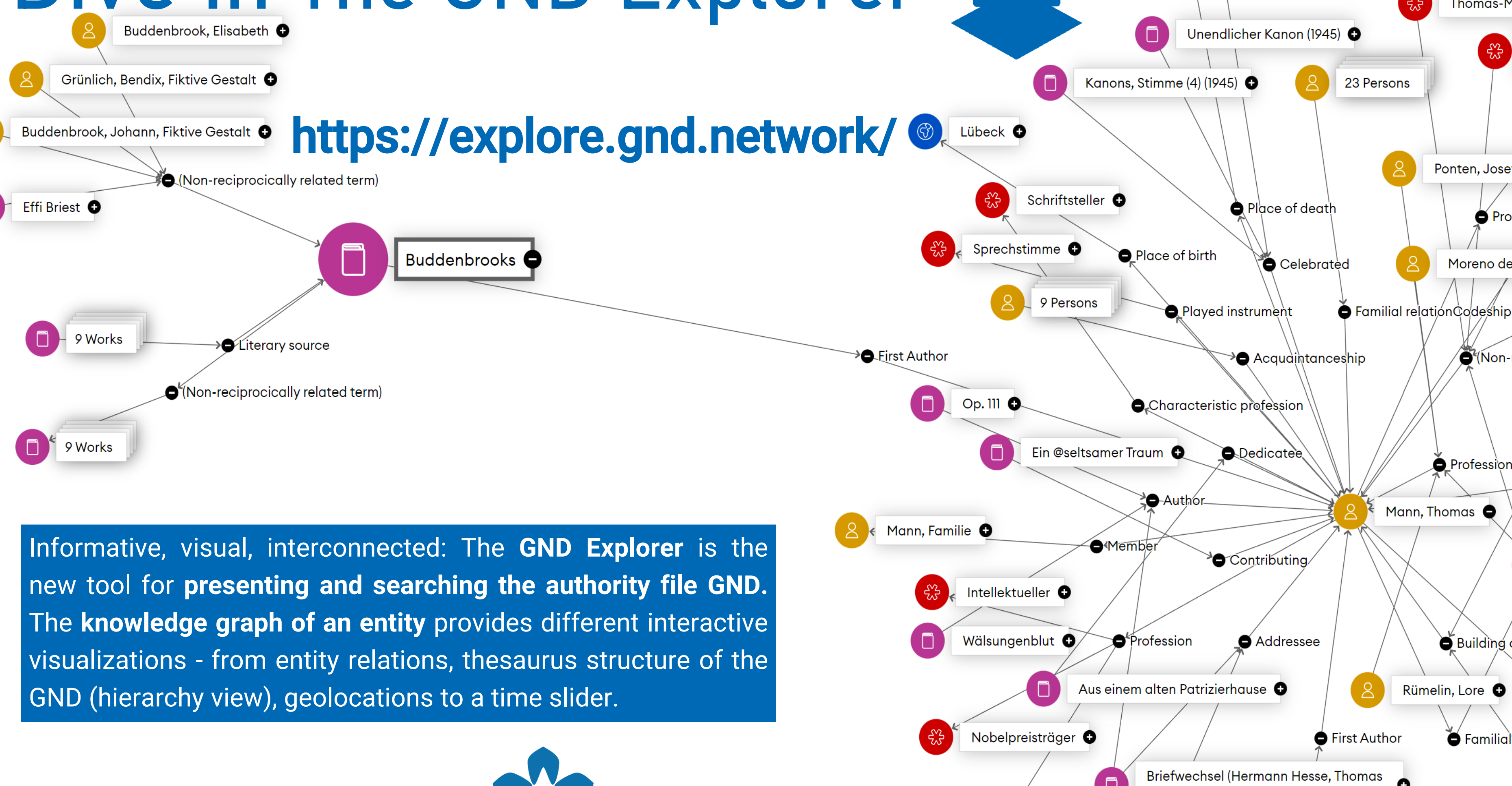
So far, mappings to the universal thesauri LCSH (English), RAMEAU (French), NSogg (Italian), EMBNE (Spanish) as well as to the subject thesauri MeSH (English), AGROVOC (English), STW, TheSoz, T-PRO (German) are available. More are in the pipeline.

Get in touch with GNDmul: [gnd-mappings@dnb.de](mailto:gnd-mappings@dnb.de)



## Dive in The GND Explorer

<https://explore.gnd.network/>



## What's in it for DARIAH-EU?

As a disclaimer: the following is true for the concept of an authority file as such and does not apply exclusively to the GND. As a data provider to enrich and connect research data with authority files lays in your natural interest. It can be the GND – in particular for research objects in German, here the GND has the best coverage – **but it could be VIAF, Wikidata, or other authority files as well**. You enhance the retrieval and re-usability of your holdings. Your data gets usage while contributing to existing knowledge graphs, for example the NFDI knowledge graphs. Disambiguation and standardization of entities improve the quality of your data.

As a researcher or research infrastructure you may use authority files for your research. Most authority files offer APIs which you allow to use their data in your works. With mapping endeavors – like GNDmul – you gain access to other authority files and may explore additional levels for your research data.



We like to know from you:

1. Do you use authority files?
2. Do knowledge graphs form part of your research?
3. Does your library support you using authority files?
4. How could this support be improved?