Rules for linking

This document outlines the process and rules that were used to link individuals between censuses and discusses the codes used to denote various link strengths.

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A) What is a link and who was linked"

A link is when an individual from document A is found in document B and, using a variety of criteria, is confirmed to be the same person. When an Aboriginal person was found in a census the research assistant would use the search functions of Ancestry.ca and Automatedgeneology.com to look for the same individual in other census years. In general the research assistant would only look for the person within Manitoba, as it was easier to do this than search for them throughout all of Canada.

In the Winnipeg Census project the research assistant attempted to link the following people:

> 1. Any person who was an Aboriginal match and living in Winnipeg or Saint Boniface Town in one or more of the 1901 census, the 1911 census and 1916 census.

> 2. Any person who lived in the same household as the Aboriginal match in multiple censuses. For example if an Aboriginal match was a domestic for the same non-Aboriginal family in both the 1901 and 1911 census, the family would be linked along with the Aboriginal match. This was done to strengthen the case that the Aboriginal person was in fact a link (this will be discussed below). Note that, in the case discussed above, if the Aboriginal match was instead found living with a different family in 1911, the Research assistant would not try to link the family from 1901.

B) Criteria for linking between the 1901-1916 censuses

The list below highlights the criteria used for establishing links from most significant (Name), to least (Tertiary Factors). Multiple criteria had to be met for a link to be established.

1. Name - To be a match a person's name had to fit at least one of the following criteria:

> 1. Name had to be the same or have a similar spelling/pronunciation/meaning. This included anglicized or francisized names and nicknames.

2. The person's middle name in census A was their first name in census B.

3. A person's first name in census A started with the same letter as a person's first or middle initial in census B. For example an individual was John Smith in Census A and J Smith or Ronald J Smith in census B.

2. Age – Age was a very important way to establish links, but some factors made it less reliable:

1. The more time that elapsed between the recording of census A and census B, the more likely it was for a person's age to be different.

2. As a person grew older they were more likely to incorrectly report their age.

Taking these factors into account, these criteria were used when looking for links:

When census A and census B were recorded within 10 years of one another:

To be a match: Age or birth year was within +/- 1 year (or +/- 3 years for people over the age of 50)

To be similar: Age or birth year was within +/- 3 years (or +/- 7 years for people over the age of 50)

When census A and census B were recorded more than 10 years apart

To be a match: Age or birth year was within +/- 2 years (or +/- 4 years for people over the age of 50)

To be similar: Age or birth year was within +/- 4 years (or +/- 8 years for people over the age of 50)

3. Household Members - To be a match: An individual had to share at least one household member in both censuses. A Household not only included family members but also any other individuals who lived in the same house (ex. domestics or lodgers). This also applied to individuals linked to institutions. For example, if in census A two brothers lived at home with their parents and in census B lived together in a foster home.

4. Address - To be a match:

- If living in a city the individual had to live on the same street in each census.

- If living in country the individual had to live in same town or enumeration district in each census (it is important to note that enumerations often changed names or boundaries between censuses, making this difficult to measure).

- If living in institution the individual had to live in same institution in each census.

5. Tertiary Factors- Tertiary Factors incorporated anything not included in the above four categories that influenced a link. This definition was purposefully broad as any number of factors in the census could help confirm or deny a link.

> Positive: Aspects of census outside the four listed above suggested a link. For example, if they have the same place of birth, language or occupation.

> - Negative: Aspects of census outside the four listed above denied a link. For example, if they have a different place of birth, language or occupation, or are difficult to read or crossed out.

C) Linking Using External Information

There were a number of groups who were very difficult to establish links for using census data, including:

1. Women who changed their name when they marry.
2. Individuals who went by a number of names.
3. Individuals who incorrectly reported information such as names and age.
4. Individuals whose household members changed between censuses (most often for children who left home).

Using external/non-census data gathered as part of a separate project (which looked at Winnipeg's Roostertown settlement) it was possible to create links for number of people who were otherwise un-linkable. Note that external linking was not used in all cases, only when people were connected with Roostertown.

Some of the most commonly used external sources when doing linking included:

Metis Families by Morin

The Genealogy of the First Metis Nation by Sprague and Frye

The Winnipeg Free Press Archives

The 1881, 1891, 1906 and 1921 census

MNC Metis Scrip records

Manitoba Vital Statistics

It should be mentioned that the requirements for confirming a link using external sources were often different than when linking between censuses. External sources often contained less information than the censuses and in many cases several external sources were used to provide a fuller picture of an individual. A variety of different techniques were used for establishing external links and the research assistant sometimes had to make personal judgements as to whether a person was a link. Since using external sources to link was so complex, there was no consistent set of rules used.

D) Using the Linking Document

When a person was linked through multiple censuses, they were given a unique Link ID and put in the linking document. Here are some points to keep in mind when using the linking document:

1. On the far left of the linking document is the unique link ID given to a person who has been linked. This can also be found in any census which the individual has been linked to.
2. The linking document is arranged from left to right starting with 1901 and ending with 1916
3. Each census year will include.
   a. The document ID number the person has in that census.
   b. The family number the person has in that census.
   c. Whether a person appears Aboriginal only using that census year as criteria.
   d. Whether a person appears Aboriginal after going through the full process found in the "Confirming Aboriginal Identity" document.
   e. The linking code (see below) given for each year an individual is linked to.

E) Codes for Linking

Note: When doing analysis, it is probably worthwhile to trust High and Medium strengths links, but not worth it to trust Low strength links.

<u>High Link</u>

1.1 Name = match + Age = match + Household members = match

1.2 Name = match + Age = match + Address = match

1.3 Name = match + Age = match + Household members = match + Address = match

1.4 Name = Match + Age = Similar + Household members = match

1.5 Name = Match + Age = Similar + Household members = Match + Address = match

1.6 Medium Link + positive tertiary factors

1.7 Linked using external sources

<u>Medium Link</u>

2.1 Name= Match + Age = match

2.2 Name = Match + Age = Different + Family members = match

2.3 Name = Match + Age + Different + Family Members = Match + Address = Match

2.4 Name = Match + Age = Similar + Address = Match

2.5 Age = Same + Household Members = match

2.6 Age = Same + Household Members = Match + Address = Match

2.7 Low Link + positive tertiary factors

2.8 High Link + negative tertiary factors

<u>Low Link</u>

3.1 Name=Match + Age = Similar

3.2 Age = Similar + Household members = match

3.3 Age = Similar + Household members = match + Address = match

3.4 No Link + Positive Tertiary Factors

3.5 Medium Link + negative tertiary factors