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Danish Name Lexicon: A New Web-Dictionary of Danish Personal Names

Abstract

Danish Name Lexicon (“Dansk Navneleksikon”) is an ongoing project that establishes a web lexicon with Danish personal names. This first edition includes data on the meaning and origin of the most frequent first names in Denmark today. As in other countries, Danish personal names originate in many different languages and have come to Denmark in different cultural contexts and periods. Nevertheless, many names are related in terms of origin and linguistic formation. In the lexicon, we use the relationships between names and name forms to illustrate their development. At the same time, tags are added to each name and name form to characterise their linguistic origin, semantic category, etc. The article explains the data structure that utilizes the relationships between the individual names, allowing all entries about names with shared origin to share this info in the end-user interface, as well as explaining how a suitable format for editing the first edition was established, based on free-ware and without substantial financing. The lexicon has been available for the public since 2021 at <https://ordnet.dk/dnl>, and the results of the first edition show that the innovative data structure is promising and that a continuation of the project with additional name material would seem feasible.

Keywords

personal names, web-dictionary, etymology, name relations, innovative data structure

1. Introduction

Danish Name Lexicon (“Dansk Navneleksikon”, Eggert et al., 2021) is an ongoing project that presents a web lexicon with Danish personal names. The first edition of the lexicon includes data on the meaning and origin of the most common first names in use in Denmark today.

Danish personal names originate in many different languages and have come to Denmark in various cultural contexts and different periods. Thus, each name has its own place in the historical onomasticon but at the same time, different names may also be connected in terms of origin, mode of formation, etc. In the lexicon, we use the relationships between names and name forms to clarify their development and interdependence. At the same time, each name and name form is supplied with tags with information about properties such as linguistic origin, semantic category, etc. These tags can be used to extract name entries with common characteristics for research and other purposes.

The article explains the data structure that takes advantage of the relationships between the individual names, so that all records about names with shared origin can share this information in the end-user interface, as well as explaining how an appropriate format for web publication of the first edition was established, based on software that has been available for free, and with minimal funding. The lexicon was published in its first edition in 2021 at <https://ordnet.dk/dnl>, and the work on the first edition shows that the innovative data structure has worked promisingly. This means that a continuation of the project with additional name material and the addition of quantitative data from the Civil Registration System (CPR)¹ will be able to establish a resource that will avoid the problems that can face even a well-founded, scientifically sound Danish personal-name lexicon.

¹ Det Centrale Personregister, <https://cpr.dk/>

2. The thoughts behind the lexicon

At the Name Research Archive at the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics (NorS), University of Copenhagen,² we have longed for a good and scholarly well-founded Danish personal-name lexicon for many years. Existing lexicons in book form are not very broad and primarily aimed at new parents, as are many commercial websites containing name information, which are also often inaccurate or even unreliable. There are also no onomastically well-founded surname lexicons with Danish name material. The only scientifically based regular personal-name dictionary is Denmark's Old Personal Names ("Danmarks gamle Personnavne", DgP) that only contains medieval name material. In addition, there are publications aimed at new parents such as *Name this Child* (*Hvad skal barnet hedde?*, Lerche Nielsen, 2006) and *The Name Book* (*Navnebogen*, Meldgaard, 2007) which are indeed scientifically based, but very concise. A new web-based and scholarly-based personal-name lexicon based on today's Danish personal names thus fills a gap both in a scientific onomastic context and in the public one.

The aim of the project is to combine name-statistical material from CPR with a name lexicon. The Name Research Archive's database *The Names of the Danes* ("Danskernes Navne")³ with data from CPR in 2005 is an excellent example of how much information can be obtained about the variation we have and have had in the use of names in Denmark both geographically and over time. However, it is obsolete both technically and in terms of content and we need a modern and updated version. The project idea with a combination of name statistics and name lexicon has been included in many funding applications for a number of years, but at the time of writing still without success. The reason for rejection of these applications – when we have been given a reason – has explicitly been that the task should lie within the department's normal activities. Therefore, the management at NorS decided to support the establishment of the lexicon in 2018. This was made possible through a collaboration with Det Danske Sprog og Litteraturselskab ("The Danish Language

² Institut for Nordiske Studier og Sprogvidenskab (NorS), <https://nors.ku.dk/>

³ <https://danskernesnavne.navneforskning.ku.dk/>

and Literature Society”, DSL) on publication at ordnet.dk – a linguistic portal developed by DSL’s Department for Digital Dictionaries and Corpora.

The project “Dansk Navneleksikon” thus began on November 1st 2018 by hiring Lars-Jakob Harding Kællerød for one year as a research assistant and allocating three months of working time each on the project for Michael Lerche Nielsen, Birgit Eggert and Bo Nissen Knudsen. Marie Bilde Rasmussen was initially a consultant on system selection and data structure design, from DSL Nicolai Hartvig Sørensen has been a technician and a valuable sparring partner, and we have exchanged ideas with Lars Trap-Jensen and Henrik Lorentzen, also from DSL. Peder Gammeltoft (now the University of Bergen) and Sidsel Boldsen (NorS) also contributed in the early days of the project.

3. Corpus

Our goal with the first edition of the lexicon is to include first names that are relevant to as large a part of the contemporary Danish population as possible. Of course, a sharp demarcation was necessary in light of the limited time available, but it was also important for us that the first edition should form a solid base to build on for later editions. Therefore, the starting point for the first edition was the most frequent first names in the database *The Names of the Danes*. This database has the advantage that it is the only one in Denmark that includes all first names – not only the first of people’s first names. This means that it gives a more accurate picture of actual name use in Denmark than, for example, the “Barometer of names” from Statistics Denmark,⁴ or the “Baby Name Machine” from the news outlet Politiken (Jørgensen, 2022), both of which only include the first of people’s first names. The corpus for the first edition of our lexicon thus ended by containing the 1000 most common female names and the 1000 most common male names in the database *The Names of the Danes*, and we believe that these names predominantly represent what many today will consider to be ordinary Danish first names. Each different

⁴ <https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/emner/borgere/navne/Baro>

spelling variant in this corpus of 2000 names is counted as one separate name, and in the course of the work additional spelling variants have been included, as some additional names outside the corpus have been included mainly to be able to complete the relationships in the name ‘family trees’. Therefore, the lexicon has come to include approximately 3000 entries in its first edition.

4. Processing of the name material

As mentioned above, the lexicon’s structure has been organized so that the relationships between names and name forms are used to simplify the work and to visualise the links that often exist between names. Central to the structure are ‘first ancestor names’, relationships and tags.

Max *mandsnavn*

NAVNET ER EN KÆLEFORM AF [Maximilian](#)

SOM ER EN AFLEDNING AF [Maximus](#)

BESKRIVELSE

om *Maximus*:

(*latinsk*) "den største"

Navnet *Maximus* er oprindeligt et latinsk tilnavn svarende til adjektivet *maximus*, der betyder "den største".

[Læs mere om navnet *Maximus*](#)

Figure 1. Selection of the display of the entry *Max*. The meaning and origin of the name appear mainly through the inserted display **BESKRIVELSE (“description”) of selected data from the entry for the first ancestor name *Maximus***

Source: screen dump of the entry *Max* in Dansk Navneleksikon.

The first ancestor names are the main element in explaining the meaning and origin of the names, as they are at the top of the lexicon’s hierarchy. Therefore, the meaning and origin of names that relate to first ancestor names are

not explained independently, but reference is made back to the explanation of the first ancestor name. For example, a search for *Max* will show that it is a nickname form (Danish: kæleform) of *Maximilian*, which in turn is a derivation (Danish: afledning) of *Maximus* – which is thus the first ancestor name for *Max*. See Figure 1.

The form of the first ancestor name is, whenever possible, a Danish form or at least a form that has been used in Denmark. Forms that go further back in name history (e.g., Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Arabic forms, etc.) are mentioned in the explanation of the first ancestor name. Among spelling variants, the name form chosen as the first ancestor name is the most frequent form per January 1st 2019 in Statistics Denmark’s “How many Danes have the name...”⁵ Thus, for example, *Apolonia* is the first ancestor name of the spelling variant *Apollonia* (although the form with two l’s is closer to *Apollon*), because there are (slightly) more bearers of the name of *Apolonia* than of *Apollonia*. If there are no name bearers with spelling variants of the first ancestor name in 2019 at Statistics Denmark, the spelling variant that is most frequent in the Names of the Danes is chosen as the first ancestor name. If there are no name bearers there either, then it is the entry form in DgP and then a scholarly guided estimate.

The relationships of the names point back to a first ancestor name through one or more links. The digital format requires singularity of relationship type between two names, and this means that choices often have to be made about what, for example, distinguishes a spelling variant, a development and a formation to another name. Other choices are, for example, whether a name form is Danish or Nordic, whether it is a nickname or a derivation, or whether it is German, Dutch or English. These are factors that must be considered in each individual case, and these considerations are based on all the relevant literature that we can find. The lexicon has the following eight types of relationships:

- **Spelling variant of:** Spelling variation of name forms that originate in the same first ancestor name and where the pronunciation of the name is the same. For example, *Birte* is a spelling variant of *Birthe*, while e.g., *Birta* is pronounced differently, and therefore is not a spelling variant, but a different type of variant.
- **Variant of:** Variant where both spelling and pronunciation are different. The type of variant is specified as an attribute. If it is a type of variant that

⁵ <https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/emner/borgere/navne/HvorMange>

cannot be described in more detail, is simply selected “variant of”. If it is, for example, a Danish, German, French or other national or linguistic variant of another name, the editor selects this from a list. For example, the Italian variant *Massimo* of the above-mentioned *Maximus* (Figure 1) will be indicated as an “Italian variant”.

- **Derivation of:** Formation of a new name by adding a name element to an existing name form. E.g., *Augustinus* < *Augustus*.
- **Nickname of:** Covers various forms of nicknames, specified as an attribute (short forms, hypocorisms, diminutives). E.g., *Beth* < *Elisabeth*, *Johnny* < *John*.
- **Development of:** Reflects linguistic development of a name. E.g., *Jes* is a development of *Jens*, which is a development of *Johannes*.
- **Formation of:** used primarily for “gender-changing” (Danish: moving), i.e. in the case of a male or female formation to a name of the opposite sex. This is indicated by an attribute: ‘gender’. For example, *Nicole* is a female formation (French) of the male name *Nikolas*, and *Jensine* is a female formation of the male name *Jens*.
- **First part is:** If the name is a compound of two names, the first of the compound names is specified here. E.g., *Hans* as first part of *Hans-Jørgen*.
- **Second part is:** If the name is a compound of two names, the second of the compound names is specified here. E.g., *Jørgen* as second part of *Hans-Jørgen*.

All entries are assigned one or more tags that indicate different characteristics of the exact name entry. The tags can indicate the way the name is formed such as “compound name” and “nickname”, they can indicate semantic categories for the words that form the basis for the name, e.g., “spice designation” and “animal designation”. They can also denote cultural origin such as “saint name” and “literary name”, as well as linguistic origins such as “Arabic name” and “Hebrew name”. But they can also denote forms of names that belong to a particular language, e.g., “Polish form” and “Danish form”. The tags used for the first edition of the lexicon are these (in Danish as of 19 April 2021):

toleddet navn, sammensat navn, bibelsk navn, helgennavn, helgenindenavn, gudenavn, latiniseret form, humanistnavn, blomsterbetegnelse, plantebetegnelse, krydderibetegnelse, dyrebetegnelse, patronym, efternavn, stedsnavn, kæleform, kortform, forkortet form, sammentrækning, moving, t-navn, dansk navn, svensk, navn, nordisk navn, finsk navn, germansk navn, tysk navn, frisisk navn,

nederlandsk navn, engelsk navn, keltisk navn, gælisk navn, irsk navn, bretonsk navn, fransk navn, arabisk navn, akkadisk navn, persisk navn, tyrkisk navn, kurdisk navn, græsk navn, græsk-latinsk navn, etruskisk navn, italiensk navn, latinsk navn, spansk navn, hebraisk navn, aramæisk navn, slavisk navn, russisk navn, vietnamesisk navn, kinesisk navn, dansk form, jysk form, sønderjysk form, norsk form, svensk form, nordisk form, italiensk form, vestnordisk form, latiniseret form, fransk form, spansk form, catalansk form, rumænsk form, portugisisk form, engelsk form, skotsk form, irsk form, tysk form, nordtysk form, nederlandsk form, frisisk form, nedertysk form, slavisk form, russisk form, polsk form, græsk form, nygræsk form, arabisk form, ungarsk form, finsk form, tyrkisk form, dansk kæleform, jysk kæleform, svensk kæleform, norsk kæleform, nordisk kæleform, engelsk kæleform, finsk kæleform, frisisk kæleform, nederlandsk kæleform, italiensk kæleform, tysk kæleform, russisk kæleform, slavisk kæleform, fransk kæleform, ungarsk kæleform, litterært navn, skotsk gælisk navn, slægtsskabsbetegnelse, grønlandsk navn, færøsk form, makedonsk-græsk navn, islandsk form, amerikansk navn, spansk kæleform, irsk kæleform, føniskisk navn, afledning, tjekkisk form, serbisk form, balkanslavisk form, walisisk navn

The purpose of adding tags in this way is primarily to assign nuanced information to the individual posts without adding an explanatory text, but also to be able to extract names with the same properties for scholarly research and other purposes.

5. Technical choices

We chose to compile the lexicon in XML format rather than in SQL, which is a choice with both advantages and disadvantages. Data in XML must be converted to SQL in order to be displayed on ordnet.dk, but by using XML we escaped having to have an editor user interface coded before we could start the work. The existing XML editing interfaces, in turn, each present their own problems: e.g., they are either difficult to access or expensive and/or dubiously supported.

As our editing platform, we chose to experiment with www.lexonomy.eu. Lexonomy was originally developed for use in teaching XML for dictionary

projects and is today a free, open-source editing tool for use in “small to medium-sized dictionary projects” (Měchura, 2017). The system is relatively easy to access, both in terms of entering data and designing the data structure, but the system support is very limited. You have to make manual backups of data yourself, and the search options are very limited, which became increasingly inconvenient for us as the amount of data increased. In addition, the XML element content type “Text with markup” simply does not work (as of October 2021). This means that in practice you can only make very limited graphic markup of the text (bold, italics, etc.) under a single element, while in practice it is not possible to make semantic markup (‘name’, ‘language’, ‘meaning’ or whatever one might imagine) – which we have neither done nor wanted to do, at least in the first version of the lexicon.

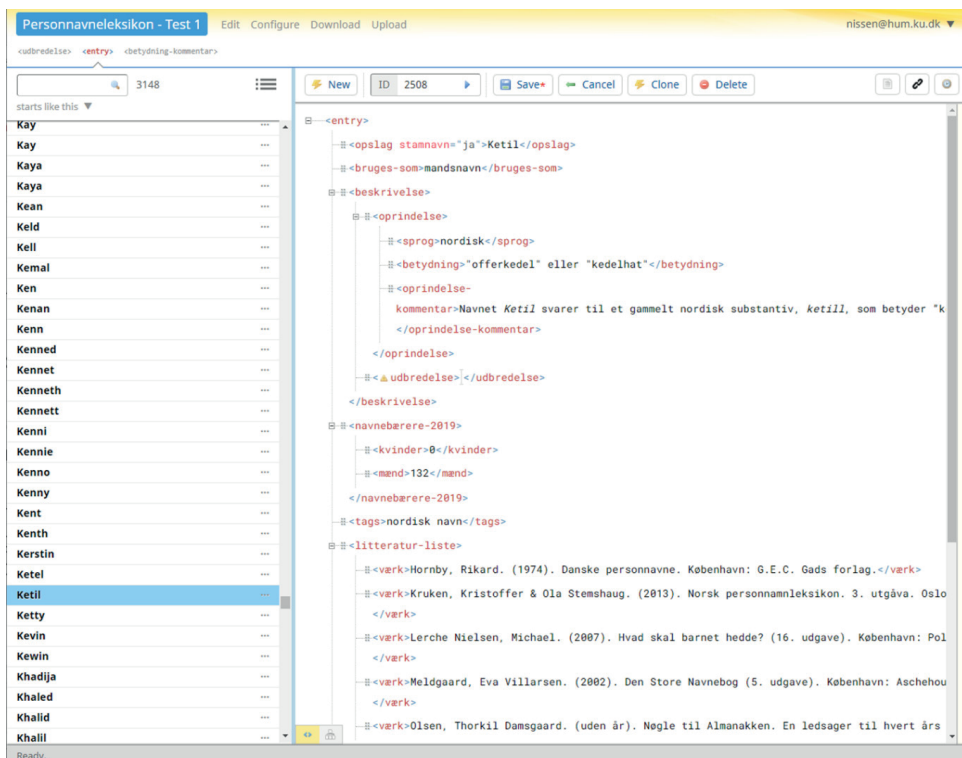


Figure 2. Screenshot from the user interface on lexonomy.eu. The example shows editing of the entry *Ketil*

In general, however, Lexonomy is intuitive and easy to use – but the user interface may be a bit primitive and contain some slightly inexplicable limitations. For unknown reasons, for example, it is only possible to search for entries by searching under the elements **<distribution>** (Danish: **<udbredelse>**), **<entry>** and **<meaning-comment>** (Danish: **<oprindelse-kommentar>**), which in the Danish Name Lexicon make up just three of 33 possible elements under an entry.

The element **<distribution>** is not even among the mandatory elements but the small warning triangle, which may be noticed next to the element in Figure 2, only indicates that the element cannot be empty when it is added.

6. Overall data structure

As mentioned above, an entry in the Danish Name Lexicon contains data under as many as 33 different XML elements and up to 12 attributes. Since the addition of data under some elements precludes the addition of data under others, and some of the elements only serve to structure the other elements, there will never be posts that contain data under all of them. All elements and attributes in the structure are listed in Figure 3 and in addition to the elements that indicate the relationships – which have been reviewed above – a number of other elements will be explained in more detail below. Elements that are mandatory to fill in for all entries are marked in bold, and attributes are indicated with @.

```

<entry>
  <opslag> ("name form")
    @stamnavn ("@ first ancestor name")
  <bruges-som> ("used as")
  <relation>
    <stavevariant-af> ("spelling variant of")
      @id-nr
    <variant-af> ("variant of")
      @id-nr
      @type
    <afledning-af> ("derivation of")
      @id-nr
    <kæleform-af> ("nickname for")
      @id-nr
    <udvikling-af> ("development of")
      @id-nr
    <dannelse-til> ("formation to")
      @id-nr
      @køn ("sex/gender")
      @patronym
    <førsteled-er> ("first part is")
      @id-nr
    <andetled-er> ("second part is")
      @id-nr
  <beskrivelse> ("description")
    <oprindelse> ("origin")
      <sprog> ("language")
      <betydning> ("meaning")
      <oprindelse-kommentar> ("origin comment")
    <udbredelse> ("proliferation")
    <kendte-navnebærere> ("famous name bearers")
  <navnebærere-2019> ("name bearers 2019")
    <kvinder> ("women")
    <mænd> ("men")
  <navnebærere-2020> ("name bearers 2020")
    <kvinder> ("women")
    <mænd> ("men")
  <navnebærere-2021> ("name bearers 2021")
    <kvinder> ("women")
    <mænd> ("men")
  <navnedag> ("name day")
  <tags>
  <litteratur-liste> ("literature list")
    <værk> ("work")
  <interne-noter> ("internal notes")

```

Figure 3. Overview of possible elements and attributes in the Danish Name Lexicon

In addition to the elements that are mandatory in all entries, certain elements are conditionally mandatory. Thus, data must be entered under **<prog>** (“language”) and **<betydning>** (“meaning”) if – and only if – under **<opslag>** (“name form”) it is stated that the name is a first ancestor name. Conversely, it is mandatory to enter data under **<relation>** if – and only if – under **<opslag>** (“name form”) it is stated that the name is *not* a first ancestor name.

At this point, moreover, another limitation is seen in Lexonomy: it is possible to specify which elements are always mandatory, but it is not possible to specify conditionally mandatory elements. It is thus entirely up to the editors to keep track of the latter conditions.

6.1. **<bruges-som>**

Under the element **<bruges som>** (“used as”) the editor can choose between six options from a closed list: ‘male name’, ‘female name’, ‘female and male name’, ‘unknown’, ‘surname’ and ‘first and last name’.⁶ Of these, the first two are clearly most used in the first edition, as it contains only the most frequent first names. However, we should define when we believe that a name is in use as both a female and a male name, and we have chosen to say that at least one of three criteria must be met:

- The name is included in the Agency of Family Law’s list of approved unisex names.⁷
- There were at least five name bearers of both sexes in 2019.
- In 2019, the minority sex accounted for at least 10% of the population of name bearers.

Similarly, we have chosen to say that at least one of two criteria must be met for a name to be marked as being in use as a ‘first and last name’:

- There were at least five name bearers as both first and last name in 2019.
- The minority name use accounted for at least 10% of the population of name bearers.

⁶ Considering the gender debate in today’s society, some of these options appear very binary. This is due to the fact that the Danish administration only operates with two genders both in the current Names Act and in the available name statistics in Denmark.

⁷ A complete list of first names approved by the Agency of Family Law (Familieretshuset) is available at: <https://familieretshuset.dk/navne/navne/godkendte-fornavne>

6.2. <beskrivelse>

The element <beskrivelse> (“description”) does not in itself have any content, but, like the sub-element <oprindelse> (“origin”), primarily contributes to structuring the content contained in the five sub-elements <sprog> (“language”), <betydning> (“meaning”), <oprindelse-kommentar> (“origin comment”), <udbredelse> (“proliferation”) and <kendte-navnebærere> (“famous name bearers”). These elements, at least the first four, can be said to constitute the onomastic core of the lexicon.

- <sprog> (“language”) is only filled in for first ancestor names, where it is mandatory. The language of origin of first ancestor names is chosen from a closed list which includes both individual languages and groups of languages, for example the Nordic languages, if it is not possible to identify a specific language of origin. It is also possible to choose “of unknown origin”.
- <betydning> (“meaning”) is also only filled in for first ancestor names, where it is also mandatory. The meaning of the name in the language of origin is indicated in double quotation marks (“...”), and if there are several options, the options are indicated separately with double quotation marks (“...”, “...” or “...”).
- <oprindelse-kommentar> (“origin comment”) should be filled in as far as possible only for first ancestor names but can also be filled in for non-first ancestor names. Here it is possible to elaborate on the origin or meaning of the name and to indicate relevant reservations about the meaning that is stated between the double quotation marks under <betydning> (“meaning”). If there is a need to enter a comment on the language(s) of origin, it can also be entered here; imagine you have stated “of unknown origin” but have a certain idea of which languages or language groups could be involved, for example.
- <udbredelse> (“proliferation”) is used to indicate relevant, and primarily non-quantitative, comments on the use and proliferation of the name, primarily in Denmark. Here you can write about whether the name has come to Denmark in connection with Christianity or Romanticism, whether it has been particularly prevalent in certain population groups, etc. In the first edition of the lexicon, the possibilities for entering comments here have, however, for reasons of time, been given lower priority than

we had initially imagined, but we hope to be able to add more comments with the upcoming updates.

- **<kendte-navnebærere>** (“famous name bearers”) is only sporadically used in the first edition of the lexicon. Here, formulated in current prose, one can specify name bearers who must be presumed to have had a special significance for the spread of the name. In the first edition, it was a priority to provide information about saints who have borne the name, while great care has been taken not to be tempted to indicate possible sources of inspiration from the present period that are not yet based on solid evidence.

7. Display of data

Out of the 33 possible elements, data from the vast majority are also displayed to the end user. Thus, only data from **<interne-noter>** (“internal notes”) is never displayed. Figure 4a gives an example of how these appear in the end-user interface for a name that is not specified as a first ancestor name, and Figure 4b gives an example of the display of a first ancestor name.

8. Danish Name Lexicon in the coming years

We hope that the first edition of Danish Name Lexicon will be well received when it is published at the end of 2021. And we hope that at a later date we will have the opportunity to supplement the lexicon section with a data extract from CPR with name-statistical data on all citizens who have lived in the country since 1967, so that we could have the opportunity to sort or filter by gender, time (year of birth) and place (parish/municipality/country). With external funding, we should also have the opportunity to show relationships – i.e. family trees – in a slightly more manageable and nuanced way than they appear in the first edition.

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Hjælp Nyheder Om ordbogen

Søg efter et navn

Mente du: Else | Elke | Elsa | Ilse | Elise | Elsie

Søgeresultat

Else, kvindenavn

Alfabetisk liste

I andre opslag (fritekstsøgning)

I andre ordbøger

Else kvindenavn

NAVNET ER EN KÆLLEFORM AF Elisabeth

BEKRÆFTELSE

Navnet *Else* kan være dannet parallelt med *Elsa*, men det kan muligvis også betragtes som en udvikling af *Elsa*.

om *Elisabeth*:
(hebraisk) "Gud er fuldkommen" eller "Gud har svoret".
Navnet *Elisabeth* er den græske form af det hebraiske navn *Elisheba* (אֵלִישֶׁבָּא), der betyder "Gud er fuldkommen" eller "Gud har svoret". I Bibelen er *Elisheba* navnet på Arons hustru, mens den græske form af navnet optræder hos Johannes Døberens moder, som er af Arons slægt.
Læs mere om navnet Elisabeth

År	Kvinder	Mænd
2019	17.678	0
2020	17.020	0
2021	16.335	0

Pr. 1. januar, brugt som første fornavn. Kilde: Danmarks Statistik

EGENSKABER
dansk form | kælleform

NAVNETS STAMTRÆ

Elisabeth

- ↳ Lisbeth
- ↳ Lisbet
- ↳ Elisabeth
- ↳ Elizabet

Figure 4a. Display of the entry for the non-first ancestor name *Else*. The mandatory (and conditionally mandatory) items are indicated with the red boxes, while the optional ones would be indicated in yellow boxes

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I andre ordbøger

Elisabeth kvindenavn

BEKRÆFTELSE

(hebraisk) "Gud er fuldkommen" eller "Gud har svoret".

Navnet *Elisabeth* er den græske form af det hebraiske navn *Elisheba* (אֵלִישֶׁבָּא), der betyder "Gud er fuldkommen" eller "Gud har svoret". I Bibelen er *Elisheba* navnet på Arons hustru, mens den græske form af navnet optræder hos Johannes Døberens moder, som er af Arons slægt.

I sin græske form *Elisabeth* er det et af de mest udbredte kristne kvindenavne. Der findes et utal af videreudviklinger og kælleformer i de forskellige sprog, for eksempel *Else*, *Lisette*, *Bettina* og *Isabella*.

Elisabeth er tillige navnet på en helgeninde, Elisabeth af Thüringen eller Elisabeth af Ungarn (1207-1231) var datter af Andreas 2. af Ungarn. Hun nærede stor omsorg for de fattige, og så hendes ægtemand døde på et korstog, blev hun uddrevet fra hoffet. Hun overgik til et liv i fattigdom og askese, mens hun tog sig af syge i Marburg.

År	Kvinder	Mænd
2019	6.407	0
2020	6.339	0
2021	6.318	0

Pr. 1. januar, brugt som første fornavn. Kilde: Danmarks Statistik

NAVNEDEG
19. november

EGENSKABER
bibelsk navn | helgenindenavn | hebraisk navn | græsk form

NAVNETS STAMTRÆ

Elisabeth

- ↳ Lisbeth

Figure 4b. Display of the entry for the first ancestor name *Elisabeth*. Here, too, mandatory (and conditionally mandatory) items are indicated with the red boxes, while optional elements are indicated with yellow boxes

As it is now – without external funding – we must, however, stick to a development of the lexicon that is feasible with our department’s very basic funding. Therefore, the project will be running at a relatively low speed for the coming years; in fact, only 1 month of working time per year is set aside for the lexicon’s continuation in the future. In addition to occasional additions of comments, corrections and supplements with new knowledge about individual names, the realistic plan for updates right now is that the first edition will be published on ordnet.dk in the autumn of 2021. And that in 2023 there will be an update focusing on the most frequent baby names occurring since 1985 and in 2024–2025 an update with the most frequently occurring surnames in Denmark. As mentioned above, the addition of surnames will fill a gap in the available onomastic lexicon material in particular.

In line with the planned updates, we very much hope that we shall succeed in obtaining external funding that will allow us to intensify the work with the lexicon so that many more first names and surnames can be added, as well as to make efforts to add names with different kinds of focus. It could, for example, be the so-called “bought names” which are invented surnames that one could reserve to be used only by one’s own family for a fee, hence the term “bought names”. It could also be surnames that originate in craftworker designations or in the Latinized names of the humanist era. It could also be a focus on names of a specific origin, for example Vietnamese or Arabic names, preferably with guest editors with expertise in the individual subject focuses, as it is difficult for the current editorial staff to embrace the very broad field that personal names cover.

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