

The GND ontology's class hierarchy - an overview

We do much work with the German authority file [GND \(Gemeinsame Normdatei\)](#), specifically its RDF version. The underlying [GND ontology](#) was published last year and I must admit I haven't been taking the time yet to get an overview over the ontology. Today I started by getting to know the hierarchical structure of the ontology's classes. As I didn't find an overview on the web, I created my own and publish it here.

First I took the current GND ontology turtle file from the GND namespace <http://d-nb.info/standards/elementset/gnd#>, extracted only the classes and their `rdfs:subProperty` as well as the few `owl:EquivalentClass` relations, converted the result to dot format using [rapper](#) and created the following graph image from this:



([Link to high resolution image](#))

As one can see on the image, GND ontology's class hierarchy extends over three levels (except of `gnd:Person` which adds another level to distinguish between differentiated person and undifferentiated persons, i.e. person names). The top class is `gnd:AuthorityUnit` which has seven subclasses that have several subclasses themselves. Additionally, there is the separate class `gnd:NameOfThePerson` that isn't directly linked (with `rdfs:subClassOf`) to other GND classes at all. Here is a bulleted list providing another view of GND ontology's the class hierarchy. (For better readability I put spaces into the GND URI class names.)

- Name of the Person
- Authority Resource
 - Corporate Body
 - Fictive Corporate Body
 - Organ of Corporate Body
 - Project or Program
 - Conference or Event
 - Series of Conference or Event
 - Subject Heading
 - Subject Heading Senso Stricto
 - Characters or Morphemes
 - Ethnographic Name
 - Fictive Term
 - Group of Persons
 - Historic Single Event or Era
 - Language
 - Means of Transport with Individual Name
 - Nomenclature in Biology or Chemistry
 - Product Name or Brand Name
 - Software Product
 - Work
 - Manuscript
 - Musical Work
 - Provenance Characteristic
 - Version of a Musical Work
 - Collection
 - Collective Manuscript
 - Place or Geographic Name
 - Fictive Place
 - Member State
 - Name of Small Geographic Unit Lying within another Geographic Unit
 - Natural Geographic Unit
 - Religious Territory
 - Territorial Corporate Body or Administrative Unit
 - Administrative Unit
 - Way, Border or Line
 - Building or Memorial
 - Country
 - Extraterrestrial Territory
- Person
 - Differentiated Person
 - Collective Pseudonym

- Gods
- Literary or Legendary Character
- Pseudonym
- Royal or Member of a Royal House
- Spirits
- Undifferentiated Person
- Family