Citing online sources for name documentation
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Recent years have been a boon to onomastic (name) resources available digitally. How does one go about translating that information into the tiny "Name Documentation and Consultation Notes" section, and when do copies need to be sent along with the submission form? Well, the answer depends on which source is being cited.

What do you need to include in name documentation?
A summary of the documentation (tl:dr version) as well as a "breadcrumb trail" to be able to locate documentation again as needed. If you are missing either of these components, your submission could be administratively returned for "lack of documentation" (unless your kingdom submissions herald is feeling especially kind and re-creates it for you).

General internet citations
Unless otherwise specified below, citations from internet websites should adhere to the following approximate format. Photocopies must be provided of the front page of the article, and the page containing the documented part of the name (with the name circled or highlighted). Each page should contain the URL for the article, date the page was accessed, and the page number.

Format:
[Name being documented]: [part of speech], [summary of information from the article] - "[title of article]", by [author of article], [date of publication/copyright date], [url], accessed: [date web page was accessed].

Example:
John: masculine given name, listed as 21.37% of the masculine given names in the parish registers found in "Naming Practices in 16th Century Gloucestershire", by Mari ingen Briain meic Donnchada (Kathleen M. O'Brien), 2000, http://medievalscotland.org/kmo/GlocNamePractices/, accessed 7 Jul 2022.

FamilySearch Historical Records citations:
FamilySearch Historical Records (http://www.familysearch.org/search) citations require specific information for commenters in order to be able to verify the documentation, especially the batch number. Information regarding acceptable batch numbers can be found on the SCA Heraldry website: http://heraldry.sca.org/names/familysearch.html No photocopies are required. Be sure to include the URL to the name.
If the name comes from an image within FamilySearch; it may not have a batch number, please include the image as an attachment to your submission, and replace the "batch number" below with the document number and image number.

Format:
[Name being documented]: [Full name], [location of historic name], [type of citation] [date of record], Batch [batch number], [url].

Example:
John: John Atcvme, Arlingham, England, christened 1539, Batch C02657-3, https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/NP5B-353.

SCA Heraldry Articles citations:

Articles available from the SCA Heraldry website (http://heraldry.sca.org/names.html) are articles that may appear elsewhere, and are acceptable for documentation. Use the general internet citation format, and no photocopies are required.

Saint Gabriel report citations:

Saint Gabriel Reports are created via a request to the "Academy of Saint Gabriel" (http://www.s-gabriel.org); a group of volunteers who research medieval names and armory. Archived reports are available (http://www.panix.com/~gabriel/public-bin/archive.cgi) and are generally of high quality for documentation. Be aware of using early reports for documentation as more current research may have been discovered since it was written. No photocopies are required.

Format:
[Name being documented]: [part of speech], [summary of information from the article] - "St Gabriel Report [article number]", [date of publication/copyright date], [url].

Example:
Jaime: masculine given name, late 15th century Spanish masculine given name - "St. Gabriel Report 2703", Mar 31, 2003, http://www.panix.com/~gabriel/public-bin/showfinal.cgi/2703.txt.

Saint Gabriel article citations:

Articles available from the Medieval Names Archive (http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/) are articles that may appear elsewhere, and are of high quality for documentation. Use the general internet citation format. No photocopies are required.

NOTE: Many of these articles are mirrored at http://heraldry.sca.org/names.html, so double check there as well. If it is also on the SCA website, use the SCA URL and follow the citation rules for the SCA Heraldry Articles listed above.

Sources to avoid as documentation:

From the Administrative Handbook (http://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXF): "In general terms, any website that gives no indications (or unclear indications) of its sources for the names or their dates is unlikely to be acceptable." Other sources to avoid:

- Wikipedia - Can be used as a starting point to find other sources, but do not use as documentation for names.
- Baby Name/Name Meaning websites
- Family Coat of Arms websites
- Medieval/Fantasy/Sci Fi etc. Name Generators
- Other indicators of a website whose documentation may be suspect: Use of Comic Sans or Papyrus as a main font, unprofessional layout, or overuse of animations.