

**Purpose:** To explain the rules of attributing gender to lending library members.

**Context:** The logbooks and cards include two primary sources of information about gender: titles and first names.

Beach and her clerks generally recorded people using titles. Using titles was clearly the preferred professional mode of address in the bookshop. When no information from historical records outside the Shakespeare and Company archive is available, gender is attributed according to those titles.

Beach and her clerks sometimes seem to have guessed what title to use, without asking the person what they preferred: occasionally different events clearly attached to the same account are recorded with different titles. Generally, these inconsistencies seem due to a clerk misidentifying a femme person's marital status, i.e. the events vary between Miss and Mrs. or Mademoiselle and Madame.

The information about gender in the database is thus not necessarily indicative of how a member may have identified, but rather of how the storekeepers identified them.

Gender is attributed in the database according to the following four sources. In the case of conflicts between these sources, the order they are listed below is the order of priority: for instance, VIAF is privileged over the titles used in the archive. The one exception is when a married femme person uses her husband's name, as in Mrs. Arthur Richardson: in that case, gender is attributed according to title.

- 1) **Biography and Self-Identification:** If historical records include information about how a person identified, that gender is attributed.
- 2) **VIAF:** If VIAF attributes a gender, that gender is attributed.
- 3) **Titles:** If the logbooks or cards use one of the following titles, the gender of that title is attributed.
  - a) *Female:* Miss, Mrs, Ms, Mlle, Mme, Mrs, Miss, Madame, Mademoiselle, Comtesse, Countess, Lady, Baronne, Duchess, Duchesse.
  - b) *Male:* Mr, Mister, M, Monsieur, Capt, Captain, Baron, Father, L'Abbé, Sir, Vicomte, Col, Colonel, Marquis, Count, Major.
- 4) **Name:** If a first name is commonly associated with a particular gender, that gender is attributed.

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An earlier script (dates indicate ~january 2018) used these titles to attribute gender:

ID: I left out honorifics with periods after them, as well as honorifics followed by “de,” which, except in the case of ranks, is part not of an honorific but of a name.

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FEMALE_TITLES = ['Miss', 'Mrs', 'Mlle', 'Mme', 'Mrs.', 'Miss.', 'Mme.',
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'Mlle.', 'Madame', 'Madame.', 'Comtesse', 'Ms', 'Lady', 'Baronne', 'Mme de',  
'Mademoiselle', 'Mlle de', 'Duchess de Clermont-Tonnerre',  
'Countess', 'Mlle des']
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MALE_TITLES = ['Mr', 'Mr.', 'M.', 'M', 'M. de', 'Capt', 'M. Le',  
'Monsieur', 'Captain', 'Baron', 'Father', 'L\\Abbé', 'Sir', 'Vicomte',  
'Col/Mr', 'Colonel.', 'Marquis', 'Count', 'Major']
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