GedCom Standard

GedCom (an acronym for Genealogical Data Communication) is an open de facto specification for exchanging genealogical data between different genealogy software packages. GedCom was developed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) as an aid to genealogical research. ... A GedCom file is plain text (usually either UTF-8 or ASCII) containing genealogical information about individuals, and meta-data linking these records together. Most genealogy software programmes support importing from and exporting to GedCom format.