

Information sheet

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Migration, human capital and labour productivity: the international maritime labour market in Europe, c. 1650-1815

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The relational database constructed contains two linked tables: ship and crew. They contain multiple variables which are direct transcriptions of data extracted from the Prize Papers. This document explains the construction of the database, the variables contained within it, and an explanation of the entry for each variable.

1.1. Database construction

Prior to entering data abstracted from the Prize papers held at the National Archives (TNA HCA 32), a relational database was constructed in MS Access 2010. It was based on a one-to-many relationship between the ship and the crew tables (see figure 1). Using the Ship ID, which is present in both tables, as the unique code on which to base linkage, each ship can be linked to the multiple interrogated crew members who sailed in her.

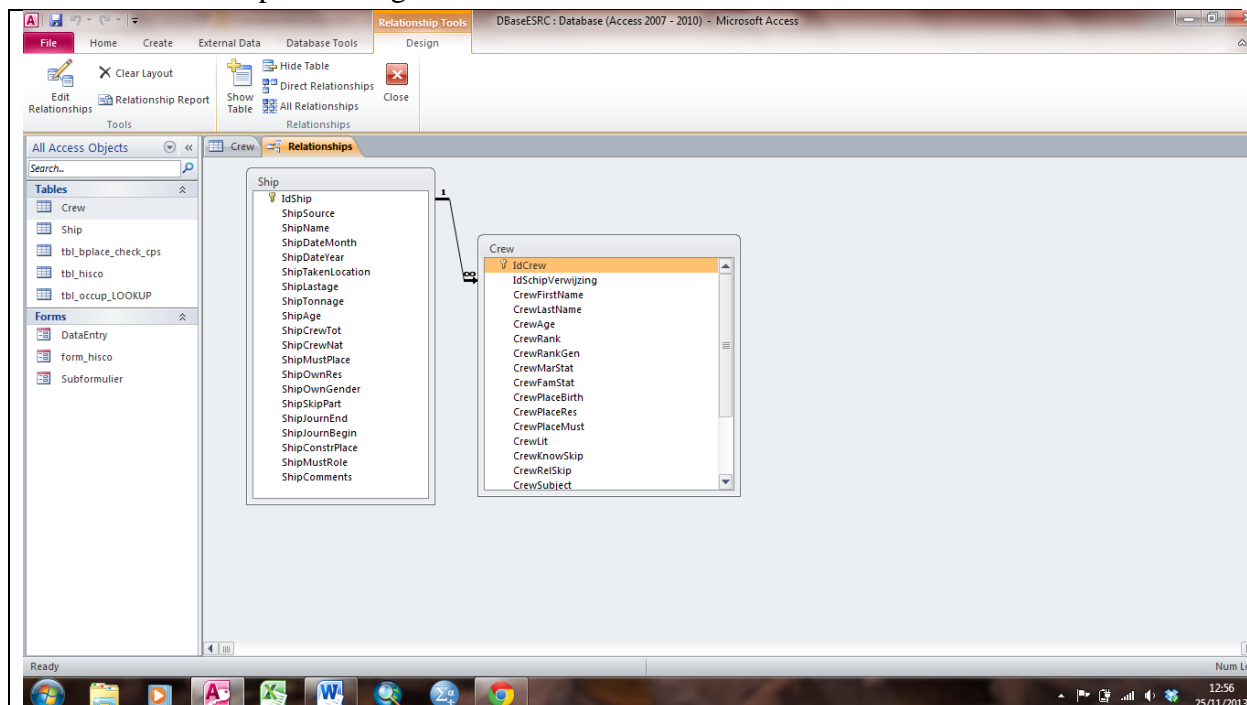


Figure 1. Screenshot from working database file showing one-to-many relationship between crew and ship tables in Microsoft Access 2010.

From this basic relational format, a form for data entry was produced. Figure 2 is a screenshot of the form, populated with the data from ship *Angelica de Redon* (ID892) and crew Louis and Dominique Josseau (IDs 2252 & 2253). The form allows for easy viewing and entry of information in two tables, joined by the one-to-many link.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Access database form titled "Data entry form PP v3.2 13 August 2012". The form is divided into several sections:

- IDENTIFICATION:** 1. Id (Auto): 892, 2. Source: HCA 32, 3. Name ship: Angelica de Redon.
- DATE AND JOURNEY INFO:** 3a. Port interrogator: [blank], 4. Year: 1702, 5. Month: 2, 6. Journey began in: Bordeaux, 7. Planned final destination: Brest.
- TOTAL CREW INFO:** 8. Number of men aboard: 6, 9. Place(s) of mustering: [blank], 10. Nationalities aboard ship: [blank].
- SHIP INFO:** 11. Lasts: [blank], 12. Tons: 40, 13. Age (ship): 2, 14. Place of construct: Redon.
- OWNERSHIP INFO:** 15. Residence owner: Redon Britany, 15a. Gender owner: [blank], 16. Ownership master: Yes.
- ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:** 16a. Does the file contain a muster role with wages?
- INDIVIDUAL CREW DATA:** A table with columns for crew member ID, ship ID, first name, last name, age, rank, generic place of birth, place of residence, place of muster, sign, marital status, family status, duration of relation with master, and family relation with master. Two crew members are listed: Louis Josseau (ID 2252) and Dominique Josseau (ID 2253).

Figure 2. Screenshot of data entry form (based on joined tables crew and ship) from working database.

The variables contained within the form show only those which could be extracted from the interrogations in the Prize Paper archive; that is, they are entered variables. Their selection was based upon a pilot study conducted by van Lottum in 2006, and aims to capture the demographic, occupational and geographical facets of the crew members on board individual ships, as well as the relationships between them, and the economic characteristics of the vessel in which they sailed. It is therefore not a transcription of the Prize Paper archive, but rather an abstraction from it, tailored to the projects research objectives pertaining to labour mobility, migration and economic integration in the early modern period.

1.2 Entered Variables

Although the interrogations used to determine whether a captured vessel was indeed lawful prize followed a pro forma, in some cases information is missing, perhaps through gaps in the knowledge (or willingness to participate) of those interrogated, or omissions on the part of the interrogators, scribes or translators. Therefore not all of the database fields listed below are populated in the case of every ship. Omissions in entered data are coded as blank or 'Data not on form'.

1.3 Ship table

The table containing data on the ships comprises the following variables:

ID Ship (unique key for table, and basis of linkage to Crew table. Number is automatically generated by Access, and does not come from archival data. Each ship has its own reference number).

Ship Source (archival box in the National Archives in which can be found the interrogation from which the ship data came. Archival reference prefaces this with HCA(n).

Ship Name. Transcribed name of ship given in the interrogation pro forma. Some contain locational information as part of the registered name.

ShipDateMonth. The date of the ship's capture, from the interrogation pro forma. To be used in combination with shipDateYear

ShipDateYear. The year of the ship's capture, from the interrogation pro forma. To be used in combination with ShipDateMonth.

ShipTakenLocation: The location recorded in the pro forma for the geographical place at which the ship was captured.

Ship Lastage: the burden of the ship, according to the answers given by her interrogated crew, in lasts.

Ship Tonnage: the burden of the ship, according to the answers given by her interrogated crew, in tons.

ShipAge: the reported age of the ship, from the interrogations of the crew members.

ShipCrewTotal: the number of people aboard the vessel, according to the interrogated crew members. Note that passengers are sometimes included in this number (but this is noted in the Notes column for vessels to which it applies).

ShipCrewNat: the nationalities of the crew members sailing abroad, as reported by those sailors interrogated.

ShipMustPlace: the place at which the crew mustered to sail on their current voyage, as reported by those interrogated.

ShipOwnRes: the place of residence of the owner of the ship, as reported by interrogated crew. This could be reported at a variety of geographical scales, from the town right up to the nation state.

ShipOwnGen; the gender of the ship's owner, inferred from the name and titles given in the interrogation.

ShipSkipPart: A yes/no field, except where no data were present. Indicates whether the vessels skipper had partial ownership of it too.

ShipJournEnd: the reported intended destination of the ship from the sailors' interrogations, before it was captured and brought to port.

ShipJournBegin: the reported origin port of the ship, from the sailors' interrogations.

ShipContrPlace: the reported place of construction of the vessel, from the sailors' interrogations.

ShipMustRole: a yes/no field. Yes is populated when a Muster role is present within the documents pertaining to the ship and its interrogation. Some of these muster roles contain wage data and additional information on the structure and timing of payment.

ShipComments; Free text field, where research assistant doing data entry added additional notes of interest on the vessel at hand. Some contain potential issues or conflicts within the data, while other note the cargo of the ship.

1.4. Crew table

At least one, often more, crew members of the captured vessels were interrogated, to assess whether their ship was lawful prize, and to compare answers across crew members to find out the truth about a vessel's characteristics. The composition of the crew by rank is discussed in section 2.3 of this report. As for the entered variable in the Ship table, missing data are coded as blanks or as 'Data not on Form'. For further information on coding, see section appendix: table of codes.

Id Crew: Primary key for this table. Each recorded individual has a unique key number in this field. The number is automatically assigned by Access, and does not emerge from archival referencing or other coding practices.

ID Ship: Key field on which linkage to table Ship is based. Every sailor in the same vessel has the same number in this field too, meaning that there are repeated values throughout the table. The numbers are automatically assigned by MS Access and do not come from archival referencing or coding practices.

CrewFirstName: The first or Christian name of the crew member, as reported and transcribed during their interrogation. Some were anglicised by the scribes, and this has remained uncorrected. Please note that neither surnames nor firstnames have been standardised for spelling.

CrewLastName: the last name or surname of the crew member, as reported and transcribed during their interrogation. Some were anglicised by the scribes, and this has remained uncorrected. Please note that neither surnames nor firstnames have been standardised for spelling.

CrewAge: Age of the crew member, as reported in the interrogation. This information is not always present in the interrogation pro forma; where absent, the field is left unpopulated. Additionally, age is prone to inaccuracy in reporting, and should be treated with caution. See section 2.5 for summary figures on age heaping in the dataset.

CrewRank: Rank of the crew member, as given and transcribed in the interrogation. Please note that this field is a transcription, and is not standardised.

CrewMarStat: Marital status of crew member inferred from information provided in interrogation. Options are: Married, Single, Widower, or No Data On Form.

CrewFamStat: Residential family status of crew member inferred from information provided in interrogation. Options are: Family, Children, With Parents, With Mother, With Father, No Data On Form.

CrewPlaceBirth: the place, region or country of birth reported by the crew member during the interrogation, and transcribed by the clerk.

CrewPlaceRes: the place, region or country of current residence reported by the crew member during the interrogation, and transcribed by the clerk.

CrewPlaceMust: the place, region or country reported by the crew members for the place of muster for the present voyage.

CrewLit: the mark, cross, signature or clerk's signature made by the crew member on the deposition of evidence which formed his part of the interrogation. Inferred from the text, and classified into the categories: signed by clerk, signed, mark, cross and no data on form. See section 2.5 for information on literacy data.

CrewKnowsSkip: Contains information on the reported time period in months over which the interviewed crew member has known the skipper of the vessel in which he sailed. Varies from numerical data to quotations in text from the archive on the length of acquaintance.

CrewSubject: the reported polity to which the crew member interrogated in subject.

CrewBurgher: whether the crew member claimed Burgher status in a town or city during his interrogation. Categories are: Burgher or Freeman, Freeman or Burgher by birthright none of the above, blank value field (for early period interrogations, where this information was not provided).

CrewResStay: the reported length of time, in years, of a crew member's stay in their current place of residence. If said crew member has been resident since birth, this number should be the same as their age in years. If the interrogation scribe instead wrote 'always', this is retained in the column in place of the figure in years.