

Notes for editors.

These are a few notes I have just started making to help editors who are new to SCDDDB. Some day they could be put on the SCDDDB web pages.

Please send me suggestions for improvements and extensions.
Happy dancing,

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Aliases.

Dances (and we hope other items also) can have aliases. Dance aliases exist in 4 types

- A. Official alias Used when the document defining the item in question has given it more than one name (e.g. Dance 1624 "Just as I was in the Morning" is also named "The Deuks dang ower my Daddie", sometimes spelt as "The Deuks dang ow'er my Daddie").
- B. Spelling alias Used if various source documents that we use to make SCDDDB use different spellings for the same object (as above)
- C. Translation alias Used if the item has a name in a foreign language, and a translation is used.
- D. Unofficial alias Used for colloquial names, nicknames, etc.

Duplicates

To our regret, the database contains some double entries, and it is very easy to create them by mistake.

Avoiding new duplicates.

When creating any new entry, take care not to create a duplicate. Removing duplicates is tricky and laborious.

- Search for objects of the same category using snippets (truncated parts) of the name, and avoiding all accents or "curious characters". Then you are more likely to detect entries which may have misspelled names. Try several truncated bits of the name to be sure to catch any existing entry for your object.
- If you cannot see whether the existing entry is for the same object or for a different one, you have no choice: solving the duplicate issue will have to be done later. Please make that into an "issue".
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Merging duplicates (dances, publications)

If a duplicate is discovered, those entries need to be merged. This can be quite tricky. You have to move a lot of

information around, and as you are handling two blocks of information with the same name it is very easy to get confused. **Warning. : the system is unforgiving; if you lose information there is no "Undo".**

Usually the older entry [lower number] is kept, and the later information transferred, and that entry then deleted. The best start is to rename the copy to be deleted by appending its number. So if I need to merge "Jollydance" [2222] and "Jollydance" [3456], rename that second dance to "Jollydance3456". Then you can see at once where links to that dance remain, and need to be replaced.

The first step is to open both dances for editing [use two tabs], and transfer all information from Jollydance3456 to Jollydance. If information disagrees, you need to make a choice.

After saving Jollydance, open Jollydance3456 and delete all information that you have already moved across (except for the compulsory information in "Overview"). [Do Check. Check first]. Anything that remains still needs to be moved.

The next step is to transfer all links, for example a recording linked to Jollydance3456 has now to be linked to Jollydance. Same for cribs, diagrams (Keith will do that), videos, and "Lists" (see each of the dance's tabs). When you are done ALL tabs should be empty (except for the compulsory information in "Overview").

When all has been transferred, the Jollydance3456 dance page is empty. Then try the red "delete" on the editing page. If only one item is shown for deletion, delete. If more than one is shown, there are still links to be moved. Do that and repeat. However, if you find links to "Collections", you need to ask Anselm, we editors cannot modify those.

Merging Persons

Publications, dance descriptions and other sources often show names differently: Official name or calling name [William, Bill], with or without (some) initials, name changed [marriage], moved elsewhere, spelling errors. Getting reliable evidence of duplicate entries can take quite some detective work. Once a duplicate is certain, do as described above, moving each link from the "moribund" entry to the one to be kept.

Music

Adding music to dances.

Devisers and musicians are often unclear when specifying music. Sometimes they give the tune (for once through), sometimes a recording.

In SCDDDB, the TUNES for a dance are entered at the bottom of the **dance** entry page. This tune then appears on the "Overview" tab after the words "Recommended Music".

However, the link to a RECORDING is made on the page of the **recording**: open the recording for editing, and add the dance to the list of dances. The recording does not show up on the dance page in the tab "Overview", but in the tab "Recordings".

We prefer to indicate Tunes rather than Recordings, as stating a **recording** implies not just the lead tune, but the full set of tunes, and explicitly as recorded by those specific musicians.

Dance Intensity (DI)

Eric Ferguson created the notion of "Dance Intensity" as a single measure to show where a dance lies on the scale of "very inactive" to "active all the time". It can be of use to for instance teachers and programme designers, to ensure dancers get a good mix, and do not find the dancing either "excessively passive / boring" or "excessively tiring".

The "Dance Intensity" is defined as the fraction/percentage of the time that any dancer is actually dancing during the full dance, compared to the maximum possible.

Special cases.

If all dancers participate in each time through, the DI is easily calculated from the definition. If

If not all dancers in the set participate, those "standing out" are counted too.

- So in a 3C dance in a 4C set we first calculate the DI for the 3 couples dancing "once through". The DI for the whole dance is then $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) of that DI.

- A 2C dance in a 4C set is normally danced 11 times in all, as only 1c+2c dance to begin. The DI for the whole dance is therefore 11/16 of the DI for "Once through" in the 2C set.

- If only one dancer of a couple is dancing, count half as many bars for the couple

- Normally men and women dance equally, if not the average is displayed.

In SCDDDB

In dance entries the DI is shown in two forms

- The DI for the whole dance (and sometimes also for "once through")
- The number of bars danced by each of the couples in each phrase of the dance, these counts being separated by a "/". There one can see how active each couple is during each phrase. Most phrases are for 8 bars, sometimes other lengths appear too.
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