IRAN

Country name in English: Iran

Country name in official language: ایران *Irân*

Language in English: Persian, Farsi

Language name in official language: فارسی

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Introduction

Iranian names, excluding the names of the royalty (see Part 4), prophets, Imams and Saints (see Part 5), fall into three periods: Ancient (pre- Islamic) (see Part 1), post-Islamic up to 1926 (see Part 2), and modern times since 1926 (see Part 3) when adopting a family name became compulsory. Royalty names are an exception since they remained the same throughout the three periods.

An Annex is included for element names in Persian script.

Part 1. Ancient (pre- Islamic) (to ca. 622) period
Names in this period were usually single simple personal names. Compound names were rarely used. In either case, entry is made under the name, whether simple or compound. No family name was used in this period.

Name elements
Elements normally forming part of a name

Element	Type	Examples
Forename	simple	Tansar Mazdak
	compound	Bahram Chubin Arturpat Farrokhzatan

Part 2. Post-Islamic period
Iranian names in this period may comprise one or more elements. An individual may have more than one of these elements. There is no specific order in which these elements may be combined, though the order shown below is common. A distinctive name is derived from these elements for cataloguing purposes.

Name elements
Elements normally forming part of a name

Element	Type	Examples
Title of address (*'onvan* or *khatab*)		Aqa Sarkar Sheykh 'Alijenab Seyyed Ayatollah
Nickname (*konyeh* or *konyat*)	Combination of two elements, the first usually being *abo* or *abu* (father of), *omm* (mother of), and occasionally *akhu* (brother of), *okht* (sister of). *Konyeh* forms which do not indicate blood relationship may be *nam(s)* or *laqab(s)*.	Abolhasan Abuhanifeh Abolqasem Omm Kolsum
Forename (*nam* or *esm*)	Usually one or two elements followed by the particle indicating relationship plus forename of the father normally known as the *nasab*	Mohammad ebn 'Ali Hoseyn 'Ali ebn Musa
Relationship or descent (*nasab*), i.e., usually the names of the father, grandfather, etc.	Each *nasab* is generally preceded by a particle *ebn* (son of) or *bent* (daughter of). If the particle is not used, the *nasab* follows directly.	ebn Nadim bent Ka'b Naser Khosrow

Element	Type	Examples
Honorary title or epithet (*laqab*)	Official title; political title; religious title; or denoting intellectual and other achievements	Shah Amir NezamShamsoddin Adibolmamalek
Relative adjective (*nesbat*)	Ending in *i* and usually designates place of birth, residence, profession, religion, or sect. The *nesbat* is often the last element in a name.	Mohammad Taher ebn Hoseyn Shirazi Najafi; Qomi Akhbari (i.e., originating in Shiraz, born in Najaf, residing in Qom and belonging to the Akhbari sect)
Pen name (*takhallos*)	Usually chosen by or given to poets and may be any element in a person's full name. The *takhallos* is often the last element in a name or the element before the *nesbat*.	Sa'di (i.e., Sheykh Moshrefoddin Mosleh ebn 'Abdollah) Hafez (i.e., Shamsoddin Mohammad Hafez)

Order of elements in catalogue headings
General rule

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
All	Distinctive name (Esm-e Ashhar) which may be any of the types listed in 1-7 above, followed by forename and nasab	
	- 'onvan (only if an integral part of name, otherwise omitted)	Aqa Jamal Kh'ansari, Mohammad ebn Hoseyn Mirza Kuchek Khan Jangali, Yunes ebn Mirza Bozorg
	- konyeh	Abolfotuh, Hoseyn ebn 'Ali Abuhanifeh, No'man ebn Sabet
	- nam, followed by the particle and nasab without the use of a comma	Khaled ebn Valid Rabe'eh bent Ka'b
	- nasab	Een Nadim, Mohammad ebn Eshaq
	- laqab	Safi'alishah, Mohammad Hasan ebn Mohammad Baqer

	- nesbat	Razi, Mohammad ebn Zakariya
	- takhallos	Khayyam,'Omar ebn Ebrahim

Part 3. Modern period

Family name became common in Iran since 1926. Middle name are not common. However, prefixes such *us Amir, Bani, Key, Pur, Shah*, and suffixes such as *Beygi, Saz, Pazhuh, Niya, Nezhad, Chi, Zadeh, Pur* are treated as integral parts of family names. Most titles of address (*'onvan*) were abolished in 1926 though some may have become an integral part of the name.Terms of address in use include *Aqa* (Mr), *Banu* (Mrs), *Dushizeh* (Miss), *Khanom* (Mrs and Miss).

Name elements
Elements normally forming part of a name

Element	Type	Examples
Forename (corresponding to the *nam* (given name of earlier times)	simple	Sadeq Farangis Zahra Sa'id
	compound, usually hyphenated when transliterated	Mohammad-'Ali Hasan-'Ali
Family name or surname	simple	Nafisi Forughi
	compound - consisting of two or more words	Modarres Razavi Rezazadeh Shafaq
	- consisting of a woman's maiden surname and her husband's surname in parentheses	Kiya (Khanlari) Omid (Shafa)

Order of elements in catalogue headings
General rule

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
Simple family name	family name	Nafisi, Sa'id Forughi, Mohammad-'Ali
Compound family name	first part of the compound	Modarres Razavi, Mohammad-Taqi; Rezazadeh Shafaq, Sadeq
Compound surname of married women	maiden name, husband's surname in parentheses	Kiya, Zahra (Khanlari) Omid, Farangis (Shafa)

Part 4. Royal names

All royal names are entered under the forename. All epithets are omitted, and numbers are used to distinguish kings by the same name. The dynastic name is always added to the forename plus the royal title.

Order of elements in catalogue headings
General rule

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
1. All	Forename	Daryush Hakhamaneshi, I , Shah of Iran; Bahram Sasani V, Shah of Iran; Naseroddin Qajar, Shah of Iran; Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran

Part 5. The Prophets, Imams, Popes, and Saints
Order of elements in catalogue headings
General rule

1) Prophets are entered under the forename plus the epithet of prophethood.

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
All	Forename	Muhammad, *Payambar-e Islam* Musa, *Payambar-e Yahud*

2) Imams are entered under the forename plus the father's name. Their number in the sequence is added after a comma.

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
All	Forename	Ali Ebn, Abitalib *Imam Avval*

3) Popes are entered under their first name and their number is immediately added, the epithet "Pope" is added after a comma.

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
All	Forename	Pius, IX, Pope,

4) Islamic Saints are entered under the forename and the father's name is immediately added.

Type of name	Entry element	Examples
All	Forename	Zeynab bent-e Ali Ebn Abi Talib Exception: Fatima Zahra

Part 6. Romanization schemes in use

Currently, there are various transliteration standards in the world, the most important of which are the ISO 233-3 and the American Library Association - Library of Congress (ALA-LC) schemes, but none of them capture comprehensively the variety of Persian dialects.

Therefore, by combining the existing transliteration references, we propose for this document a reference list (see Annex I) according to the characteristics of the Persian script that covers the needs of more users.

There are two types of transliteration tasks to be considered:
Transcription, in which the pronunciation is the standard.
Transliteration proper, in which the letters of a language convert to another language's script regardless of pronunciation.

In transcription and transliteration of Farsi to English, the letters considered are from the standard Farsi, as the accents and dialects of different regions in Iran are not usually considered. The Romanization table presented in Annex I pretends to encompass and represent more inclusively all of the Farsi speakers from all of the regions, by combining carefully transcription and transliteration.

National cataloguing codes

The *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd edition, North American text, are used with modifications.

Manual of Cataloging Rules, edited by Mandana Sadigh-Behzadi. - Tehran : National Library of Iran, 1994.

National authority file of names

> *The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People.* Tehran : TEBROC, 1977 (Plus its supplements by National Library of Iran).

Sources and recommended references

ʾAzizian, Nages-Khātun (2021). *A comparative study of the structure of the computerized transliteration of the Persian authorized names database of the National Library & Archives of the I.R .of Iran and other information centers in comparison with existing standards: a model. Ph.D. Thesis Library and Information Science.Islamic Azad University Hamedan.*

> *National bibliography of Iran.* - Tehran : National Library of Iran, 1983-

> Modarres Khiyabani, Mohammad-ʾAli. *Reyhanat al-adab fi Tarajem al-Maʾrufin belkonyeh va al-Lagab.* - Tehran : Khayyam, 1348.

> al-Zerekli, Kheyroddin. *al-Aʾlam; Ghamus-e Tarajom al-Ashhar al-Rejal va al-Nesa*. - Cairo : 1969.

> Moshar, Khanbaba. *Moʾallefin Kotob-e Chappi-ye Farsi, as Aghaz ta Konun.* [Tehran : 1340-1344. 6 vol.

Checked and approved by: Mrs Poori Soltani, National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 20 November 1994.

Checked and review by: Narges-Khātun ʾAzizian. National Library and Archives of the Islamic Republic of Iran. (3 April, 2022).

ANNEX 1: Proposed romanization table for Persian script

This table is taken from 'Aziziān's thesis (see *Sources and recommended references)*

No.	Letters of the Alphabet	Romanization	No	Letters of the Alphabet	Romanization
1	ب	b	17	ض	z
2	پ	p	18	ط	t
3	ت	t	19	ظ	z
4	ث	s	20	ع	/ a,e,o / '
5	ج	j	21	غ	gh
6	چ	ch	22	ف	f
7	ح	h	23	ق	q
8	خ	kh	24	ک	k
9	د	d	25	گ	g
10	ذ	z	26	ل	l
11	ر	r	27	م	m
12	ز	z	28	ن	n
13	ژ	zh	29	و ا و	v/w
14	س	s	30	ه	h
15	ش	sh	31	ى	y
16	ص	s	32	یی، ئی	'i/ ei

Short vowels	
a	(ـَـــ) و (أَ)
e	(ـِـــ) و ( ) (اِ)
o	(ـُـــ) و (أُ) ( )

long vowels	
ā	آ / ا
i	ای
u	ا و

Examples

Element	Type	Names in Persian (consonants/ vowels)	Romanized examples
Forename	Simple	بـابـک	Bābak
		آرش	Ārash
		ابـراهیم	Ebrāhim
		پـرویـن	Parvin
		تـقـی	Taqi
		ثـریـا	Sorayā/ Soraya
		جلال	Jalāl
		چنگیـز	Changiz
		حمیـد	Hamid
		خسرو	khosrow
		د انیـال	Dāniyal
		ذبـیـج الله	Zabihalāh
		راميـن	Rāmin
		زهـرا	Zahrā / Zahra
		مـژگـان	Mozhgān
		سحر	Sahar
		شـایـان	shāyān
		صابـر	Sāber
		فـاضل	Fāzel
		طا هـره	Tāhereh
		مظفـر	Mozaffar
		رعنـا	Ra'nā/ Ra'na
		غزالـه	Ghazāleh
		فـرهـاد	Farhād
		قـاسم	Qāsem
		کتـایـون	Katāun
		گرشاسب	Garshāsb
		مـهـران	Mehrān
		نـرگس	Narges
		وحيد	vahid

Element	Type	Names in Persian (consonants/ vowels)	Romanized examples
		مـهـسا	Mahsā/ Mahsa
		یـلـد ا	Yaldā/ Yalda
Forename	compound	امـیـرحسیـن	Amir-Hoseyn
		فـرهـاد مـیـرزا	Farhād-Mirzā/ Mirza
Surname	Simple	اکبـری	Akbari
		ز ارعـی	Zāre'ie
		خسروی	Khosravi
		سلطانـی	Soltāni
		عبـا د ی	'Ebādi
		طبـاطبـایـی/ طبـاطبـائـی	Tabātabāei/ Tabātabā'i
Surname	compound	اکبـری د اریـان	Akbari-Dariyān
		آبـا دیخو ا ه	Ābādikhah
		مـحمدی یـادگـا ری	Mohammadi-Yadegāri
		خد اپـرست شریـفـی	Khodaparat Sharifi