Knowledge Base
of Traditional Dances

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Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances: A Cross-Referenced System of Databases

János Fügedi
Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

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Institute for Musicology

Introduction

The *Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances* publishes research data, documents, and sources kept in the Archives of the Traditional Dances of the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities (RCH), Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) by means of cross-referenced internet databases. The short history of the Archives and their collections is introduced in the article titled "The Archives of Traditional Dances at the Institute for Musicology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences" (Dóka et. al. 2016) within the frame of the *Knowledge Base*.

The majority of the preparatory works to build the *Knowledge Base* was accomplished between 2009 and 2014, supported by the National Scientific Research Fund (OTKA), project No. NK 77922. More than 20 people participated in the project; they are introduced in a compilation titled "The Team: Editors and Contributors of the Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances" (Fügedi 2016a). The *Knowledge Base* is developed continuously; the amount of data and that of the uploaded documents are regularly increased.

In the following the content, structure, and use of the databases are presented briefly. The definitions of data names can be read in the compilation titled "The Data of the Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances" (Fügedi 2016b).

In the texts typographic tools are applied to help distinguishing data types. Names of the databases are set up small caps (e.g. Films). San Serif typeface is selected for the names of cells in a database (e.g. Download/webpage). Titles of publications, such as books, periodicals, films, CDs, digital databases are italicized, those of papers and book chapters enclosed in quotation marks (e.g. "Tánc," a chapter in the book titled *A magyar folklór*). Hyperlinked titles are highlighted blue only when mentioned first; to help readability, the hyperlink is dropped when the title is mentioned again. However, hyperlinks are maintained for the short in-text citations (see more detailed in the next chapter when Bibliography is discussed).

The Databases

The introduction of the databases follows their sequence of their appearance in the menu bar of the *Knowledge Base*. All the mentioned collections (Film, Photo, Manuscript, Dance Notation, Motives Collection, and the Collection of Dance Rhymes are introduced in detail in the article by Dóka et. al. (2016).

Films presents the research data of moving pictures stored in the Film Collection of the Archives of Traditional Dance. The set of data includes the location and date of research, the names of the researchers, the content, primarily the names and the genre of the recorded dances, the names of their performers, and the occasion of the research.

Dances publishes a selection of moving picture clips, the dances in the Film Collection, representing all types of Hungarian traditional dances. The first selection was made by choreographer Zoltán Farkas *Batyu* and János Fügedi for the internet presentation of *A magyar néptánc típusai* [Types of Hungarian Traditional Dances] in the online *Sulinet Knowledge Base*. The set was extended by Péter Lévai, lecturer

at the Hungarian Dance Academy, and ethnographer Lujza Ratkó, to help the teacher training education methodology at the Hungarian Dance Academy. All dances notated and published in the anthology *Old Hungarian Dance Style—The Ugrós* by János Fügedi and András Vavrinecz, those in a planned monograph by Zoltán Karácsony on the Kalotaszeg *legényes*, and several ones in the book titled *Magyar tánctípusok és táncdialektusok* by György Martin (1970-1972) are also included in Dances, therefore it presents a cross-section of Hungarian dance types and dialects. Beyond introducing the research data (names of the dances, performers, researchers, location and date of research) of the presented dances, the database identifies the dialect, type and subtype of the dances as established by György Martin in his works *Magyar tánctípusok és táncdialektusok* (second edition, 1995) and *Tánc*. The IDs of other related data such as dance notations, music accompanying the dance, are also included. The clips can be played by clicking on the icon image via an internet video sharing system.

Photos presents the metadata of the negatives in the Photo Collection of the Archives of Traditional Dances. Beyond publishing the archive data, it describes the subject of the photo or the name of the person(s) on the document. An icon image of the photo data sheet with the photo itself is presented in the database page as well. A click on the image opens an enlarged picture in a separate window.

Manuscripts introduces the data of the paper-based documents stored in the Manuscript Collection of the Archives of Traditional Dances; beyond the title the pubished data include the name of the author and the genre of the document as well.

Dance Notations presents the archive data of the notation manuscripts kept in the Dance Notation Collection. For notating dances the Hungarian notators apply the system of Laban kinetography. Until the end of 1980s several dances and dance motifs were notated and published textually as well. The textual notations are also stored in Dance Notations.

Motifs publishes the data of the Motif Collection. When a line of the database is selected, the icon image of the motif can also be seen. A click on the image opens an enlarged picture in a separate window of the browser.

Data Index is an integrated set of data IDs of all documents stored in the Archives of Traditional Dances. The IDs of collections mentioned above (Film, Photo, Manuscript, Dance Notation, Motifs), and those of the magnetic tapes, vinyl LPs, and music logbooks connected to the research data of the dances are indexed by the location and date of research. A record of the database includes all the IDs of documents created in the same location on the same day of research, with the IDs of secondary documents (textual, dance, and music notations), results of preparatory works to publish the research documents.

Lexicon describes primarily the dance names, notions of ethnochoreology research, and short biographies of outstanding personalities of traditional dance. The selected sources include lexicons (such as the *Brockhaus Riemann Zenei Lexikon*, *Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon*, *Néptánc kislexikon*), publications in the subject of dance folklore (e.g. the book *Motívumkutatás, motívumrendszerezés: A sárközi–Duna menti táncok motívumkincse* by György Martin), and online sources (e.g. the section titled *A magyar néptánc típusai* in *Sulinet Knowledge Base*). Several entries were applied without changes; some of them were modified to follow the results of new research. The fact of a change was indicated by identifying the editor of the entry.

Bibliography's primary role is to introduce in detail the publication data of

sources used in the entire *Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances*. The databases refer to the items of Bibliography by a short form of citation (e.g. Martin György 1995a). A click on the short form opens the relevant entry of the Bibliography in a new window of the browser.

The text link in the cell named Download/website in Bibliography points to the address where the document is available. If a *pdf* icon can be seen in the same cell, a click on the icon downloads the *pdf* version of the document. Cell titled Full reference presents a complete bibliographic entry. The format applies the "author–date" method, its style follows the recommendations of the Modern Language Association.

Dance Tunes presents music data and notations released in folk dance and folk music publications; for the time being it introduces the already published notations of the *ugrós* dance type; the types of the tunes are defined as established in *Az ugrós táncok zenéje* by Katalin Paksa.

Dance Rhymes publishes a selection from the shouted rhymes collection of the Archives of Traditional Dances; it presents only the rhymes applied at dance occasions, the ones shouted at weddings are not included. Each entry is classified according to its content; only the main categories, as established by Gyula Pálfy 2004, are applied, the large number of subcategories is left out. The texts are presented as they were printed in the sources. The words with special, diacritical marks can be searched by both the notated dialectic and the standard language forms, however, the hits are presented always as are in the original text. Standard language transcription was used only in cases when the meaning could be defined exactly. The original forms of words belonging to a language dialect, whose determination was possible only by periphrases, were kept (e.g. *aranylapi*, *bütül*, *plajbász*, *prádé*). Words were transcribed into standard language, whose forms deviated only by their vocal indication or spelling (e.g. *tá'sad – társad*, *elmenyek – elmegyek*, *hájjunk – háljunk*, *mënyemet – menyemet*). Certain indexes applied by Pálfy, such as rhythm formula, number of syllables are not included in the database.

Folk Games is not available at present. As planned, it will publish a collection of folk games, classified by Katalin Lázár (Lázár 2002-2008).

Historical Sources is not available at present. As planned, it will publish a collection of written sources on traditional and social dances from the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

Choreographies is not available at present. As planned, it will publish a collection of notated traditional dance choreographies published in Hungary.

eBooks is not available at present. As planned, it will publish a collection of books, regarded important from the point traditional dance research, in the form of ebooks available online.

LabanGraph is not available at present. As planned, it will publish an application to support the editing of the Laban kinetography by computer. The application runs under the graphical software AutoCAD.

The Structure and Use of Databases

To follow the explanation it is worth running the databases parallel with reading the present text. A database can be selected on the menu of the *Knowledge Base*. The frame structures of the databases are unified, however—as required by content—the data structure of their records may be different. The identical structural elements are discussed below by introducing Films.

The chart appearing on the left side of the screen when a database is opened is called the Hit List—see figure 1. The Hit List presents the result of a search. When a database is opened, the search result is its full content. The highlighted yellow line is the selected line of the database. The selection can be changed by clicking on an underlined number in the leftmost column. All texts underlined indicate a special function; these functions will be discussed later.

	No.:	Locality:	County:	Content:	Genre:	Nationality:
1	Ft.1	Cigánd	Zemplén		constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
2	Ft.2	Nagykálló	Szabolcs	kállai kettős	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
3	Ft.3	Derecske	Hajdú	verbunk	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
4	Ft.4	Váralja	Tolna	karikázó; kanásztánc	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
5	Ft.5	Hosszúhetény	Baranya	kanásztánc	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
6	Ft.6	Mezőkomárom	Veszprém	kanásztánc; söprűtánc; kopogó; üvegcsárdás; mezőkomáromi csárdás	original traditional dance; constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
7	Ft.7	Porcsalma	Szatmár	botoló	original traditional dance	Gypsy
8	Ft.8	Magyarvista	Kolozs	legényes	original traditional dance	Hungarian
9	Ft.9	Csíkszenttamás	Csík	székely verbunk; udvarhelyszéki verbunk; huszárverbunk	original traditional dance	Hungarian
10	Ft.10	Csíkszenttamás	Csík	hétféle; kezes; románo; polka; verbunk; csárdás	original traditional dance	Hungarian
11	Ft.11	Csíkpálfalva	Csík	székely verbunk	original traditional dance	Hungarian
12	Ft.12	Szentegyházasfalu	Udvarhely	székely verbunk	original traditional dance	Hungarian
13	Ft.13	Inaktelke	Kolozs	legényes; csárdás	original traditional dance	Hungarian
14	Ft.14	Szatmárököritó	Szatmár	juhásztánc; csapásolás; csárdás; fergeteges; tyukodi csárdás	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
15	Ft.15	Lőrincréve	Alsó-Fehér	pontozás; öreges; csárdás	original traditional dance	Hungarian
16	Ft.16	Kóny	Győr	verbunk	original traditional dance	Hungarian
17	Ft.17	Jegenye	Kolozs	legényes; csárdás; körcsárdás	original traditional dance	Hungarian
18	Ft.18	Türe	Kolozs	gólyatánc; tücsöktánc; prücsök; csárdás; sifitelő; legényes	original traditional dance	Hungarian
19	Ft.19	Gyimesközéplok	Csík	régi héjsza; korobjászka; verbunk; hétlépés; háromtoppantós; egytoppantós; háromsirűlős; sormagyar; hosszúléptetű; talján polka; moldovai; sánta németes	original traditional dance	Hungarian
20	Ft.20	Méra	Kolozs	legényes; csárdás	original traditional dance	Hungarian

Fig. 1

The two-column chart on the right side of the screen is the Data Sheet—see figure 2. The Data Sheet presents additional information on the item in the Hit List's selected line.

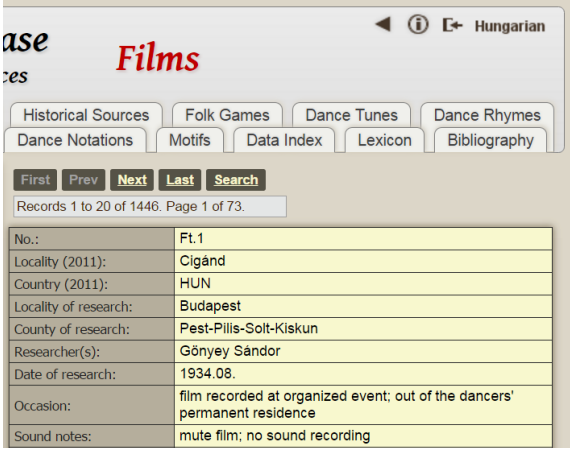


Fig. 2

The line above the Data Sheet, circled in figure 3, introduces data on the result of a search. Figure 3 represent the data when FILMS is opened. The line

Records: 1 to 20 of 1446. Page 1 of 73.

informs us that records 1 to 20 can be seen from a total result of 1446 records, and these records are on page 1 of 73 database pages. Therefore FILMS consists of 1446 entries.

The control buttons above the information line help browsing the Hit List—see figure 4. Buttons **First** and **Last** navigate to the first and last page of a Hit List, buttons **Prev** and **Next** change the pages. If a text element is underlined in the *Knowledge Base,* it behaves as a button with a function added.

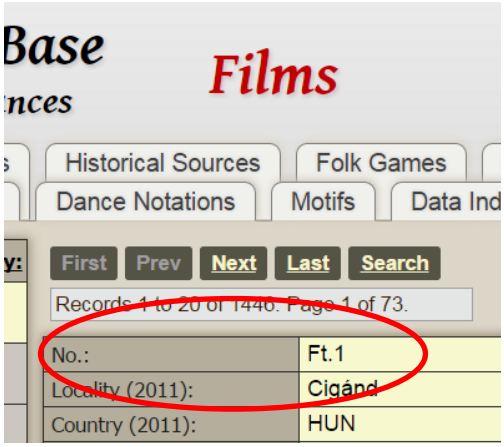


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

A click on button **Search** initializes the search function of a database. Figure 5a presents the search window of FILMS. A search criterion can be set either by clicking on a text box and selecting an item from the list, or by typing the text into the box. In figure 5b the roll-down list Genre is open. More than one criteria can be stated for a search; the selected conditions are in Boolean AND relations. A click on button **SEARCH** generates the result. Button **Defaults** erases the previous search conditions. A click on button **Cancel** returns the system to the previous search result.

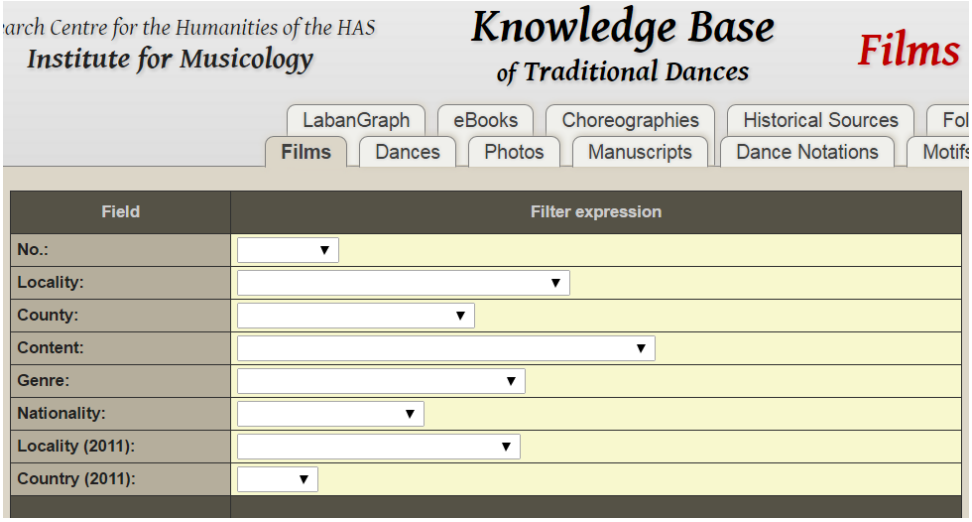


Fig. 5a

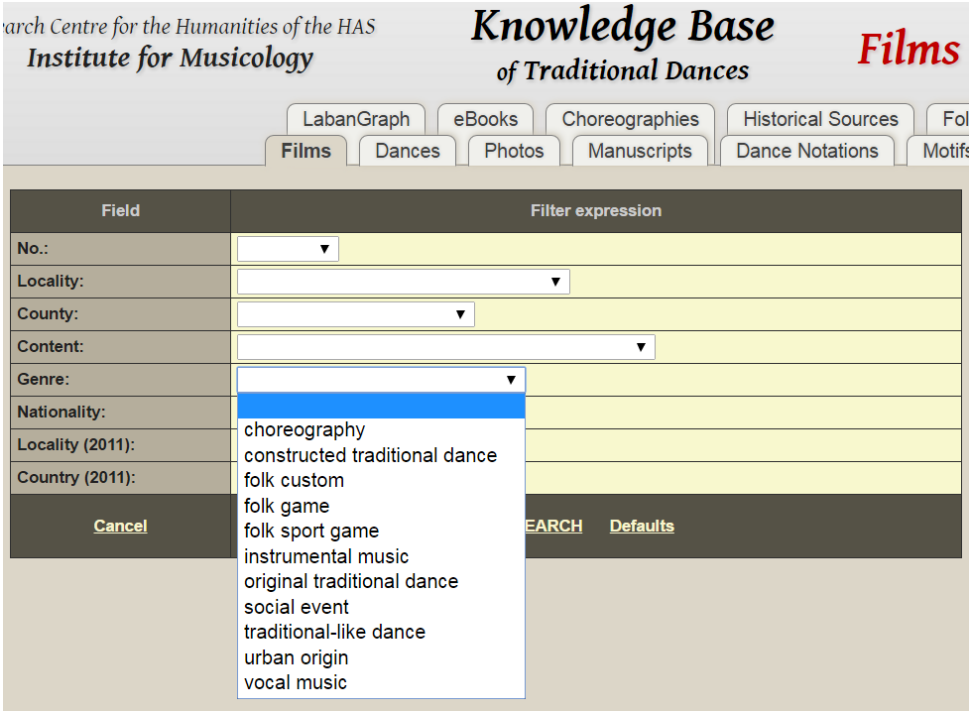
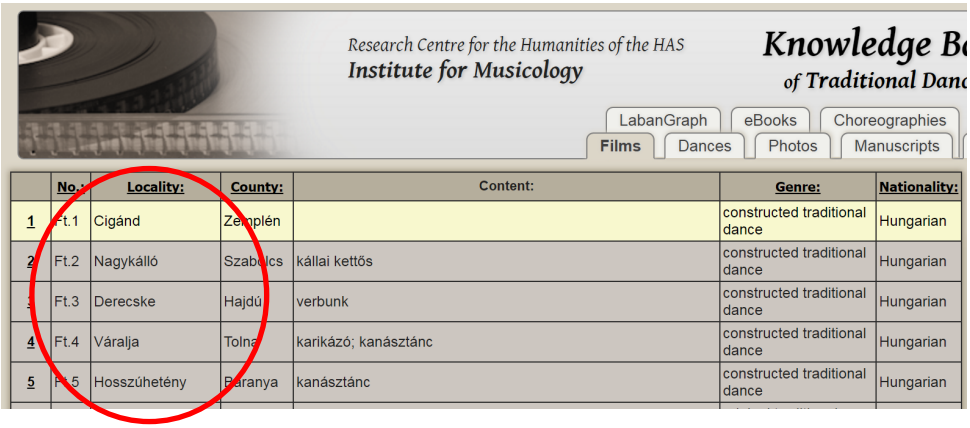


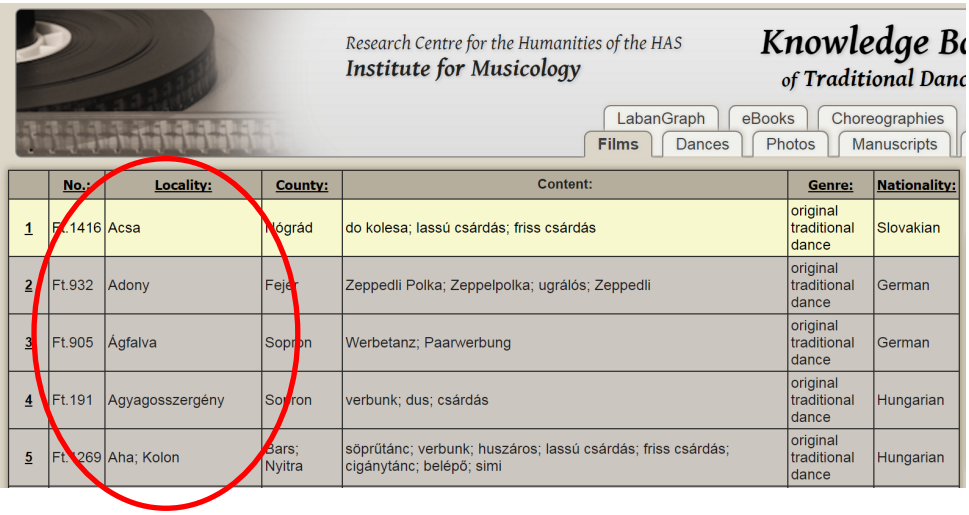
Fig. 5b

When a database is opened, its records appear in the sequence of their initial input into the system. Search results keep this sequence when presenting the list of hits. The records can be arranged alphabetically (or numerically) by clicking on an underlined name of a column in the Hit List; a repeated click re-arranges the order in an inverse alphabetic list. Figure 6a shows the first five records of FILMS, figure 6b presents the result after a click on column heading **Locality**.



	No.:	Locality:	County:	Content:	Genre:	Nationality:
1	Ft.1	Cigánd	Zemplén		constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
2	Ft.2	Nagykálló	Szabolcs	kállai kettős	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
3	Ft.3	Derecske	Hajdú	verbunk	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
4	Ft.4	Váralja	Tolna	karikázó; kanásztánc	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian
5	Ft.5	Hosszúhetény	Baranya	kanásztánc	constructed traditional dance	Hungarian

Fig. 6a



	No.:	Locality:	County:	Content:	Genre:	Nationality:
1	Ft.1416	Acsa	Nógrád	do kolesa; lassú csárdás; friss csárdás	original traditional dance	Slovakian
2	Ft.932	Adony	Fejér	Zeppedli Polka; Zeppelpolka; ugrálós; Zeppedli	original traditional dance	German
3	Ft.905	Ágfalva	Sopron	Werbetanz; Paarwerbung	original traditional dance	German
4	Ft.191	Agyagosszergény	Sopron	verbunk; dus; csárdás	original traditional dance	Hungarian
5	Ft.269	Aha; Kolon	Bars; Nyitra	söprűtánc; verbunk; huszáros; lassú csárdás; friss csárdás; cigánytánc; belépő; simi	original traditional dance	Hungarian

Fig. 6b

Cross-Referenced Databases

The databases of the *Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances* are cross-referenced to help finding related content and to avoid repeating data. All underlined, colored texts in cells of a database are references to a record of another database or a web site. A click on the underlined text opens the record of the *Knowledge Base* or the site in a new window of the browser.

Figure 7a shows a section of the first, selected record of Dances after opening the database. The figure is completed with a section of the corresponding Data Sheet. Cells Film and Dance notation of Data Sheet include underlined information. In cell Film the underlined Ft.6 indicates that the dance can be found on film No. 6 in the Film Archive. A click on Ft.6 presents the corresponding record of Ft.6 in Films in a separate window of the browser as shown in figure 7b. Cell Dance notation includes two underlined items, Tit.114 and Tit.1408. A click on any one of them presents the corresponding record of Dance Notations in a new window. Figure 7c shows the record of Tit.114.

	No.:	Dance name:	Locality:	County:	Performer(s):	Video:
1	Ft.6.1	kanásztánc	Mezőkomárom	Veszprém	Progl Ferenc	
2	Ft.6.4	kopogó	Mezőkomárom	Veszprér		

Dance dialect:	Mezőföld
Dance type:	dance with props
Dance subtype:	kanásztánc
Film:	Ft.6
Dance notation:	Tit.114; Tit.1408

Fig. 7a

Films | Dances | Photos | Manuscripts

	No.:	Locality:	County:	Content:	Genre:	Nationality:
1	Ft.6	Mezőkomárom	Veszprém	kanásztánc; söprűtánc; kopogó; üvegcsárdás; mezőkomáromi csárdás	original traditional dance; constructed traditional dance	Hungarian

Fig. 7b

Films | Dances | Photos | Manuscripts

	No.:	Dance No.:	Dance name:	Locality:	County:	Performer(s):
1	Tit.114	Ft.6.1	kanásztánc	Mezőkomárom	Veszprém	Progl Ferenc

Fig. 7c

In figure 7d the Hit list of record Tit.114 in Dance Notations can be seen, its Data Sheet attached. Column Dance No. includes Ft.6.1, a click on it returns the user to the corresponding record in Dances. A click on Ft.6 in cell Source of Data Sheet opens Films as shown in Figure 7b. New related data are indicated in cell Published in. A click on e.g. Molnár István 1947 opens the corresponding record in Bibliography as shown in figure 7d, the data of the publication where the dance notation was published.

Films | Dances | Photos | Manuscripts

	No.:	Dance No.:	Dance name:	Locality:	County:	Performer(s):
1	Tit.114	Ft.6.1	kanásztánc	Mezőkomárom	Veszprém	Progl Ferenc

No.:	Tit.114
Source:	Ft.6
Locality (2011):	Mezőkomárom
Country (2011):	HUN
Notator:	Lányi Ágoston
Date of notation:	1952.
Genre:	dance sections
Measures:	37 x 2/4; 24 x 4/4
Dance dialect:	East Transdanubian
Dance type:	dance dance with props
Dance subtype:	kanásztánc
Published in:	Molnár István 1947: 392–395 (sz); Pesovár Ferenc 1969a: 119; Pesovár Ferenc 1980b: 161–162; Pesovár Ferenc 1983: 195–196.
Notes:	

Fig. 7d

Films | Dances | Photos | Manuscripts

	Author/editor:	Year:	Title:
1	Molnár, István	1947	Magyar tánchagyományok.

Fig. 7e

Authorization of Documents Published in the *Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances*

Downloading and using any of the data, the film clips, photos, notations and textual documents published in the *Knowledge Base of Traditional Dances* are permitted for scientific and educational purposes. Any other use of the documents or their parts (publishing, broadcasting, selling, copying, sharing on the internet, etc.) needs the written permission of the copyright owner of the documents. Permission can be asked for at the address zti@btk.mta.hu.

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