

Using Norway's Digitalarkivet 23 August 2008

What is it? Norwegian archived records available to the world public on the Internet.

What records? Norway census; Norway Church records; Norway emigrant records and other.

How do I access it? Go to a single Internet Address known as Digitalarkivet: <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/>

Are these records in English? No. These are Norwegian records in Norwegian. But there is an English option for viewing some instructions and choices.

Is there a cost or fee? No. Norway believes these records should be available to the public free of cost.

Digitalarkivet: Summary

Norwegian Census:

Digitalarkivet census records are digital (typed) versions of original handwritten documents. Full Norway census is available for: 1801, 1865 and 1900. These records are searchable and include: residence at time of census; age or year of birth; place of birth; occupation; married status and other information.

Norwegian Church Registers:

Digitalarkivet church records are pictures of original documents. These are not searchable in the same way as census and include: Birth/Baptism; confirmation; marriage; death/burial; incoming/outgoing members; and other records.

Other Databases:

Emigrant and other records are also available at Digitalarkivet. Many of these record groups are limited in scope. If available for your area, these records can quicken your search.

Digitalarkivet: Overview

- Step 1:** Go to: <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/>
- Step 2:** Click on the English language option always and often.
- Step 3:** Review Digitalarkivet HOME Page contents.

Save or bookmark this WEB site address for future reference. This is where you begin using this service for any search.

Note what is listed at the top of the page in the long dark blue bar: Database selector | 1801 | 1865 | 1875 | 1900 | Search in all the databases | Digitised parish registers.

We are going to focus on how to do census search (1801, 1865, 1875 and 1900); how to locate pictures of original church records in “digitized parish registers”; and how to search ship registers.

Virtually all records and available information can be accessed from the Database selector. My recommendation, first learn the census search process. Then searching for other records under the “database selector” will be much less difficult.

The “Search in all the databases” option will not be described in this paper. I do not know how to use that area effectively. The instructions are currently only in Norwegian and the Help link isn’t yet active.

Digitalarkivet: Census Search

At the top of the Digitalarkivet Home page on the Internet are four numbers, each representing a Norway census year: 1801 1865 1875 1900. You can search these census records. The 1875 census has, so far, been completely transcribed only for certain municipalities.

Step 1: Go to: <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/>

Step 2: Click on the 1865 Census Year.

The look and options will vary by census year. But the basic structure and search process is the same. The 1865 Census is critical to finding ancestors who came to America mid to late 1800.

Step 3: Review the content of this new page.

There are two major groupings of information on this page: Database selector and Documentation. In the lower right we see also a census description. A HELP link assists you with your search process.

Step 4: Continue the Search (by example).

Make the following choices:

- County = Select Sør Trøndelag. The screen provides a list for next option.
- Click on 1601 Trondhjem (Trondheim). The total for the area is 19,281.

Now the search for the person begins. We will search for Edvard Wullum.

- Under the “New Person Search”, in Box A choose “Age”
- In Box B choose “contains”; in Box C type “32-36 and click SEARCH

Now there are 1537 possibles.

- Under the new “New Person Search”, in Box A choose “Sex”
- In Box B choose “equals”; in Box C type in “m” and click SEARCH

Now there are 710 possibles.

- Under the new “New Person Search”, in Box A choose “Given Name”
- In Box B choose “starts with”; in Box C type in “ed”

Now there are 16 possibles. Browsing these we have 1 Edvard Wullum. But notice how it is spelled: Edevard Wollum.

Digitalarkivet: Digitised Parish Registers Search

Norway vital records were maintained by the local parish (church). These line item records were hand written in books by the priest (pastor). Often, members of a family who presented a child for baptism, for instance, could not read or write. It was left to the priest to record what he heard them say. For this reason, names are often spelled differently across records.

These church records cannot be searched in the same way as census records.

Step 1: Go to: <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/>

Step 2: Click on “Digitised Parish Registers”

Step 3: Choose “Read the Digitised Parish Registers”

This brings you to a search tool for parish records. Unlike census search you must ultimately browse (page through) a register or book.

Step 4: Continue the Search (by example).

Do the following in search of an Einar Wullum born 30 Aug 1875 in Trondheim:

- Select county = Sør Trøndelag. The screen updates with a list of registers.
- Select parish = Trondheim/Vår Frue Kirke.
- Select from the registers: 1873-1879 Parish register (official)
- Select under Birth and baptism records: 1875(041).
- Page forward to that record by using the arrow buttons.

We learn that the record is very likely #199: Einar Johannes. From this line item record we learn (left to right): 199th baptism of year; birth date; baptism date; child’s name; parents names, ages, years married and residence; and sponsors names.

Other User options are available at the top of the page: Image size: range = 20-150% size | Image Information: opens on “none”; always choose “on top” | Display page header: “yes” only if you want Digitalarkivet header. For future reference, hi-lite and save all three lines of document description.

Digitalarkivet: Database Selector Search

Step 1: Go to: <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/>

Step 2: Click on “database selector”.

All records, including those in the shortcuts across the top of the page, can be reached from this link choice.

Step 3: Initial selections.

Initial selection groups are for County, Source Category and Period. These are always there at the start. But these may expand depending upon your initial choices.

Step 4: Continue the Search (by example).

Choose “Emigrants” under Source Category. This is the source of ship records for Norwegians who came to America. The task is to “drill down” from the total number of records in the data base and get to the record you want.

Do the following:

- choose Sub-category = Registers. You get a list of port of departure registers.

- choose the only option under Sør Trøndelag.

Now you have a list of 193,230 records.

- in New Person Search, choose A=Given Name | B=starts with | C=ein and click SEARCH. We search for an Einar Wullum.

Now we have 918 possibilities.

- in the new New Person Search, choose A=Last Name | B=starts with | C=wu

Now we have 3 possibilities. The Einar Wullum we search may have traveled to America, twice.

Digitalarkivet: Supplemental Resources

Following are a few resources that complement a Digitalarkivet search. These resources have their own WEB sites:

Norwegian-American Dictionary

<http://home.online.no/~otjoerge/files/word.htm>

This on line dictionary is a good Norwegian to English word translator. It includes many words found in Norwegian documents. It is composed by a well-regarded Norway resident and genealogist. There is no cost.

If you can't find the word translation in this dictionary, then post an inquiry on the following service: NorwayList.

Norway List Volunteer Services

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/NorwayList.htm>

Norway List is all about volunteer genealogists helping each other and us locate our ancestors in Norway and in Norway records.

This WEB site is about far more than genealogy. But for purposes of using the Digitalarkivet tool these researchers stand ready to respond to any inquiry by Email be it to answer a question or to translate a record. No question is too tough for these people who live in the United States, Canada, Norway, Australia and other parts of the world.

You can subscribe and fully participate in this service. Or, you can just browse or search NorwayList archives (all email inquiries and responses). This is your choice. There is no cost.

My WEB site is www.norhemian.com. From my HOME page and the External Links link, you reach a page of direct links to Digitalarkivet, NorwayList, the Norwegian-American Dictionary and other genealogy resources.

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