Using Norway's Digitalarkivet
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What is Digitalarkivet? Norway archived records available to the world on the Internet.

What records? Norway census, parish registers, emigrant records and more.

How do I access it? Go to http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet

Are these records in English? No. These are Norwegian records in Norwegian. An English view option greatly assists with instructions, options and choices.

Is there a cost or fee? No. Norway charges nothing for this service. Digitalarkivet would like but does not require users to register.

Note: this "how to" revision incorporates changes since the original document of 10 Jun 2012. How to use Digitalarkivet and what is available will likely continue to change and improve.

Digitalarkivet Summary

Norwegian Census: Full Norway census is available for: 1801, 1865, 1900 and 1910. These records are converted from handwriting to digital. They are searchable and may include: name, residence at census and others living there; age/birth year; birth place; occupation; married status and other information.

Norwegian Church Registers: Original and copies of original parish/church registers are scanned. Many records can be searched; all can be viewed page by page. Records include: birth/baptism; confirmation; marriage; death/burial and incoming/outgoing church members.

Other Databases: Emigrant, probate and many other records are also available at Digitalarkivet. Data is extensive.

Digitalarkivet: Overview

Go to: http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. Click on the English language option as needed. Now, review Digitalarkivet HOME Page contents. This is where you begin and return to while using Digitalarkivet service. Save or bookmark this WEB site address for future reference.

How you return to Digitalarkivet HOME Page will vary depending upon where you are in Digitalarkivet. Look for links to: Front Page (lower left of older search formats) and Arkivverket Digitalarkivet or Digital Archives logo links for newer search formats. Use your HOME Page bookmark when all else fails.

At the HOME Page, note the Shortcut links. These connect to searches and records. Data Base Selector found also on the HOME Page under Find Sources, works with the same data but in a different search format.

This paper demonstrates how to search census; locate original church records; and find emigrant records. Your skills with Digitalarkivet will grow with use and expand well beyond the contents of this paper.

Digitalarkivet is developing and improving. More than fifteen years ago, Norway census data was put on line and free. Later, this expanded to include parish/church records. Church records were at one time available only on microfilm or in Norway. Changes to Digitalarkivet are posted, as they occur, on their HOME Page.

Let's check the 1865 Census as an example of change. Go to the Digitalarkivet HOME Page | Shortcuts | Censuses | Click 1865. This is the new look. Now, also from the HOME Page but under Find Sources | Click on The Database Selector (old DA) | Choose any County | Source Category = Censuses | Sub-category = 1865. Click on any census found under Selected Databases. This view is the old census search form. See the difference? This is an example of the changing Digitalarkivet. However, the source data is the same for both new and old search tools.

Following are demonstrations of Norway Digitalarkivet search tools:

Norway Census Record Search

At the Digitalarkivet Home page, under Shortcuts, is a list of searchable censuses. The following example uses Norway Census 1865:

Step 1: Go to: http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. Choose 1865 Census. This is the new search tool. Click the English flag (upper right) for English view. Now, note three search columns: Geography, Information on person and Information on residence.

> You want to find Edvard Wullum. This search system identifies the 1000 most relevant finds if the number of hits exceeds 1000. Try to avoid hits exceeding 1000 by adding more criteria to your search.

Step 2:

a.   At Geography: 16 Sør-Trøndelag, click + and check only (1601)Trondheim;
b.   At Information on person: First Name: type in *var*. This searches spelling variations of Edvard, allowing any letter(s) before and after var; and
c.   Type under Last Name: *um* for variations of Wullum. Click Search.

> Four (4) records meet these criteria to some degree. The likely person is Edevard Wollum. The spelling is different than thought, but very close.

Step 3: To learn more about Edevard Wollum in 1865 and those around him at the 1865 Norway Census, click on his name.

> When compared to what else is known about Edvard Wullum, this additional information should help you decide whether you have the correct record.

Parish Record Search Using Digitised Parish Registers

You can view parish/church registers (books) in Digitalarkivet. If you know the Parish location, you can go directly to records quite easily; if you know very little, the search is more complicated.

Now, by example, let's find the birth/baptism of Einar Wullum born 30 Aug 1875 and baptized 3 Oct 1875 in Trondheim, son of Edvard Wullum of our earlier 1865 Census search.

Step 1: Go to: http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. Under Shortcuts, click Digitised Parish Registers. Choose English option.

Step 2: Enter search choices on the left side of the search form. Your computer may automatically generate a new view with each entry:

a.   Select County: choose Sør-Trøndelag.
b.   Select Parish: choose Trondheim/Vår Frue Kirke
c.   Indicate Period: type in: 1875

Click Submit. You now have 6 relevant registers. But, the list description doesn't include birth or baptism. On checking (clicking on) the registers, you see that the last register is official and includes births and baptisms.

Step 3: Click on the last register listed. Notice the new information to choose from: type of records and date.

Step 4: At Birth and baptism records, click on the page (041) next to 1875. This is a scan/picture of the original register (book).

Aside: Before proceeding, review/study the look and function of this WEB page. You have at least 9 options to use/improve the basic view:

1.   Image size: can adjust to 20, 40, 60, 100 and 150%.
2.   Image information: show on top or bottom of view: Source information, Permanent pagelink and Permanent imagelink.
3.   Display Page header: Digitalarkivet labels, links, language options.
4.   Paging the register: view shows its page number in small rectangular box. Change the number, page forward and backward.
5.   New Selection: restart your search from scratch.
6.   My Selection: choose another register.
7.   Contents Page: goes back to current parish for more records.

8.   Help: brief explanation of page in Norwegian and English.
9.   PDF-1 and PDF-2 Save and Print options: The view can be saved as a file and/or printed in two formats:

Click on either of both options and a new view appears with source data included and dialogue box (bottom). PDF-1 view is the left and right side pages of the register viewed on one page. PDF-2 view is the left side page and the right side page viewed on separate pages. Scroll down to view the 2nd of two pages of the PDF-2 view.

Choose the "print" option to get your printer's dialogue box where you decide printing specifications. My recommendation: print PDF-1 view in landscape and PDF-2 in portrait format.

The "Save a copy" option, under both PDF-1 and PDF-2, is the usual Save to your computer/device process. You accept or change the file name and location.

Recommendation: display Image Information. Copy and paste this information to any Internet inquiry. With this information and the Internet address at Permanent pagelink, others can go directly to the page of your record. You have only to give them the record number as well as the Permanent pagelink.

Step 5: Continue with the search. Adjust your view's image to 100% if you prefer. From page 41, page forward to locate the 30 Aug 1875 birth; 3 Oct 1875 baptism. These records are usually chronological by baptism date (3rd column). The 2nd column is the birth date and is not necessarily chronological.

Step 6: You have found the record. It is the 199th baptism of the year. Einar Johannes is born 30 Aug 1875; baptized 3 October 1875. Even if without Norwegian language skills, you can see there is something more under the Baptism date. But, what does it say? Hospital?

Here is the Image Information copied and pasted from the page of this baptism:

Source information: Sør-Trøndelag county, Vår Frue kirke in Trondheim, Parish register (official) nr. 602A16 (1873-1879), Birth and baptism records 1875, page 59.
Permanent pagelink:
http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read?idx_kildeid=3031&idx_id=3031&uid=ny&idx_side=-62
Permanent imagelink: http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:NBN:no-a1450-kb20060126030123.jpg

Parish Record Search Using Transcribed Parish Registers

Now, you will locate the same record in the same location by using the Transcribed Parish Records search process.

Step 1: Go to: http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. Under Shortcuts, click Transcribed Parish Registers. Choose English.

Step 2: Note the options. Choose Search Page Baptisms. From the form that appears, note the three (3) parts: Geography; Information on person; and Event information.

Step 3: Continue the search at the new view:

a. At Geography, check 16 Sør-Trondelag.
b. At Information on person: First Name: type ei*
c. At Information on person: Year of Birth: type 1875

We believe that 1875 is his birth year. Click Search or Enter. You have 12 hits. Note two Einar Johannes baptized 3 Oct 1875. Is it possible you have two hits for the child you search?

Now, you will review the detail for each of two records. Absent a form name, I will call this the Candidate Report. The report has sufficient information to guide us to each baptism record.

Proceed with the first listed Einar Johannes:

Barn: Einar Johannes baptized 3 Oct 1875. Source: Ministerialbok for Trondheim prestegjeld, Hospitalet sokn 1868-1883 (1601E2)

Step 4: Click on the name that matches the description (above) and view the Candidate Report for this Einar Johannes. Write down or note the location of the Serial no. (year's baptism number), Year and Baptism date.

Step 5: In the Candidate Report, Source Information box, click Read More. The Source Information box gives the name and years of the church register/book. Clicking on Read More moves us closer to the church baptism record.

Step 6: Under Links: digitised version, click on the word browse. The browse link brings you to more specifics for the church register named in the Source Information box. One more choice and you will be looking at this church register.

Step 7: Under Birth and baptism records, click on page (006). This register page includes early 1875 birth and baptism records.

Step 8: Check this page and/or page forward until you find the page and record you want. Per the candidate report you are looking for serial no. (year's baptism number) = 3 | Year = 1875 | Date = 3 October. As it turns out, the record is on page 6.

Here is the Image Information for the 1st Einar Johannes record:

3rd Baptism, 1875: 3 October (a 2nd recording)
Source information: Sør-Trøndelag county, Hospitalet in Trondheim, Parish register (official) nr. 623A03 (1868-1883), Birth and baptism records 1874-1875, page 6.
Permanent pagelink:
http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read?idx_kildeid=3761&idx_id=3761&uid=ny&idx_side=-7
Permanent imagelink: http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:NBN:no-a1450-kb20060519110007.jpg

Now, you will locate and review the record for the 2nd Einar Johannes:

Barn: Einar Johannes baptized 3 Oct 1875. Source: Ministerialbok for Trondheim prestegjeld, Vår Frue kirke sokn 1873-1879 (1601M5)

Step 9: Follow the same steps (1-8) above, except beginning at step 7 you are in a different church register and you will search for serial no. (year's baptism number) = 199 | Year = 1875 | Date = 3 October. Page 59.

Here is the Image Information for the 2nd Einar Johannes record:

199th Baptism, 1875: 3 October
Source information: Sør-Trøndelag county, Vår Frue kirke in Trondheim, Parish register (official) nr. 602A16 (1873-1879), Birth and baptism records 1875, page 59.
Permanent pagelink:
http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read?idx_kildeid=3031&idx_id=3031&idx_listetype=dp&idx_kjonn=&uid=ny&idx_side=-59
Permanent imagelink: http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:NBN:no-a1450-kb20060126030123.jpg

Step 10: Compare the two records and draw conclusions. Or, request additional help with understanding the two records. It appears that the same Einar Johannes child's baptism is in two registers.

Parish Record Search Using Database Selector

Now, you will conduct a Parish Register search for the same record but with the Database Selector search process.

Step 1: Go to: http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet ,left column, click The Database Selector (old DA). Choose English (lower part of view).

Step 2: Under Database Selector, choose:

a.   County = Sør-Trøndelag;
b.   Municipality = 1601 Trondheim;
c.   Source Category = Church Registers;
d.   Sub-category = baptised; and
e.   Period = 1800-1899.
Press Enter or Search after e. above if a new view does not appear. Choices will expand.

Step 3: Under Church Records, click Trondheim/Vår Frue Kirke 1873-1879. Note the format and content of the new view.

Step 4: Under new person search, choose A = Given Name | B = starts with | C = ei | Click Search. There are 34 possibilities.

Step 5: Again, under the blank new person search, choose A = Year of Birth | B = equals | C = 1875 | Click Search. There are now three (3) possibilities. The third is likely Einar. Note the two links. The first link [4920] is to a transcribed record; the second link [59] leads to the exact page location and scan of the birth/baptism record. Note the birth and baptism dates at the first link [4920]. You will need these.

Step 6: Click number 4920 to view the more detailed transcribed record. Note that Page 59 link is also part of this new view.

Step 7: Click number 59 under Page. You are now at the same birth and baptism record page as with the other search processes. Here is the Image Information:

Source information: Sør-Trøndelag county, Vår Frue kirke in Trondheim, Parish register (official) nr. 602A16 (1873-1879), Birth and baptism records 1875, page 59.
Permanent pagelink:
http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read?idx_kildeid=3031&idx_id=3031&uid=ny&idx_side=-62
Permanent imagelink: http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:NBN:no-a1450-kb20060126030123.jpg

Emigrant Search Using Database Selector

Here, you will search for the same Einar Wullum in Emigrant records.

Step 1: Go to: http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet

Step 2: Click on the Emigrants shortcut. You are now at the database selector. This same location can be reached by beginning first with choosing The Database Selector (old DA) under Find Sources on the HOME Page. Under Database Selector, selection groups are for County, Source Category, Sub-Category and Period. These are always there at the start, but may expand to include other choices as you make selections.

Step 3: Continue the Search at Database Selector:

a.   Choose County = all areas;
b.   Choose Source Category = Emigrants;
c.   Choose Sub=category = Registers;
           Result = list of port of departure registers for all of Norway.

Step 4: Choose and click on the only port option under Sør-Trøndelag. This is a likely departure location for someone who lives there.

Step 5: In New Person-Search, choose A = Given Name | B = starts with | C = ein | Click SEARCH or Enter. You search for an Einar Wullum. Now you have 918 possibilities.

Step 6: In the second new New Person-Search, choose A = Last Name | B = starts with | C = wu. The result is three (3) possibilities. Review the three possibilities. The Einar Wullum you search may have twice traveled to America. The man you search is a son of Edvard. Thus, he is technically Einar Edvardsen Wullum. Click on the number in far left column to get more detail regarding the travel record of each of the three people. In the case of the two Einar Wullum records, note their ages and the ticket purchase location of the 1902 record where America is the residence.

For purpose of this demonstration, more information is needed to confirm that one or both of these records is for the man you search. But, it appears so. In fact, after further research, it was determined to be so.

All Database Search Using Database Selector

This tool searches all Digitalarkivet databases at once. This is a valuable first step when you do not know where to begin in Norway. This search can also reveal additional Norway events for people you know.

Step 1: Go to: http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet

Step 2: Under Find Sources, click on The Database Selector (old DA) and once there, immediately click on Abandon all choices (left side) if there.

Step 3: In the new view, under Documentation, click on the "Click here" box. You are now at the "all database" search tool. Do not switch this view to English. On the left side, using date range, First Name, Last Name and Residence your objective is to generate possible records for all of Norway. How many records you generate depends upon what you search for and how many records match those criteria.

Step 4: Now, use the all database search tool and generate a report: we are looking for events/records for Einar Wullum:

> Review the criteria choices: set the date range that makes sense for your need. The three boxes below the date range are input boxes for First Name, Last Name and Residence.

a.   Input: Date Range = 1st Box: 1850 | 2nd Box: 1950.

b.   Input: 1st Box: Førenamn (First Name) | 2nd Box: børjar på (starts with) | 3rd Box: ein | Click Hald fram. There is a zero at funne. In the new drop down box, click ein, there are 23 records where first name is ein. Click einar, there are now 18433 records for ein and einar and the number must be under 5000. Click einard, now there are 18452, or so.

c.   Input: 1st Box: Etternavn (Last name) | 2nd Box: børjar på | 3rd Box: wu | Click Hald fram. Funne is now zero and in the new dropdown box there is one likely last name: wullum. Click on wullum. Now, three (3) records (funne) match your first and last name choices. There is no need to search with Residence. Click on the 3 at funne. Three (3) records, all in Sør-Trondelag, meet our criteria. Click on the box under kommune. The link to each record appears. Check (click on) each record. Note: these records actually are re: the Einar Wullum we have searched.

Using Digitalarkivet: Supplemental Resources

Norway List Volunteer Services
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/NorwayList.htm

Norway List volunteer genealogists help us and each other locate ancestor records. Visit this WEB Site for more information about this and other resources. Or, search Google for norwaylist or Norway List.

Subscribers respond to inquiries. No genealogy question is too tough for these volunteers. They will assist or guide your search. Do not, however, expect them to do your work. You can subscribe and fully participate in this service, or, not subscribe and browse or search the archives. You subscribe only with your Email address. Before posting an inquiry, read their Guidelines and Newbie Notes at their HOME Page.

Norway List HOME also has genealogy research information and many valuable resource links. Two links are especially relevant to this paper:

Otto Jorgensen's Norwegian to English Dictionary - a Norwegian to English translator aide for words found in Norwegian records.

John Strom's Digital Archives Pages - instructions, with pictures, for using Digitalarkivet. This paper does not at this time include instructions for newer search tools. But, the instructions and explanations of Norwegian documents in his instructions are relevant and very helpful to learning Digitalarkivet.

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008 Genealogy Links
http://synnove1.com/genealogy.html

Based in St. Paul MN, members of this Sons of Norway Lodge operate a genealogy group. The group developed this Norwegian genealogy links WEB Site. Direct links to Digitalarkivet and more are included at this site.

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