Dansk Demografisk Database

Denmark "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to find your ancestors in the Danish censuses that are available online in the *Dansk Demografisk Database*, or Danish Demographic Database.

INTRODUCTION

In the *Dansk Demografisk Database*, or *DDD*, you can search for information for people who appeared in the Danish censuses between 1769 and 1930. Danish censuses began in 1769 and were taken at irregular intervals, but beginning in 1834/5, they were taken more or less at five or ten year intervals. Unfortunately, not every census was taken in every area of Denmark, for various reasons. To see in which years and where each census was taken, as well as its indexing status, see the chart at this site: http://www.dis-danmark.dk/kipkort/fronta-e.php

You may want to consult the following "How to" Guides before continuing:
*   Inserting special characters

HOW TO

To begin your search, go to the *DDD* found at this site: http://www.ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm

The site has Danish, German, and English interfaces. This above web link should take you to the English version, but if not, click on the British flag found at the top of the page. You should read the introductory material on each page, as that will give you important information about the censuses and various aspects of the project.

*   When you are on the homepage, click on "Censuses" in the blue-gray bar directly below the heading "Dansk Demografisk Database."

*   You should now see a page with a menu to the left that allows you various search pages. Generally, "Advanced search-place suggestions" will be best as your primary choice, especially if you know where the person lived. Use "Search Individuals by household – place suggestions" only when you are searching for people with common names **and** you know another person whom you can add in order to limit the number of results.

*   Click on "Advanced search-place suggestions." You should now see a page with many search boxes. Under "Household information," choose the county in which you want to search. (If you do not know the county, click the 'back' button and choose "Advanced search" where you can search for people without knowing the county.) Under "Individual Information," put in the person's name for whom you are searching. You can fill in other information that you know about this person, including occupation, birth place and year,

census year, and other items. When finished, click on "Submit."

- Remember that what you put into the search boxes will determine what you receive. If you do not find whom you are looking for initially, change the amount of information that you provide.

- For names that have numerous spellings and forms, such as "Peder," using a wildcard will change what is returned. The wildcard for *DDD* is %. So, P%r will return Peder, Peter, Per, Pehr and everything else with P at the beginning and r at the end of the name.

Further information

The following resources will help you in your Danish research:

- There are three video courses on the FamilySearch Wiki devoted to teaching how to learn to read Scandinavian script. To access these classes, go to the following URL: https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/results.html?fq=place%3A%22Scandinavia%22

- The following wordlist will also be of help: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/0/0b/Danish_Genealogical_Word_List_October_2010.pdf

PRACTICE

Jens Madsen, about 32 years old, was married and living in Odense county in 1860. The name of the town or parish where he lived is unknown, as are the names of his wife and children.

- Use the *DDD* by going to the following web link: http://www.ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm. Click on "Censuses," then click on "Advanced search-place suggestions."

- In the "County" search box, select Odense. In the "Name" box, type Jens Madsen; in the "Year of birth (calculated)" enter 1828 (that is the calculate year he was born based on his age in 1860). In the first of the two search boxes next to "Census year," choose the equal sign '=', which allows a search for one particular census. You can also choose 'include, older than, younger than, or the latter two **and** including.' In the box that says "All censuses," choose 1860. Now click the orange submit button.

- Scroll down to see the records found. There are three. We can eliminate two results as both of these results are "Ugift" or unmarried. Identify the Jens Madsen whose marital status is listed as "Gift" or married.

- Click on the orange "HOUSEHOLD" button. Here you see Jens with his family, including their names, marital status, position in the household, occupation, and birth place. You also see the various jurisdictions where the family was at this census.

- Unfortunately, clicking on the British flag translates the headings, but not the extracted information. Use the word list from the web link provided above, or a translation website such as http://translate.google.com to help you understand the information.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.