Arkivalieronline: Church Records

Denmark "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to find baptismal, confirmation, marriage, and death records in the online Danish site *Arkivalieronline*.

INTRODUCTION

Many records, including baptismal, confirmation, marriage, death, and moving in/out records are online at the Danish website *Arkivalieronline*. The images are available, but they are not indexed. These are accessible anywhere for free.

You may want to consult the following "How to" Guides before continuing:
- [Inserting special characters](#)

HOW TO

The church records on this website are organized by Amt (district) and church parish. You must know the church parish your ancestors attended to access the records.

1. Begin by going to the website: http://www.sa.dk.

2. Once at the website, find the gray box at the bottom of the webpage screen. The word 'Arkivalieronline' appears in white; under that is a white box containing the words "Vælg arkivalietype," which means "choose record type."

3. When you click anywhere in the box, a drop down menu will appear with a list of options. Click on the word "Kirkebøger" for the church books. Then click on the black box directly to the right with the word "Søg" (search).

4. You will now see a page where you will need to choose the type of church book. Click on "Kirkebøger fra hele landet" (church books for the whole land). Once you have chosen the church books, you will need to specify the jurisdictions. Keep in mind that in Danish, the letters Æ, Å and Ø come at the **end** of the alphabet, after Z.

   a. First choose the *Amt*, or county, of interest. If you do not know the *Amt*, you can go directly to the next step, but the list of parishes will be longer and there may be places of the same name in more than one county.

   b. "Archiv" in this case actually means the parish. Once you have chosen the *Amt*, the parishes for that *Amt* will appear in the "Arkiv" drop down menu. Choose the parish

that you want.

5. After choosing the parish, a list of books and the years they cover will appear under the word "Indhold" in blue. There can be up to three types of books listed: the *Hovedministerialbog* or priest's book, the *Kontraministerialbog* or clerk's book, and the *Enesteministerialbog* or unified book. The *Enesteministerialbog* was the only book kept until about 1812, after which two books were kept, one by the priest and one by the clerk. The clerk's copy was sent elsewhere to ensure existence of a copy in case of destruction of the other. Click on one of the books, and it will open up the church book in a separate tab in your browser.

6. A new window will pop up. The menu in the column on the left contains the image links. You may want to move the black vertical bar to the right in order to expose more of the descriptions. There will usually be more than one record set here. The first set opens by default. Click on the minus sign to close that book, and reveal more books in that collection. Alternately, scroll further down the column to see more records. Now, choose the time period and record type that you want. You will need these abbreviations to understand the record types:

Code	Danish	English
F	Fødte	Births
K	Konfirmerede	Confirmations
V	Viede	Marriages
D	Døde	Deaths
J	Jævnførelser	Name register
T	Tilgangslister	Moving in
A	Afgangslister	Moving out

For example, if you see 1813 FVDJTA – 1817 FVDJTA, in that set there will be births, confirmations, marriages, deaths, name register, and moving in/out records from 1813-1817 for the parish in question. Once you have determined the book for the time period and record type you need, click on the plus sign to open that specific book.

7. Choose one of the numbers in the list and click on it. You will have to search the book until you find the section for the event type you're seeking, and then page through until you find the right year and entry. Sometimes there is a table of contents at the beginning of the book, but even when page numbers are given, they generally do not correspond to the database image numbers. The general format of these books are male christenings, then female christenings, confirmations by year, marriages and then male deaths followed by female deaths. Name registers and moving in moving out records are usually at the back of the book. Some books have the males and females together chronologically.

8. When you find the specific image you are seeking, the website link in your browser window will point directly to this image. It can be copied and added to a source citation in FamilySearch Family Tree or the genealogy program you use.

9. When you need to change books, use the left column book list. To close your present book, click on the minus next to the book folder, and click on the plus sign to open

another. When you need to change parishes just click on the X in the tab at the top of your browser; this should bring you back to the page when you can choose your *Amt* and parish.

Further information

The following articles and free online webinars will provide more in-depth information to help you in your Danish research:

- There are three video courses on the FamilySearch Wiki devoted to teaching how to learn to Scandinavian script. Go to this URL to see the available classes: 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

Search for the marriage record of Niels Pedersen and Marie Kirstine Jensdatter. They were married 4 March 1796 in Fårup, Århus, Denmark. Do the following steps:

1. Go to the website for *Arkivalieronline* by going to the website: http://www.sa.dk. Under the gray box at the bottom of the screen, click on the words "Vælg arkivalietype" and click on "Søg". On the next website page, click on "Kirkebøger fra hele landet".

2. Choose the Amt of Århus and the parish of Fårup. Remember that Århus comes at the end of the alphabet. Click on the *Enesteministerialbog* for 1620-1813, the only book available for the year the marriage took place, 1796.

3. In the left hand column, click on the minus next to the folder 1620 FVD – 1792 FVD to show all available books. Click on the plus sign next to the folder 1793 FVD – 1813 FVD to open the book you need, and click on the second image to see if there is a table of contents.

4. The table of contents shows marriages starting on page 90. Arkivalieronline only has a total of 30 images for the complete book, so you will be "hunting and pecking" in and out of the pages to find where the christenings end, and marriages begin. Remember the date range contained in this book. The 1796 marriage will be near the beginning of the marriage section, found on image 21. This is a combined betrothal and marriage record recorded 4 January 1796, with the actual marriage date, 4 March written to the right. "4 January Betrothed Niels Pedersen and Marie Kristine Jensdatter of Mundelstrup." The bondsmen's names follow.

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.