Digitalarkivet: Church Records

Norway "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to locate and use Norwegian church records on the website *Digitalarkivet*.

INTRODUCTION

The most widely used database for Norwegian genealogical research is *Digitalarkivet*, found at https://digitalarkivet.no/en/. This online archive contains various record types including church records. Keep in mind that as the population grew, a parish could be split into two or more parishes. The records before the new parish was established will be found under the original parish.

You may want to consult the following "How to" Guides before continuing:
- Inserting Special Characters

HOW TO

To access the digitized parish registers, follow these steps:

- Click on or type in https://digitalarkivet.no/en/ in your website browser. If the site opens in Norwegian, click on the tab "English" found on the top right of the page.

- Find the white box in the middle of the page, underneath find the section labeled "Find source" and click on it.

- Find the right column under "Geography" where you may choose a county from each one of the five areas: Østlandet (include 7 counties and the city Oslo), Sørlandet (include 2 counties), Vestlandet (include 4 counties and the city Bergen), Trøndelag (2 counties), Nord-Norge (include 3 counties).

- Choose a county under one of the areas and click on it. As you click on a county, all the parishes in that county will appear. Click on the parish of your choice.

- The selection of the parish will appear in a red box in the upper left page of the page.

- Now go to middle column of the page under the topic "Category" and choose "Church books/Parish registers. Click on it and next click on "Select all". Lastly click on "Search"

and notice that your selection will appear in a red box in the upper left corner of the page.

- Keep in mind that the Norwegian letter Æ, Ø, and Å come after the letter Z. To learn how to insert these characters, click here.

- Each parish book is separated into years and event types. Scroll down until your find your range of years and then click on the kind of event you want.

Enlarge and minimize text

While searching for a person in a record, notice that in the top right of the page the "<" click on it to page backwards. Click on ">" and page forwards. Click on "+" to enlarge the text, and click on "-" to minimize the text.

Further information

For additional help in your Norwegian research, check out the following resources:

- A word list can be very helpful in Norwegian research, and one can be found on the Norway wiki page on FamilySearch.org:
  https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Word_List

- Norwegian script can be difficult to read. For further help with learning Scandinavian script, watch the video courses found on the FamilySearch Learning Center and the article on Norwegian Handwriting from the following links:
  https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Handwriting

PRACTICE

Identify the baptismal record of Hans Jørgen Halvorsen who was born on 6 October 1840 and baptized on 6 December 1840 in Råde parish, Østfold county, Norway.

- Go to *Digitalarkivet*, found at https://digitalarkivet.no/en/. If the page is in Norwegian, click on "English", found in the upper right corner of the website.

- In the middle of the page click on "Find source"

- Under Geography find "Østlandet" and click on it. You should now see a list of all the counties in Østlandet.

- From this list click on Østfold and notice how a list of the parishes in Østfold County appear in alphabetical order. From this list find Råde and click on it. Notice how your selection is listed in a red box in the upper left corner of the screen.

- Under "Category" (middle column) find "Church books/Parish registers" and click on it. Next click on "Select all" and notice that your selection "church books/Parish registers" is

in a red box in the upper left corner of the screen, next to your selection of "Råde". Now click on "SCEARCH" in the upper right corner of the page.

- Notice that your selection give12 hits. Since Hans Jørgen Halvorsen was born in 1840, choose the range of years 1830-1853. From this list find "Born and baptized" where he may be found in the indexed records or scanned records. For this practice choose "Browse" and click on it.

- Since he was born in the year 1840 click on the word "innhold" in the blue bar at the top of the page. Here is a list of years for birth and christening, then Confirmations, followed by marriages, death and burial etc. choose birth and christening (fødte og døpte) and find the box with the year "1840" and click on it.

- From the new screen page through the parish register until you find the entry for Hans Jørgen Halvorsen. His birth and christening is recorded on page 41.

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.