

Digitalarkivet: Emigration Records

Norway “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

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

INTRODUCTION

The most widely used database for Norwegian genealogical research is *Digitalarkivet*, found at <http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet>. This online archive contains many different record types, including emigration records.

The emigration records start in 1868-1869, and contain records from the most popular port, Oslo, as well as others, including Stavanger, Bergen, and Trondheim. These records typically include the emigrant's name, age, occupation, last place of residence, destination, and date of departure.

HOW TO

To access the emigrations on *Digitalarkivet*, complete the following steps:

1. Go to the website, found at <http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet>.
2. If the page opens in Norwegian, click on the tab marked “English”, located in the upper right corner. Under the middle column labeled “Shortcuts”, click on the heading “Emigrants”.
3. The next screen is the main search screen. On the left side, under the heading “Geography”, choose the geographic area. This is a listing of counties with sea-ports your ancestor could have left from, not where they were living at the time they left Norway. You can choose to search “all” or limit your search to one or more counties. If you do not select anything, the default is to search all records.
4. Fill in the information about your person in the search bars to the right. This database only returns exact matches, so make sure you use the wild card, which is the *. Click on “Show more fields” to see all potential search fields.
5. If your search results in zero hits, click on the small brown box with a “+” in middle next to the words “Open search form” go back to the search screen. This will take you back to the search screen where you can start a new search. To clear all fields, click on the small words “Reset” next to the blue “Search” box at the bottom of the search form.

6. The website allows for the use of wildcards. Let's say you are looking for a man named "Erik". If you enter the name "Erik", the database will only search for the name spelled "Erik". The person writing down the name may have spelled his name Eric, resulting in zero hits for your "Erik". By choosing to search for "Eri*"; the search will include various spellings of that name, including Erik, Eric, Erick, and Erich. If you are looking for a man named Ole, type Ol*, and the variant names Ole, Ola, Olaves, Oluf, and Olaf will all be included in the search.

PRACTICE

Kasper Hansen was 16 years old when he left Norway. Let us see what information can be gathered on him using the Norwegian emigration records.

1. Go to the website <http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet>, and click on "Emigrants" under the middle column labeled "Shortcuts". If the page opens in Norwegian, click on the English tab located in the top right corner.
2. Under "Geography", click on the box next to "Choose all".
3. Type in above given name, last name, and age. Click "Search".
4. There is one hit, and that is: Kasper Hansen, from Urskoug (his last residence in Norway), age 16. He left Norway 22 April 1869, and was going to "Kvebek" (*Quebec*).
5. Now, look for Lovinia Stoltenberg, who sailed for America in 1868. Click on the brown plus button next to the words "Open search form". Scroll to the bottom of the screen and click on the red "Reset" located next to the blue "Search" button. Enter Lovinia's name. Do not enter the date of emigration as 1868; this field will not return results without an exact date. Click on "Search".
6. There will be one hit, and that was Lovinia Anastasia Stoltenberg. Her last place of residence in Norway was Skillingmark. She was 19 years old, and left Norway on 18 April 1868. She was going to Chicago via London. Click on her name.
7. You will now see the detailed view of her emigration record. At the top of the page, under the blue toolbar, you will see where the information came from, which usually shows the port. In this case, Lovinia left from the port of Kristiania (now Oslo). You can also find the name of the ship she sailed on, the "North Star".

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.