

SCANDINAVIAN CHURCH RECORDS

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Purpose: At the end of class, each student should:

- Understand why church records are valuable in Scandinavian research
- Be familiar with the format and information contained in Scandinavian church records
- Know the dating methods used in these records
- Know how to access the various forms of Scandinavian church records

Lutheran Church

State Church

Kept all vital records for the government

Naming Conventions

Patronymics and other surnames

Linking family names

Information in the Records

General Format

What indexing?

Long hand vs. printed forms

Christening

Names child, parents and godparents/witnesses

Birth date, farm names and occupations

Confirmation

Shows knowledge of catechism—about age 14

Not available for all parishes

Helpful for children who left home for apprenticeship, etc.

Marriages

Gives full name of both groom and bride (including maiden name)

Usually includes parents' names and birth date and place

Burials

Age at death, sometimes a relation

Moving Lists

Most parishes include lists of those entering and exiting the parish
States where the individual lived previously or next destination
Post 1800

Swedish Clerical Surveys

Information similar to a full census each year
Notes any major event for the family
Includes full names and ages of all family members

Calendars and Dating Issues

Feast Days

Immovable dates, Christmas
Movable dates, Easter
Feast Day Calendars

Calendar change

Denmark and Norway: February 18, 1700 to March 1, 1700.
Sweden: February 17, 1753 to March 1, 1753 with some changes in prior years

Accessing the church records

FHLC—microfilm collection online
Online Databases—digital images

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Websites

Danish National Archives, Danish Records online: <http://www.sa.dk>

This site has census and parish record images available free of charge. Caution: The site is in Danish, but you can do it! Follow the directions on the English page.

Danish Demographic Database: <http://ddd.dda.dk>

Transcription of Danish census records, with English translations.

FamilySearch Wikis: <http://www.familysearch.org>

Research guides, including Feast Day Calendars and basic word lists.

Norwegian National Archives: <http://www.riksarkivet.no>

Norwegian Digital archives, including online record images: <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/>

Similar to the site described above for Denmark, this is an extension of the Norwegian National Archives.

Swedish National Archives: <https://riksarkivet.se>

Swedish parish record extractions: <http://www.dis.se>

Parish record images: <http://www.ancestry.com> and <http://www.myheritage.com>

This is a subscription-based service that contains Swedish parish records.

Wikipedia for more information on calendar changes, feast day explanations, etc.:

<http://www.wikipedia.org>