



NORWAY REGIONAL RESOURCES

This region covers Norway.

This is a non-comprehensive overview of some record types, resources, and strategies that may be covered on the ICAPGen regional exams. Use it as a starting point to direct your studies and to compile research reference guides.

IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge
Census records (Folketellinger)	Farm Histories (Bygdebøker)
Church records (Kirkebøker)	Maps & Gazetteers (Kart- og Stedsfortegnelser)
Probate Records (Skifteprotokoller)	Military Records (Miltære kilder)
Emigration and Immigration Records (Emigrantenmateriale)	Court Records (Rettergangsmateriale/ Domstol protokoller)
Vital Records (FED opplysninger – fødsel, ekteskap, død)	Nobility Records (Kilder til adel)
	Periodicals: Newspapers & Magazines (Aviser og magasiner)
	Taxation Records (Beskatninger)
	Tax Cadastre Records (Skattematrikler) -1647
	Wealth Tax Records (Formueskatter)
	Civil Registration (Borgerlige kilder/Folkeregisteret)
	Land Records (Kilder til eiendommer)
	County Accounts (Lensregnskaper)
	Biographical Records (Biografiske kilder)

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

For Norway some basic Norwegian language skills are required. It is important to be able to identify a Norwegian document (birth, baptismal record, marriage, or death/burial record) and be able to abstract important genealogical data such as name, parent's names, dates, places, etc.

RESOURCES

Repositories

Some repositories important for Norway genealogical research are shown. You will also want to be familiar with repositories specific to smaller local areas where you do most of your research.

- Archives & Libraries: See [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) Search terms Norway] Archives and Libraries.
- [The National Archives and Regional Archives](#). Digitized records are available at Digitalarkivet,
- Riksarkivet (National Archives), Sognveien 221, Kringsjå, Oslo
- Statsarkivet i Kongsberg (State Archive in Kongsberg), Frogsvei 44, 3611 Kongsberg, Norway
- Statsarkivet i Hamar (State Archive in Hamar), Lille Strandgate 3, 2317 Hamar, Norway
- Statsarkivet i Kristiansand (State Archive in Kristiansand, Marthas vei 1, 4633 Kristiansand, Norway
- Statsarkivet i Stavanger (State Archive in Stavanger), Bergelandsgate 30, 4012 Stavanger, Norway
- Statsarkivet i Bergen (State Archive in Bergen), Årstadveien 22, 5009 Bergen, Norway
- Statsarkivet i Trondheim (State Archive in Trondheim), Maskinistgata 1, 7042 Trondheim, Norway
- Statsarkivet i Tromsø (State Archive in Tromsø), Huginbakken 18, Brevika, Tromsø, Norway
- [Arkivverket](#) (The National Archives of Norway) – documents may be ordered from <https://www.arkivverket.no/tjenester/bestill-en-enkeltopplysning>
- [Nasjonalbiblioteket](#) (National Library of Norway)

Websites

Many repositories have websites that include record indexes and/or images. Volunteer groups and individuals also place useful content online. The following are good starting points to find useful websites.

- [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) articles for your region
- [The Digital Archives](#)
- [My Heritage](#)
- [Ancestry.com](#)
- [Registreringsentral for historiske](#) data (RHD) – use in Norwegian

- [Dokumentasjonsprosjektet](#) – use in Norwegian
- [Norway Heritage](#)
- [Gjenvick-Gjønvik Archives](#)
- [The Norwegian-American Historical Association \(NAHA\)](#)
- [Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks](#)
- [Mikkelsen Library, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota](#)
- [Rølvaag Library, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota](#)
- [The Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Archives](#)
- [Trinitatis.no](#). Kalender over kirkelige høytider.
- Facebook genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific groups

Finding Aids

Finding aids listing the sources that repositories hold is often available online, but not always. Knowledge of such collections not listed online can often be obtained through local experience, visits to repositories, and conversations with local experts.

Book-length Research Guides

It is recommended that you study some guides on topics such as genealogical research, analysis, writing, and record types. Whether you are an expert or a beginner, reading research guides for your states, repositories, record types, and topics of interest, will help advance your region-specific knowledge. General guides are so plentiful that any list could quickly go out-of-date and would risk overlooking some. The following guides are examples helpful for all regions.

Becoming an Excellent Genealogist: Essays on Professional Research Skills. ICAPGen, 2012.

Mastering Genealogical Proof. National Genealogical Society, 2015.

Haakenstad, Liv Marit (2022). *A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration*. Self-publishing.

Haakenstad, Liv Marit (2015). *På sporet av familien. Kilder og metoder i slektsgransking*. Vigmostad og Bjørke. (Norwegian only).

Haakenstad, Liv Marit (2013). *Slektsgranskerens guide til utvandringen 1825-1930*. Vigmostad og Bjørke. (Norwegian only).

Olstad, Jan H. *Military Records of Norway*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, c1969 (FHL Call no 929.1, W893 E8).

Nedrebø, Yngve. *How to Trace Your Ancestors in Norway*. (FHL Call no 948.1 D27o)

Olstad, Jan H. *How to Trace Your Ancestors in Norway*. (FHL Microfiche 6030027). *Norsk Slekthistorisk Tidsskrift*.

Bull, Edvard, et al. *Norsk Biografisk Leksikon*. (FHL Call no 948.1 D36n)
Dansk Biografisk Lexicon. Tillige Omfattende Norge for Tidsrummet 1537-1814. FHL Call no 948.9, D36d, vols 1-19.

Lengnick, J. C. L. *Genealogier Over Adelige og Borgerliege Familier*. (FHL Microfiche 6350007).

Hiort-Lorenzen, H. R. *Danmarks Adels Aarbog (includes Norwegians)*. (FHL Call no 948.9 D55d).

Kirkeby, W. A. *Norsk-Engelsk Ordbok*. (FHL Call no 439.82321 N831k)
Scavenius, H. and Berulfsen, B. *McKay's Modern Norwegian-English English- Norwegian Dictionary*. (FHL Call no 439.82321 M192).

Lucy, Marit H. *Parishes, Clerical Districts, and Maps of Norway: List of Parishes, Clerical Districts, and Regions with Parish Outline Map of Each County in Norway*. (FHL Call no 948.1 E77L).

Smith, Frank, Thomsen, Finn A. *Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Norway*. (FHL Call no 948.1 E6st).

Helsing, Klaus, Lundhh, Ragnar. *Norsk Stedfortegnelse: Postaddressbog for Norge*. (FHL Call no 948.1E8ns).

Rygh, Oluf. *Norske Gaardnavne: Oplysninger Samlede til Brug ved Matrikelens Revision: Efter Offentlig Foranstaltning Udgivne med Tilføide Forklaringer*. (FHL Call no 948.1 E2rg).

Bukke, Inger M., and Peer K. Kristensen and Finn A. Thomsen. *The Comprehensive Genealogical Feast Day Calendar*. (FHL INTL Book 529.44 C738).

Bricka, Carl Frederik. *Dansk Biografisk Lexicon: Tillige Omfattende Norge for Tidsrummet 1537-1814*. 19 vols. Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandels Forlag, 1887-1905 (FamilySearch Library book 948.9 D36d)

Haugen, Einar, ed. *Norwegian English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1980.

Helsing, Klaus, and Ragnar Lundh. *Norsk Stedfortegnelse: Postaddressbog for Norge*. Kristiania, Norway:

Poststyrelsen, 1901 (FamilySearch Library book 948.1E8ns). Also (FamilySearch Digital Library ID 403519_pt01 and 403519_pt02)

Hiort-Lorenzen, H. R. Danmarks Adels Aarbog. 97 vols. Copenhagen, Denmark: P.G. Philipsens Boghandel, 1884-1981. (FamilySearch Library book 948.9 D55d volumes 1-81 also on 12 rolls of microfilm FamilySearch Library microfilm 1124534-1124545)

Lengnick, J. C. L. Genealogier Over Adelige og Borgerliege Familier. 5 vols. Copenhagen: Trykt hos J.C. Scharling, 1851-[1859]. (FamilySearch Library microfiche 6350007).

Lucy, Marit H. Parishes, Clerical Districts, and Maps of Norway: List of Parishes, Clerical Districts, and Regions with Parish Outline Map of Each County in Norway. Salt Lake City, Utah: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Family History Dept., 1992. (FamilySearch Library book 948.1 E77L)

Nedrebø, Yngve. How to Trace Your Ancestors in Norway. Oslo, Norway: Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1989. (FamilySearch Library book 948.1 D27o)

Rygh, Oluf and others. Norske Gaardnavne: Oplysninger Samlede til Brug ved Matrikelens Revision: Efter Offentlig Foranstaltning Udgivne med Tilføjede Forklaringer. Kristiania, Norway: i kommission hos Cammermeyers Boghandel, 1898-1936, 19 vols. (FamilySearch Library book 948.1 E2rg also available on the FamilySearch Digital Library and online at https://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_felt.html)

“Scandinavian Family and Local History”, volume 8, World Conference on Records: Preserving Our Heritage. Salt Lake City, Utah: Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1980. (FamilySearch Digital Library ID 16686_1980_08_copy5)

Smith, Frank, and Finn A. Thomsen. Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Norway. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1974. (FamilySearch Library book 948.1 E6st)

Jan Olstad's *Military records of Norway*, World Conference on Records and Genealogical Seminar. Salt Lake City, Utah: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Genealogical Society, 1969. (FamilySearch Digital Library ID 23443 E)

STRATEGIES SPECIFIC FOR NORWAY RESEARCH

Applicants for accreditation in the Norway region, must demonstrate their language ability as part of the exam by accurately transcribing and translating documents of genealogical significance from the Norwegian language into English. Be familiar with the two official forms of written NORWEGIAN: Bokmål (literally "book tongue") and Nynorsk (literally "new Norwegian"). Two other written forms without official status also exist, the major one being Riksmål ("national language"), which is somewhat closer to the Danish language but today is largely the same language as Bokmål. The other is Høgnorsk ("High Norwegian"), a more purist form of Nynorsk...and rejects most of the reforms from the 20th century. Nynorsk and Bokmål provide standards for how to write Norwegian. Use the Paleography Language Table to determine your language ability. Additional help with Norwegian handwriting may be found [HERE](#).

Watch for persons with the same name (e.g. parents with the same name on a parish register). Understand the Norwegian naming practices, which consist of three parts: the first name, the patronymic and the farm name. Be aware of the naming pattern changes that emerged in the late 1800's with a married woman being able to take her husband's patronymic and children also began to receive their father's last name instead of a real patronymic. This transition period lasted until 1923, when the law ordered that each family should have a hereditary last name and only ONE last name.³ Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. Important years in NORWEGIAN history are listed [HERE](#).

If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. For example, all though some original records such as the grant of nobility still exist, you can adequately accomplish most nobility research for NORWAY in secondary sources.⁴

FOR GENERAL RESEARCH

In addition to the strategies specific to this region discussed above the strategies below apply to all regions.

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families.
- Use original records, when possible, created at the time of the event. These might be found at various jurisdictional levels (such as town, county, state/province, federal/national).
- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes.
- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions.
- Evaluate each record. Resolve any conflicting information. Correlate findings.
- Substitute records might be used when there is a lack of records or record loss. An event might be recorded in multiple ways. For example, a marriage might be recorded

civilly, by the church, or in a newspaper. Each should be checked.

- Source each event in each person's life. Capture the information about each source to facilitate proper citation when writing the report.
- Keep a research log of all records searched, including any searches for which nothing was found.
- Verify generational links.
- Understand applicable economics, religion, ethnicity, prejudices, and laws.
- Watch for persons with the same name (e.g. parents with the same name on a census or other record). Consider all variants of spelling for the name along with ways a name could be misspelled when searching indexes and online resources.

NOTE: The exams are open book, including the Internet. Paper and/or digital research reference guides may be used during the test. Digital research reference guides on USB drives will be copied to the facility computer and deleted from that computer at the end of the test session. Research reference guides may also be accessed through a cloud account such as Dropbox, Google, OneDrive, etc.

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