

Norway Records Research Without Norwegian Language Skills

Fred Matson

My father could read, write and speak Norwegian and so also my uncles and aunts. I cannot. I am not among the best Norwegian researchers. But, I have learned how to enjoy Norway record research and to get results.

This is possible because Norway records are on the Internet and free and Norway research support groups are found on the Internet as well.

Norway first posted census records on the Internet in the 1990's. Prior to that, all Norway archived records were available to the public by a visit to Norway archives, or, through microfilm research. Norway turned to the Internet, in part, because it was overwhelmed with mail requests for research assistance. Since its Internet beginnings, Norway has added church and other records. More recently, Norway did a major update to their Internet-based records search system.

Norway's genealogy records are found on their Digitalarkivet WEB site:

<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/>

If Norwegian records are found on the Internet and free, how does someone without Norwegian Language skills navigate and translate these records? The solution is found in Internet Norwegian genealogy support groups. Support group members are in Norway, United States, Canada and other countries. Many are excellent Norway researchers with Norwegian Language skills. Because these groups are on the Internet, their service is worldwide and available free to anyone who becomes a member. Members include both research helpers and those who need help with research. I am a member in need of help with research.

Here are two Norwegian genealogy support groups found on the Internet:

Norway List Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Norwaylist/>

Norwegian Genealogy Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorwegianGenealogy/>

Here also is an excellent Internet based dictionary for word translation: <https://otjoerge.wordpress.com/norwegian-american-dictionary/>

Even without Norwegian Language skills, as you research documents and records, you will begin to recognize words and phrases by record type and by their location within records. Norway birth/baptism, confirmation, marriage and death/burial records, for instance, each have a different look and structure to them. Census and ship travel to America records are no different. Frequent research activity will improve your ability to recognize words and phrases.

It will take time and practice to learn how to navigate Norway's Digitalarkivet WEB Site. Digitalarkivet is the Internet location of Norwegian archived records. The Digitalarkivet WEB site includes instructions for how to navigate the site and the site has an English language option for some searches.

Each Internet support group listed above requires membership. There is no fee to apply or to use these services. Apply on the Facebook page, and once accepted, watch the conversation for a while. Follow some posts and comments and you will begin to understand how you can post and comment and how these services can assist you. Both support groups are on Facebook and Facebook membership is required. If you are not a member of Facebook, consider joining if for no other reason than for access to the wonderful service of these support groups.

These groups assist with translations, research and more. You can request translation help and request assistance to find your ancestor in Norway. You may attach documents to your post/inquiry. Provide family history information to further define your inquiry. Perhaps you know where and when your ancestor was in the USA. Share that information and more with the group. It will help them help you. They may ask you questions. Be certain to respond.

Good Luck with your Norwegian research. Norway genealogy records can be researched without Norwegian language skills. Norway's decision for records to be on the Internet and free combined with Internet support groups makes this possible.

Here also to assist your search is our Sons of Norway, Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge Genealogy Group WEB Site: <https://synn-nord.org/genealogy/> At this site you will find even more resources to assist you with Norwegian research.

Have a great day!

Updated 9 Jun 2019