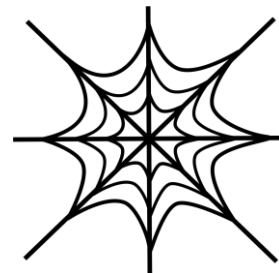


UNTANGLE THE WEB OF GERMAN WEBSITES

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INTRODUCTION

The internet continually increases its offerings of quality information for German genealogy research. This talk will focus on collections of free digitized German materials and indexes available on the internet, although pay sites are included. Most websites presented are based in Germany, so tips and tricks for navigating them will be included. This talk will help one expand beyond church records for their German research. A dollar sign next to a website name indicates that it requires payment to use.

GENERAL WEBSITES

- **Cyndi's List** – <https://www.cyndislist.com/germany/>. This free link list is great for finding websites related to any genealogical subject. This website has a category specific to Germany.
- **FamilySearch** - <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/location/1927074?region=Germany>. This website holds indexes and digitized records from all over the world. Review the databases available for Germany and check back frequently as updates continue.
- **FamilySearch** - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>. Always check the microfilm and digital collections at *FamilySearch* for the holdings that relate to the town and areas in Germany that you research. A camera next to the microfilm number indicates the records are digitized and may be viewed online.
- **Ancestry** \$ - <https://search.ancestry.com/Places/Europe/Germany/Default.aspx>. Some of the databases on this website are free. Many libraries subscribe to *Ancestry* and allow its patrons to use it for no charge. New databases are frequently added.
- **Verein für Computergenealogie e.V.** - <https://www.genealogy.net/>. This German website holds many tools and databases for genealogical research.
- **Google** – <https://www.google.de/>. Consider using the German version of *Google* to search German websites. Often the search results are more relevant.

DIGITIZED CHURCH RECORDS AND INDEXES

- **Matricula Online** - <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>. This website holds Catholic and Lutheran records for Germany, Austria, Poland, Serbia, Luxembourg, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg** - <https://www2.landesarchiv-bw.de/ofs21/olf/struktur.php?bestand=12390>.

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- **Archion** \$ - <https://www.archion.de/>. Selected Lutheran church records from Germany. It also has some Mennonite and civil records. One must pay to view the records.
- **Listing of church books online, by the Verein für Computer Genealogie** – http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kirchenbücher_online.
- **Groeben church books** - <http://kirchenbuch-groeben.de/>. A single Lutheran parish has posted its records on the internet.
- **AGAD** (Central Archive of Historical Records) - <http://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KsEA439x.xml>. This archive in Warsaw Poland has digitized German records for churches in Volhynia.
- **PRADZIAD** - https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/strona_glowna. The PRADZIAD database has been incorporated into this archive search. PRADZIAD identifies the location of church and civil records held in the various branches of the Polish State Archives and in some Catholic archives. Some of these records are digitized. From this website, enter the town name and select the document type “civil” or “*Akta metrykalne*” to find church and civil records.
- **Poznan Marriage Index** - <http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/>. This is an ongoing project to index marriage from the former Prussian province of Posen. There are no digitized records on this website.
- **Lutheran Central Archive Berlin** - <http://www.ezab.de/kirchenbuecher/kirchenbuch-suche.php> - This website lists Lutheran church records available at this archive. It spans villages in East Prussia, West Prussia, Brandenburg East, Pomerania, Poznan, and Silesia. The digitized records are not available here.
- **FamilySearch German Databases with Images** – <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/location/1927074?region=Germany>
 - Baden, Church Book Duplicates, 1800-1870
 - Prussia, Brandenburg and Posen, Church Book Duplicates, 1794-1874
 - Prussia, Pomerania Church Records, 1544-1945
 - Hesse-Nassau, Civil Registers and Church Books, 1701-1875
 - Brandenburg, Heegermühle, Church Records, 1664-1824
 - Prussia, Pomerania, Labes, Church Records, 1647-1764
 - Prussia, Saxony, Various Protestant Church Records, 1594-1951
 - Plus many more
- **Ancestry German databases** \$ – <http://search.ancestry.com/Places/Europe/Germany/Default.aspx>. See individual German states for relevant databases.

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IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION

- **Ancestry** \$ – <https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/40/>. This website holds an extensive collection of National Archives passenger arrival lists for major ports in the United States beginning in 1820. It also has the “Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934,” “Württemberg, Germany Emigration Index,” and “Brandenburg, Prussia Emigration Records.”
- **Ellis Island** – <https://www.statueofliberty.org/discover/passenger-ship-search/>. This website offers free access to arrival records to New York starting in 1892. To get high-quality images of passenger lists, one must pay.
- **Online German Emigration Records, Lists, and Indexes** - <http://www.germanroots.com/emigration.html>.
- **Auswanderung aus Südwestdeutschland** (Emigration from Southwest Germany) - http://www.auswanderer-bw.de/sixcms/detail.php?template=a_artikel&id=6441&sprache=de. The Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg has published this database of emigrants from Baden, Württemberg, and Hohenzollern.
- **Arbeits-Gruppe Genealogie Schleswig-Holstein** - <https://www.aggsh.de/auswanderung/index.php>. This society’s website contains a few emigrant lists from various areas within Schleswig-Holstein.
- **Genealogy in Schleswig-Holstein** - <https://www.rootdigger.de/Emi.htm>. This is a helpful website managed by Klaus Struve.
- **Emigrants from the Grand Duchy Oldenburg** - <http://www.auswanderer-oldenburg.de/>. The Oldenburgische Gesellschaft für Familienkunde (Oldenburg Society for Family Studies) maintains this list.
- **Emigrants from Lippe to the USA** - <http://www.lippe-auswanderer.de/AuswandererLippe-USA/html/frames.htm>

GERMAN ARCHIVES

- **Archive Portal** - www.archivportal-d.de. Released in September 2014, this portal links to many types of archives in Germany that have an online presence. Every modern German state has at least one archive.

GERMAN LIBRARIES

- **German Digital Library** - <https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/>
- **Other Digital Libraries** - http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Portal:DigiBib/Andere_Digitale_Bibliotheken.

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- ***State Libraries in Germany*** - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_libraries_of_Germany.
- Search for libraries in or near your town of interest by entering the town name + “bibliothek” in a Google search.

MAPS AND GAZETTEERS

- ***Meyer's Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs*** (aka Meyer's Gazetteer) - <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>. Also the book form is digitized and free on *Ancestry.com*: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1074>.
- ***Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen*** (Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Prussia) –This gazetteer aids in finding the location of the church for residents of a given town. Volumes 1–5, 8–9, 11–13 of the 1905 version are digitized at [FamilySearch](#). [HathiTrust](#) has volumes 1–3, 5–13. This is also available in its entirety, though not free, at [Ancestry](#).
- ***Kartenmeister*** – www.kartenmeister.com. This database allows one to search for towns and other points east of the Oder-Neisse Rivers and is based on the eastern provinces as of spring 1918. It helps identify town name changes in this area.
- ***JewishGen Gazetteer*** - <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp>. This helps locate towns throughout Europe when the exact spelling is not known. It also covers parts of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
- ***GOV*** (The Historic Gazetteer) - <http://gov.genealogy.net/search/index>. This is a great tool for determining historical jurisdictions for places in the former German Empire.
- ***Ravenstein Atlas des Deutschen Reichs*** (Ravenstein Atlas of the German Empire) - <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/german/ravenstein/>. This set of maps dates from 1885.
- ***David Rumsey Map Collection*** - <http://www.davidrumsey.com/home>. This collection contains many maps for Germany.
- ***“Germany Topographic Maps, 1860-1965,”*** \$ <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1294>.
- ***Geogen Surname Mapping Tool*** - <http://legacy.stoepel.net/en/>. This maps the locations in Germany of a given surname based on the modern German telephone book.
- ***Town Name Changes as a result of the Treaty of Versailles*** (digitized book) - <http://pbc.gda.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=7346&from=pubstats>. This publication is

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in German, but it allows one to look up a town by its old or new name to discover the associated name.

- ***Urpositionsblätter der Landvermessung Bayern*** (Original position sheets of the Land Survey in Bavaria) - <https://www.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/urpositionsblaetteren>. These beautiful 1:25,000 scale maps date from the early nineteenth century.
- ***Familienforschung in Westpreußen*** (Family Research in West Prussia) – <http://www.westpreussen.de>. Among other things, this website contains a database of places names with information of historical jurisdictions and links to historical maps.
- ***Tacitus - Prussia Maps*** - <http://www.tacitus.nu/historical-atlas/prussia.htm>. This contains a series of maps that shows the evolution of Prussia over time.
- ***Topographic Maps of Eastern Europe*** - <http://easteurotopo.org/>. This website contains a wealth of high-quality maps.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS

- Thode, Ernest. *Historic German Newspapers Online*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2014.
- ***Historic German Newspapers and Journals Online*** - http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Historic_German_Newspapers_and_Journals_Online. These links are maintained by Brigham Young University.
- Lists of digitized German newspapers - https://de.wikisource.org/wiki/Zeitung#Listen_digitalisierter_Zeitungen_.28WS.29

VOCABULARY

Akten – documents/records
Amt – lower administrative district, office
Archiv - archive
Bestände – holdings (of archive)
Bestandübersicht – holdings overview
Bibliothek – library
Bundes – federal
Deutschland – Germany
Dorf – village
Evangelisch – Protestant
Findbuch – finding aid

Findmittel – finding aid
Forschung - research
Freistadt – free city
Gemeindelexikon – gazetteer
Geschichte – history
Gesellschaft – society
Karte – map
Katholisch – Catholic
Kirche – church

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Kreis – a jurisdiction level kind of like a
county in the United States

Königreich – kingdom

Land – state

Recherche – research

Sammlungen – collections

Staat – state

Stadt - city

Standesamt – civil registration district

Verein – society

Zeitschrift – periodical

Zeitung - newspaper

Zweitschriften – duplicate church book