Beginning Swedish Research using ArkivDigital

Objective: Introduce the 5 main church records; learners become familiar with the format of the available church records on ArkivDigital. Participants should be able to navigate ArkivDigital index site to search for ancestors.

5 Main Types of Swedish Church Records

- 1. Birth and Christening Records
- 2. Marriage Records
- 3. Death and Burial Records
- 4. Moving-in and Moving-out Records
- 5. Household Examination Rolls

Records were kept at the parish level. One parish covered approximately 1000 square acres. The population varied from about 200 people in the countryside to a few thousand in more urban areas. The Lutheran church was a state church. Priests and clerks were basically state employees. All records kept by the church were the vital records for the government. The handwriting can be challenging. BYU Script Tutorial page is a great website for learning how to read the writing. https://script.byu.edu/

Birth and Christening Records

Type of Record	Description	Vocabulary Words	
Birth and Christening	By law, christenings took place within 8 days of	Barn/barnet—child	
Records	birth. The child's given name was recorded with no	Oäkta—illegitimate child	
	surname	Äkta—legitimate	
		• Fader—father	
Födelselängd and	May contain:	Moder—mother	
Doplängd	-Name of child	• Född—birth	
	-Date of birth	 Dödfödd—stillborn 	
	-Date of christening	Dopnamn—given name	
	-First and last names of parents	• Foräldrar—parents	
	-Father's occupation	• Hustru—wife	
	-Place of residence	• Döpt—christened	
	-Age of mother	Faddrar—godparent	
	-Witnesses	Vittne/vitten—witness	
		Mankön—male	
		• Qvinna—female	
		Gift—married	
		Ogift—unmarried	

Marriage Records

Type of Record	Description	Vocabulary Words
Marriage Records	Information contained in these records may vary.	•Gift—married
		• Brud—bride
		• Brudgum—groom
	May contain:	• Giftoman—sponsor
Vigsellängd	-First and last names of bride and groom	•Lysning-banns
	-Birth dates or ages for both bride and groom	•lysningslängd-banns register
	-Residences	•lyst-posted banns
	-Parents' names	vigd, vigda, vigde-married
	-Bride's giftoman (sponsor-usually her father)	vigsel-marriage ceremony
	-Banns dates	vigselbok-marriage record

Death and Burial Records

Type of Record	Description	Vocabulary Words
Death and Burial	In the earliest records, the entry was sometimes in	Aflednas namn—deceased's name
Records	paragraph form. Later records were more uniform	Hemvist—residence
	with information listed in tables.	• Från—from
		• Hustru—wife
		• Ålder—age
Dödslängd	May contain:	 Födelse år—birth year
Begravningslängd	-Name of deceased	Begrafs—buried
	-Sometimes parents' or spouse's name	 Död, dödde—dead or died
	-Age at death	 Föräldrar—parents
	-Residence	• Gammal—old
	-Cause of death	• Sjukdom—disease
		• tärande sjukdom-pnemonia
		• lungsot-tuberculosis
		• sotdöd-old age
		• våda-accident
		• pest-plague

Moving In and Out Records

Type of Record	Description	Vocabulary Words
Moving –in and Moving-out Records	This set of records is key to tracing persons who moved from place to place.	•Utflyttades—moving out • Inflyttade—moving in
Moving-out Records Inflyttningslängd and Utflyttningslängd	moved from place to place. When a person or family moved outside the parish, the minister of the parish recorded this in the move-out records and gave a certificate of personal information to the individual to present to the minister of the new parish, who recorded it in the move-in records. The records are in chronological order giving the names of persons moving in to the parish or moving out of the parish. May contain: - Moving dates - The names of individuals and their families - Gender of the individuals - Occupations - The places where the person is coming from and	 Inflyttade—moving in År—year Namn—name Stånd—station or situation Embete—office Yrke—profession Ort—place Socken—parish Län —county Stad—city Mankön—male Quinkön—female Folio—page Uti—in, into, or from outside Hvarifrån—from where
	moving to	

Household Examination Records

Type of Record	Description	Vocabulary Words
Household	The household examination rolls were	•Äktenskap—marital status
Examination	originally for the purpose of keeping track of a	Gift—married
Records	person's religiosity and were taken yearly	• Enkling—widower
		• Enka—widow
	May contain:	Piga or pigan—single girl
	 Names and relationships of family members 	 Dräng—farmhand or bachelor
	Birthdates	Hustru-wife
Husförhörslängder	Places of birth	Arbetare-laborer, worker
	Current residence	Bonde-farmer
	 Possible death dates for members of the 	Torpare-tenant farmer
	household	• Egproperty owner
	Birth of children during the year	
	All household members	
	Occupations	
	Miscellaneous family notes	
	Moving in or out	
	Vaccination against smallpox	
	Around the 1900's the examination rolls	
	became secular and were known as the	
	Församlingsbok.	

Hints for Searching

Spelling- The following letters are sometimes interchangeable in Swedish

V and W C and K I and Y E and A K and Q U and V (after Q)

This is a partial list of possible letter substitutions for a more complete list see: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sweden_Languages#Spelling

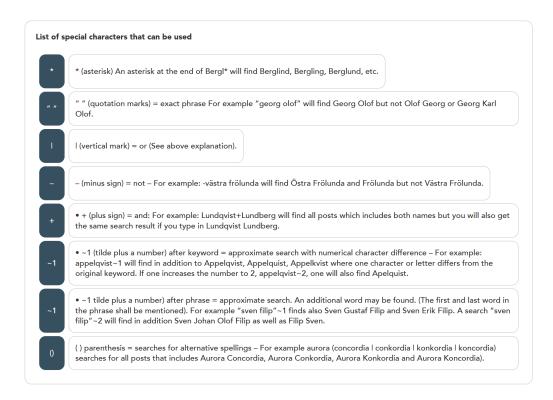
Please note, A is not a substitute for Å or Ä and O is not a substitute for Ö. There are 29 letters in the Swedish alphabet including 8 vowels. The additional vowels are found after Z in the Swedish alphabet.

Names- Most names are patronymic (names derived from an individual's father). However there were other types of surnames present. These names could be influenced by factors such as occupation, location, personal attributes, military service, or nobility. In the late 1800's, Swedes started to transition to fixed surnames. The change was gradual and not fully standardized until the early 20th century.

Dates-When writing dates in ArkivDigital use the "year-month-date" format. For example, 3 April 2024 would be written as 20240403. At times, in the Swedish Church Records, a priest recorded the date of an event by the name of the Fixed or Moveable Feast Date which is based on the liturgical year (the church year) rather than the Julian or Gregorian date that we would recognize. This is especially true in Southern Sweden and areas that formerly belonged to Denmark.

For more information https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden Feast Day Calendars

Special Characters



How to type Swedish characters

PC: Hold down the alt key and press the numbers in order on the number (square grid of numbers) of your keyboard and the release the alt key.

å = Alt + 134

 $\ddot{a} = Alt + 132$

 $\ddot{0} = Alt + 148$

Å = Alt + 143

 $\ddot{A} = Alt + 142$

 $\ddot{O} = Alt + 153$

MAC: Press and release Option and u at the same time and then press the following letter. For uppercase just press shift together with the letter as usual after pressing Option and u.

å = Option + a

 $\ddot{a} = Option + u + a$

 \ddot{o} = Option + u + o

Å = Option + Shift + a

 \ddot{A} = Option + u + Shift + a

 \ddot{O} = Option + u + Shift + o

Other Resources

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Swedish Genealogical Word List

Rootstech Classes

FamilySearch YouTube

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sweden_Genealogy

Download "Google Translate" app. Allow it to use your camera to translate Swedish text