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

Marriage Records

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

Death and Burial Records

Type of Record	Description	Vocabulary Words
Death and Burial Records **Dödslängd** **Begravningslängd**	In the earliest records, the entry was sometimes in paragraph form. Later records were more uniform with information listed in tables. May contain: -Name of deceased -Sometimes parents' or spouse's name -Age at death -Residence -Cause of death	• Aflednas namn—deceased's name • Hemvist—residence • Från—from • Hustru—wife • Ålder—age • Födelse år—birth year • Begrafs—buried • Död, dödde—dead or died • Föräldrar—parents • Gammal—old • 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 **Inflyttningslängd and Utflyttningslängd**	This set of records is key to tracing persons who 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 moving to	**•Utflyttades—moving out** **• 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**

Household Examination Records

Type of Record	Description	Vocabulary Words
Household Examination Records **Husförhörslängder**	The household examination rolls were originally for the purpose of keeping track of a person's religiosity and were taken yearly May contain: • Names and relationships of family members • Birthdates • Places of birth • Current residence • Possible death dates for members of the household • 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.	**•Äktenskap—marital status** **• Gift—married** **• Enkling—widower** **• Enka—widow** **• Piga or pigan—single girl** **• Dräng—farmhand or bachelor** **• Hustru-wife** **• Arbetare-laborer, worker** **• Bonde-farmer** **• Torpare-tenant farmer** **• Eg.-property owner**

Hints for Searching

Spelling- The following letters are sometimes interchangeable in Swedish

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

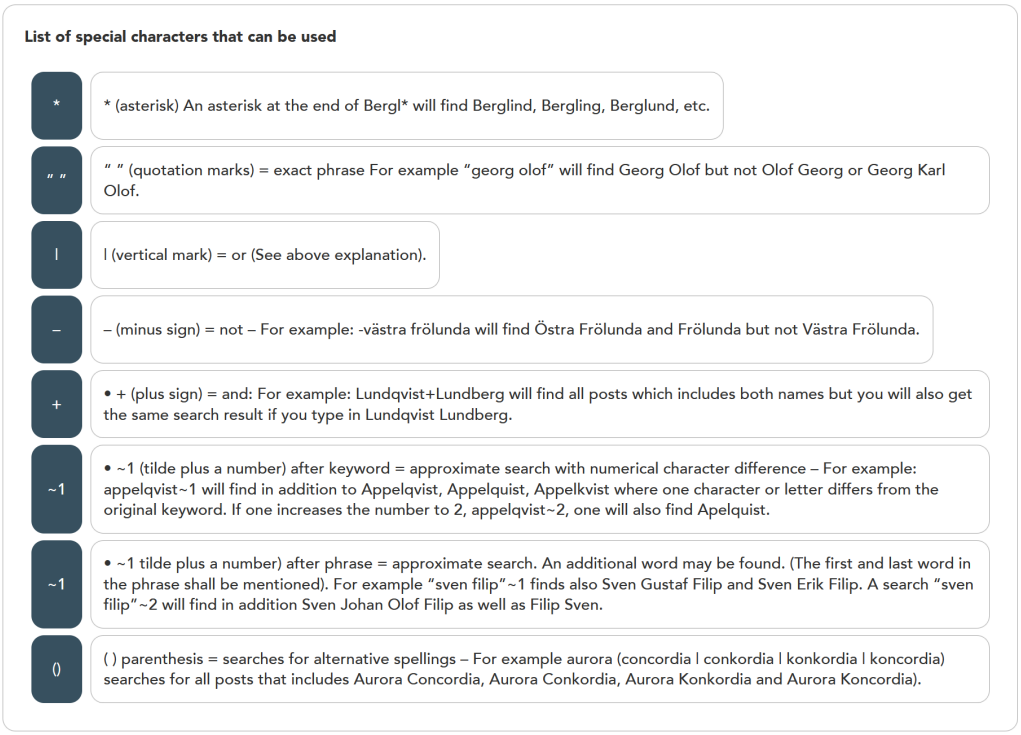
This is a partial list of possible letter substitutions for a more complete list see:
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sweden_Languages#Spelling

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 numpad (square grid of numbers) of your keyboard and the release the alt key.

å = Alt + 134
ä = Alt + 132
ö = Alt + 148
Å = Alt + 143
Ä = Alt + 142
Ö = 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
ä = Option + u + a
ö = Option + u + o
Å = Option + Shift + a
Ä = Option + u + Shift + a
Ö = 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