

Websites to Access German Documents

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Research for Germany is done mainly in church and civil records. Most people throughout time in Germany were Catholic, Lutheran, or Reformed. Unfortunately, there is no one site that contains all or most of these records. However, there are a few sites that contain many of these records. We will look at four of the main sites. This list is in no way all-inclusive, as many archives have their own sites.

- 1- Ancestry.com
This is a subscription site that contains millions of records.
- 2- Archion.de
This is a subscription site that contains Protestant records, many of which are on neither Ancestry.com nor FamilySearch.org.
- 3- Matricula. <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>
This is a free site that contains mainly Catholic records from Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Slovenia and a few neighboring countries.
- 4- FamilySearch.org
This is a free site that contains millions of records. In recent years, some of the records have been locked, i.e. restricted, for various reasons. You may be able to access them by going to your local FamilySearch Center (<https://www.familysearch.org/help/helper/planner/workwith>)
But, they may be restricted there as well.

An advantage to using FamilySearch to find records is that you can easily attach records to your family tree.

Records are continually being added to each of these sites.