



Two Icelandic genealogical databases.
How and in what ways are they valuable for historical
demographers?

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Íslendingabók – The book of Icelanders. My ancestors?

<https://islendingabok.is/>

- A general interest in genalogy
- The Book of Icelanders online and recently also as an app





Databases on population

- Genealogical, medical longitudinal databases
 - Icelandic genetic database
 - The book of Icelanders, deCode genetics
- Cross-sectional (partly longitudinal)
 - Daniel Vasey, censuses and church records (early 1990s)
 - NAI, Minnesota population center, ÓG NAPP,





NAPP – North Atlantic Population Project

Harmonizing international census data

Develop common classification systems for occupation, birthplace, family relationship, and group quarters type that balance the goals of international comparability.

Develop a consistent set of constructed variables describing household composition, family interrelationships, urban and metropolitan residence, and other geographic characteristics.

Document the comparability of census enumeration instructions, procedures and definitions across the five countries.

Create machine-understandable metadata compliant with the Data Documentation Initiative metadata standard.





Availability of nominal Icelandic censuses

Census	Status	Archive – Availability	Coverage	Icelandic pop (1000)	Status in NAPP (ÓG)
1703	Digitized	NAI, Statice	100%	50	Coded
1729	Digitized	University library, Statice	15%	?	Coded
1735	Paper	NAI (dig. version deCode)	Not all listed	44	
1753	Paper	NAI (dig. version deCode)	Not all listed	49	
1762	Paper	NAI (dig. version deCode)	Not all listed	45	
1801	Digitized	NAI	100%	47	Coded
1816 constr.	Paper	NAI (dig. version deCode)	100%	48	
1835	Digitized	NAI	100%	56	
1840	Digitized	NAI	100%	57	



Availability of Icelandic censuses, cont.

Census	Status	Archive – Availability	Coverage	Icelandic pop (1000)	Status in NAPP (ÓG)
1845	Digitized	NAI	100%	58	Coded
1850	Digitized	NAI	100%	60	In progress
1855	Digitized	NAI	100%	64	In progress
1860	Digitized	NAI	100%	68	
1870	Digitized	NAI	Ca 80%	68	
1880	Digitized	NAI	100%	72	Coded
1890	Digitized	NAI	100%	71	Coded
1901	Digitized	NAI	100%	78	Coded
1910	Digitized	NAI	100%	85	Coded
1920	Digitized	NAI	100%	93	Coded



Availability of Icelandic Nominal Censuses

Census	Status	Archive – Availability	Coverage	Icelandic pop (1000)	Status in NAPP (ÓG)
1930	Paper	NAI	100%	106	
1940	Paper	NAI	100%	120	
1950	Paper	NAI	100%	141	
1960	Paper	NAI	100%	174	
1981	Digitized, Coded by Statice	Statice	100%	229	
2011	Register based	Statice	100%	319	





Icelandic Genealogy Database, University of Iceland
established in 1965 (University, National registry). All
Icelanders back to 1840

- National registry. Status at end of year 1952
- Census 1910
- Additional information from:
 - Certificates on marriages, births and deaths available at the National registry 1910s onwards
 - Church registers (same info) and censuses 1845 onwards
 - Currently updated regularly with National registry





Icelandic genealogical database – main variables

- Name
- Place of birth
- Legal status at birth
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Date of marriage
- Link: Biological children
- Link: Father
- Link: Mother





Íslendingabók – Creation of a boook of Icelanders, collaborationa with deCode genetics

- Friðrik Skúlason (FRISK) (anti-virus software company) creation of Espolin for genaolgists in 1988
- Since 1997 a subcontractor for deCode genetics to create a database for genetic and medical research
- Access to information from various registers, among other medical registers





Creation of Íslendingabók

- A basis for the database: Censuses 1703, 1801 and 1910
- Additional information from
 - Censuses (1729, "1816", 1835, 1845, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1901 og 1930. Future: 1735, 1753 og 1762 censuses)
 - Church records
 - All kinds of contemporary (historical, sometimes literary evidence on relationships).
 - Retrieves information from the National registry on regular basis.





Book of Icelanders

- 380 thousand who were born in Iceland from 1800 to the present day (almost full count). 830 thousand from the settlement period onwards (half of all Icelanders since the settlement according to FS)
- Vital events, genaological information (see Icelandic genealogical database)
- Historical sources, literary evidence, Text strings with additional info on the indiviudal (for ex. Occupation (arbitrary))



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Collaboration between historians and deCode and / or IGD?

- Funding issues: Coasts a problem
- Mostly for genetic research (variables interesting for social historians not readily available)
- Little collaboration with historians
- Collaboration around linking and addition of variables into the deCode database (occupation, place of birth, etc....)

