

Matricula: Greatly Expanded
Catholic Records Research
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11 February 2026

1. What were the recent updates on
Matricula Genealogy site?

Matricula Online is continually expanding its collection of digitized church records, primarily focusing on Catholic dioceses in Europe.

New Church Books and

Registers: Archives continue to digitize and add new registers (birth/baptism, marriage, and death records) from the dioceses they already cover, such as those in **Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Poland, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Luxembourg, and Italy (South Tyrol).**

Expansion within Dioceses: Specific dioceses, particularly in **Germany** (like Regensburg, Eichstätt, Rottenburg-Stuttgart, and others), have been mentioned in recent discussions as having new batches of records added, often expanding the parish coverage or the date range available online.

Specific Recent Example (Note the date): One snippet mentioned an update for the **Archdiocese of Maribor, Slovenia**, with a new marriage book added.

2. Finding the Updates

Find the very latest information and browse for new additions, your best approach is to:

Visit the Matricula Online homepage: Look for a "What's New" or "News" section, or a direct announcement.

Browse the "Fonds" (Holdings)

section: Check the list of countries and dioceses. If you know which area you are interested in, you can see if the total number of parishes or registers has recently increased.

Check independent genealogy news

sources or forums: Genealogical blogs and forums often announce specific new additions to Matricula as soon as they are released.

3. Since August 2024, there have been hundreds of update announcements.

Matricula continues to expand their records. Almost 100% of Austrian Catholic church records have been completed. German records are expanding rapidly.

4. <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>

Welcome to **Matricula!**

Here you can find church registers (mostly books of birth, marriage and death) from various European countries (currently Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Italy, Serbia and Slovenia).

Started by **ICARUS** (International Center For Archival Research) an Austrian based group.

5. Matricula

Clearly, the church registers of the individual religious communities are among the most used and also best explored historical sources that exist. This portal opens an innovative and service-oriented way for accessing those invaluable historical

sources on a cross-border and interdenominational basis.

For more information continue to the website: www.Matricula-online.eu

6. Time to concentrate on Matricula.

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss and research **Matricula**. We will look at church documents in Europe.

The quality of the images is superior to many of those seen on FamilySearch.org

<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>

7. Here are the numbers for Matricula

8,200 Parishes, 50,000 Books, 56,000,000 Digital Images, More than 15,000 Users each day.

Germany: 4,771 Parishes & Archives

Austria: 2,758 Parishes & Archives

Other Countries: 914 Parishes & Archives

8. Digital Scanning vs 35mm Microfilming

Digital Scanning can capture the image in **color**.

35mm Microfilming generally only captures the image in **Black & White**.

9. The original document usually yellows with age. This adds character to the document.

10. Matricula: The Starting Page

11. Search Symbols in Matricula

Resources Map Location Search

12. What on earth are Fonds?

In Archival science, it is a group of documents that share a common origin and are a natural result of an agency, individual, or organization's daily operations.

In an archive's hierarchical description system, Fonds are at the top level, with subsequent levels becoming more descriptive and narrower.

13. FONDS (Archive Places)

14. How has Matricula grown?

Key Growth Milestones

The expansion of Matricula has happened in distinct waves as various European dioceses and state archives joined the project:

2009 (Launch): Started as a pilot project by ICARUS (*International Centre for Archival Research*), initially featuring records from a few Austrian dioceses (such as St. Pölten and Vienna) and German dioceses like Passau and Hildesheim.

2012–2015: Significant expansion into Germany and Austria. By 2012, roughly 6,600 registers were digitized, though not all were immediately available online.

2017–2019: A major redesign occurred, and several large collections were added, including archives from Poland (Wrocław), Luxembourg, and additional German regions like Vechta (2019).

2020–Present: The growth has accelerated. Records from Italy (South Tyrol), Serbia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have been integrated. Most recently, the

Archdiocese of Würzburg began adding its massive collection (roughly 2,000 volumes) in late 2024 and 2025. **Nearly all of the Austrian Catholic records** have been added.

15. The change in Archives in two years 2024 - 2026 +4,481 archives added.

16. MAP: Each number is the number of archives or parishes.

17. Search for Olfen, Germany

18. Olfen, Germany 1650-1934

19. Right click and select “Translate to English”

20. St. Vitas Catholic Church, Olfen, Germany

21. Olfen, St. Vitas Index for Christenings: Richter and Hennigfeld

22. 1728 Christening of Alexander Joseph Henningfeldt.

23. 1739 Marriage Document:
Henrichenburg
L-R: Matricula vs LDS Microfilm

24. 17 October 1778 christening of Maria Catharina Struman.

Matricula	LDS Microfilm
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25. 1804 Marriage of William Henningfeldt & Maria Catharine Struman at Olfen.

Matricula	LDS Microfilm
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26. Olfen, St. Vitus Church: 1816
Christening of my Great-Great
Grandmother: Cath. Elisab. Richter

27. Olfen, St. Vitus Church: 1810
Christening of my Great-Great Grandfather:
Franz Arnold Henningfeld

28. #16 Marriage of Franz Arnold
Henningfeld to Elisabeth Richter

29. Index for marriages: Guthoff – Peiler
at the bottom of page

30. Marriage record of Theodor Guthoff to
Elisabeth Peiler 18 JUN 1817 at Rhynern,
Westfalen, Germany My G-G-G-GP

31. Geithe, St. Antonius v. Padua

32. Hint: **Right click** and select
“**Translate to English**”.

33. Marriage **Index** of my Great-Great
Grandparents at Geithe, Germany 1846:
Anton Stratmann to Anna Maria Elisabeth
Guthoff

34.- 36. View of Geithe and St. Antonius
Church. St. Antonius Church built in 1771.
St. Antonius Church and surrounding
Village of Geithe, Hamm, Germany.

37. #3. Marriage of Anton Stratmann to
Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff 1846.

38. Close-up of left side of page...

39. ...Close-up of right side of page

40. Time for a surprise!

I was looking for the marriage of my Great -
Great Grandparents Anton Stratmann and
Elisabeth Guthoff....

41. Anton Stratmann’s marriage to the
“WIDOW” Anna Maria Elisabeth nee
Guthoff, **Bruggemann** 19 FEB1846

42. Right side of document

43. No one mentioned that Elisabeth was married before her marriage to Anton.

My research took on a new twist.

I needed to find information about a man named Bruggemann without a first name or a place.

44. Marriage **index** and I found Johann Peter Bruggemann's marriage to Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff.

45. Close up of left side. Johann is 30 and Elisabeth is 24. Married 20 MAY 1843.

46. Close up of right side

47. #23 Lists the death of Peter Bruggemann age 31, husband of Elisabeth Guthoff. He died **1 yr 6 mo 21 days** after the marriage.

48. Death Index: I found Anton Stratmann Died in 1858 page 52

49. #18 Death record of Anton Stratmann age 44, in 1858. He died 12 years after his marriage to Elizabeth Guthoff.

50. Close up of #18 Death of Anton Stratmann age 44

51. Anton Stratmann is buried at the Cemetery at Geithe, Hamm, Germany

52. So Anton Stratman died in 1858. Looking at the Castle Garden, NY records I found the following:

On June 19, 1869, at the age of 50, Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff Stratman **Heitkemper** arrived at the Port of New York on board the ship S.S. Hermann.

Traveling with her were her two sons Carl **Stratman**, age 20 years, and Heinrich Friedrich **Heitkemper** aged 7 years. This was the same ship that her daughter Clara **Stratman** sailed on one year earlier in 1868.

Yikes! Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff married 3 times.

53. I needed to check for a third marriage.

Back to Matricula.

54. 3rd marriage of Elisabeth age 39 (widow) Stratmann to Friedrich Heitkemper age 26. Married 4 mo, 23 days after Anton died.

55. Right side of document

56. Conclusions

Matricula is a great website. The clarity of the church records is sharp, in focus, and often in natural color. The site is constantly expanding.

Matricula is easy to use but is not searchable by your ancestor's name.

The site is strong in Austria, Germany, Slovenia, and Luxembourg.

Here is what I added to my family history.

57. Are There Any Questions?