

Search Aberdeen Registers

Basic 'how to search' guide

Search Aberdeen Registers (SAR) presents the *Aberdeen Registers Online 1398-1511* (ARO) digital transcription alongside images of the corresponding pages of the registers. SAR includes powerful search functions, including automatic search suggestions drawn from the transcription itself.

Which browser? SAR may work best in Internet Explorer, Chrome and Firefox. For example, these browsers may be more effective at highlighting a search term when clicking through to an individual result from the results display.

Get started. Simply type some letters into the main search field on the homepage and you will see suggestions appear. Pick one and click on the search icon and this will take you to the results page. Click one of the results to go to the transcription entry and the corresponding page image.

Advanced search. This allows you to set your search criteria to allow for more concise results:

- Content. Specify words, phrases or strings of characters to search within the ARO transcription text.
- Language. Restrict your search to words marked up within the ARO transcription as a particular language (Scots, Latin, Dutch).
- Spelling variants. Specify how much variation you wish to allow from the search query. The number represents the number of different characters allowed.
- Volume, Page and Paragraph. Search across all volumes of the registers or constrain your search to specific volumes, pages and paragraphs (entries) within the corpus. The default is all volumes.
- Date. Set a search range between two dates.
- Entry ID. This allows you to search for or within specific entries within the corpus.
 - For example, enter 'ARO-6-0615-01' and click the search icon. The result gives that specific entry only.
 - If instead you enter 'ARO-6-0615*'. The result gives all the entries on that page.
 - You can also combine this restriction with the other fields. For instance, search for 'ARO-6-0615*' in this field with 'haldin' in the Content field. Two results appear.
- Search Method. Search method gives you a number of different search options:
 - Keywords: words in the search query will be treated separately.
 - Phrase: words in the search query will be searched in sequence.
 - Word start: searches for words that begin with the same string as the search query.
 - Word middle: searches for words that have the same middle section as the search query string.
 - Word end: searches for words that have the same end as the search query string.
 - Regular expression: Examples of regular expression searches:
 - The regular expression `[a|A]lex...` will match any string which has `a` or `A` followed by `lex` and any 3 characters. (E.g. "*alexander*", "*Alexander*" or "*Alexandri*")
 - The regular expression `Willelmus.*Jacobi` will match any string which starts with *Willelmus* and ends with *Jacobi*.

Ordering search results ('Order By'). There are a number of options to sort the search results. These options are presented in the drop-down menu called 'Order by' in the search results view:

- Volume, Page ascending: Shows the search results in ascending order by page and volume.
- Volume, Page descending: Shows the search results in descending order by page and volume.
- Chronological: Sorts search results by date in chronological order.
- Frequency within result: results which have a higher number of occurrences of the search term are displayed first.

Browse the ARO. Select 'Browse' from the top menu and you will be able to browse through the registers page by page. Within browse view the menus at left enable selection of volume and page, and the main display is the text of the entries on the selected page. Click on 'view page' to switch to the view with the same text displayed alongside the corresponding image.

Custom entry selection and PDF download.

Entries are displayed with the option to 'add to selected'. When this box is ticked, the entry is added to your custom selection. Once you have added one or more entries to your selection, with the 'Browse' feature you can choose to 'view selected'. From this custom selection view, there is also an option to download as a PDF files the text of the selected entries.

XQuery. This feature is for users interested in running queries on the XML data. Select 'XQuery' from the top menu and this presents a search interface for XQuery and XPath expressions. You can create your own queries to return highly customisable data. Examples of queries are given below the input field.

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