

## Using the Dutch Website *Wiewaswie*

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*Wiewaswie* is a free, collective database drawn from numerous provincial, regional, and city archives in the Netherlands and some of its former territories; it includes information about 85 million persons from many types of records. The most important record types for beginning researchers include baptism, birth, marriage, death, and burial records. These records cover the period from the 17th to the 20th centuries. However, not all records from this period are included.

A critical date for Dutch research is 1811, when civil registration was imposed on the Netherlands by the French. Before that time, church records were the primary source of records, although a few areas had already begun civil registration.

*Wiewaswie* is available only in Dutch; there is no English interface. Therefore, researchers must know some Dutch terms. (See the wordlist at the end of this handout.)

### Dutch Names

- Dutch names are characterized by a wide variety of items that might be unfamiliar to some researchers. One of the most common is an additional element called a *tussenvoegsel* (or prefix). For example, in the name Dick Van Dyke, “van” is the *tussenvoegsel*. When searching in Dutch websites, be aware that there is a separate search box for the *tussenvoegsel* in addition to the given name and surname search boxes.
- The Dutch also sometimes used a patronym, sometimes as a last name, such as in Jan Willems, and sometimes as a middle name, as in Jan Willems Zijlstra. (In these examples, Willems comes from Jan’s father’s name—Willem.) Keep in mind that not everyone had a *tussenvoegsel* or patronym.
- Dutch names often have a wide variety of spellings. For example, Hendricks could be spelled as Hendriks, Hendrickx, Hendrix, Hendricx, Hendrics. The way to solve this problem without searching for each name individually is to use a wildcard.

Use an asterisk (\*) to represent multiple letters. If you search for Hendri\*, all the Hendricks name forms shown above and any other spellings that begin with “Hendri” would be found.

Use a question mark (?) to represent one letter. If you search for Jans?en, you would find both Janssen and Janszen.

### Searching the Website

To search the website, follow these steps:

Step 1. Go to [wiewaswie.nl/en/home](http://wiewaswie.nl/en/home).

Step 2. On the main page of the website, in the blue box, click **Uitgebreid zoeken** (advanced search).

Step 3. When the search page opens, type the relevant information in the search boxes, and then click **Zoeken** (search). You can limit your search by many criteria, such as names, occupations, roles of the person in the document, time periods, and places. The amount and type of information you include will determine what you see in your search results. Try adding or deleting information to get different results.

Step 4. Once you click Zoeken, you will see a list of returns that match your search criteria. The headings include the surname, first name, patronymic, place, date, and record type. Click the **surname** of a person on the list of search results to see extracted information from the person's record.

Many records link to documents that are available for viewing. You must have an account to see scanned documents.

## Opening an Account

To open an account, follow these instructions:

Step 1. Go to the homepage, and click **Mijn home** (my home), which is near the top of the page.

Step 2. When the registration page opens, enter your information in the boxes, read the subscription information by clicking the **Abonnementen** (subscription) button and the **voorwaarden** (terms and conditions) and **privacyreglement** (privacy policy) links. Then click **Registreer** (register). You will be sent an email that you will use to confirm your registration. If you need a translation of anything on the website, you can use Google Translate for help: [translate.google.com](http://translate.google.com).

For a word list, see "Netherlands Language and Languages" at [FamilySearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Netherlands\\_Language\\_and\\_Languages](http://FamilySearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Netherlands_Language_and_Languages).