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Review of the book German Census Records 1816-1916: The When, Where, and How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource

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Minert, Roger P. **German census records 1816–1916: the when, where, and how of a valuable genealogical resource.** Family Roots Publishing, 2016. 250p index ISBN 9781628590784 cloth, \$69.95; ISBN 9781628590777 pbk, \$34.95

Church historian Minert (Brigham Young Univ.), author or coauthor of dozens of books on German genealogy, such as the third edition of *The German Research Companion* (2010), here begins with a detailed overview of how census-type information began to be collected as early as the 17th century in some German states. Although the registering of vital records began more formally in the areas under French military occupation (1798–1815), it became more widespread in states participating in

customs unions. The book's largest section covers census records in individual German states between 1816 and 1864, where the author explains how to access records, gives the years of each state census (from Anhalt to Württemberg), and provides a table showing the exact type of information gathered in each (whether every person in the household is named, occupations, religion, etc.). Other features include numerous facsimiles of documents as well as sample letters to use when writing to local archives in Germany, France, and Poland. Minert completely refutes the notion that German censuses only counted numbers of inhabitants or did not exist prior to the formation of the German empire. Recommended for libraries with large genealogy and European history collections. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Researchers/faculty; professionals/practitioners.—*J. A. Drobnicki, York College, CUNY*