

Slavery in Suriname. A Reconstruction of Life Courses, 1830–1863

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HISTORICAL LIFE COURSE STUDIES

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SLAVERY IN SURINAME

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ABSTRACT

The *slavenregisters* or slave registers of Suriname offer a unique perspective on the social and demographic history of a people in bondage. Thanks to a citizen science project, the archival sources were transcribed in 2017 by hundreds of volunteers. The transcriptions were used to create a longitudinal database of more than 90,000 enslaved persons. This paper describes the sources, data entry, and cleaning to create a standardized database as well as the matching needed to construct life courses. We discuss the best practices we have learned along the way. Finally, it offers prospects for research and expansion of the database to other population sources and areas.

Keywords: Slavery, Suriname, Life courses, Citizen science, Record linkage

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1 INTRODUCTION

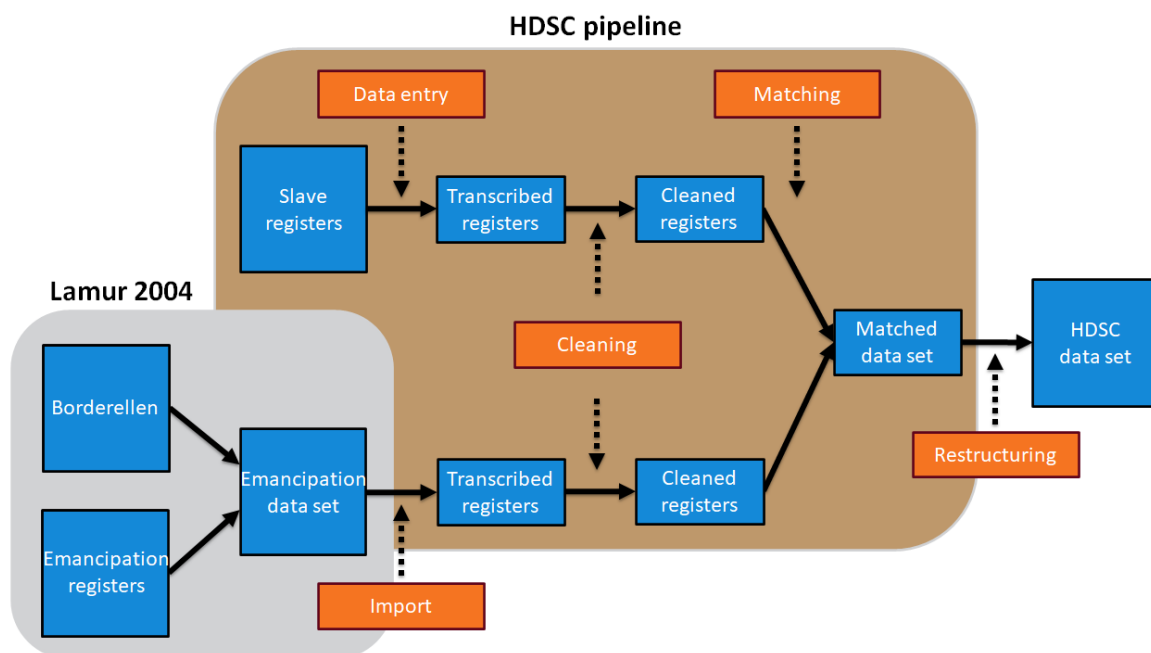
In recent decades a growing corpus of population databases enables large-scale population research by reconstructing the life courses of sizable groups of people in the 19th and 20th centuries. However, these databases are almost all concentrated on Europe, the Western Offshoots and East Asia (see for a recent overview [Mandemakers, 2023](#)). Excellent research has been done on the demography of enslaved populations. Examples are Higman (1976, 1984) and Meridith John (1988) on the Caribbean; Menard (1975) and Margo and Steckel (1982) on North America; and Lamur (1981, 1987), van Stipriaan (1993, pp. 310–346) and Everaert (1999, 2013) on Suriname. Yet, the attention of historians of colonialism and slavery has largely shifted towards their cultural impact. Furthermore, recent large databases that have been created on slavery and the slave trade tend to focus on experiences or on specific events, not on the life courses of the individuals involved (Eltis, Halbert, & Misevich, 2018; [Enslaved.org, 2018](#); [Hall & Draper, 2019](#); [Lovejoy, 2015](#); [Midlo Hall, Hawthorne, & Mitchell, 2019](#)). The Historical Database of Suriname and the Caribbean (HDSC) is an attempt to bridge both types of databases.

The aim of the HDSC is to reconstruct the entire population of the former Dutch colonies Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles between 1830 and 1950. Reconstructing the lives of Surinamese enslaved people between 1830 and 1863 is the first step of this ambitious project. This article discusses how the first part of this database was built, in particular using the slave registers, which were linked to the Emancipation database (Lamur, 2004). A large part of the population (about 70%) of Suriname was enslaved until the abolition of slavery on July 1, 1863.

The slave registers were an attempt by the Dutch government in the early 19th century to create a complete accounting of enslaved people. The intention was to track every individual through time from one slave owner to another as long as she or he was in slavery. This means that, for Suriname, there is information not only on enslaved people on some large plantations, but also on enslaved people who worked in households, in workshops and even in churches. Such comprehensive material is available for almost no other colonial context and certainly not over such a long period.

On top of that, people released from slavery were immediately entered in the civil registry in the Dutch colonies. This included both persons freed when slavery ended in Suriname in 1863, and manumitted persons who were freed before the end of slavery. That means we can continue to track them after the end of slavery. Because surnames were compulsory in the civil registers and enslaved persons were not allowed to have surnames, in 1863 all of them received new surnames and often new first names as well. Registers of these new names were created in 1863. Lamur (2004) used these registers with lists of all enslaved persons from 1862 to create his Emancipation database. We have used this database with the permission of the author. Figure 1 shows the Lamur 2004 and HDSC pipeline.

Figure 1 *Flow chart of the construction of the Historical Database of Suriname and the Caribbean*



In this paper, we will first discuss the institutional setting of the Historical Database of Suriname and the Caribbean. Furthermore, we discuss the origins and the peculiarities of the slave registers. Then we will describe step by step the way the data were collected, cleaned, and matched. Finally, we discuss the output formats and the possibilities and limitations of the reconstructed life courses of enslaved people for research. We end with some concluding remarks.

Figure 1 gives an overview of the step-by-step process of transforming the slave registers, borderel, and emancipation registers into the dataset. Sources, the cleaned databases, and matched registrations/releases are all stored separately (see e.g., [Mandemakers & Dillon, 2004](#)).

2 THE HISTORICAL DATABASE OF SURINAME AND THE CARIBBEAN: INSTITUTIONAL SETTING

The Historical Database of Suriname and the Caribbean (HDSC) Foundation was established in order to publish databases of the population of Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean. Its aim is to reconstruct the entire population of the former Dutch colonies Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean between 1830 and 1950. These databases are both constructed for historical and demographic research and for a general audience, more specific for genealogy, education and cultural projects. For researchers, charting mortality, family formation and migration of as many individuals as possible offers the unique opportunity to study demographic and social processes in colonial, tropical societies.

The HDSC is founded in the Netherlands and embedded in the Radboud University in Nijmegen, where the HDSC technical staff works. The Members of the Board consist of historians and archivists from Suriname, Curacao and the Netherlands. The HDSC functions as a network, in which it participates with different partners in subprojects. Partners of the HDSC are, among others, the National Archives of Suriname, Curacao and the Netherlands and the Anton de Kom University of Suriname. The HDSC's core principle is the full and open availability of data for both scholarly research and the general public. This principle addresses the disparity in data accessibility between Dutch and Caribbean researchers. It is also a recognition that the data does not belong to the HDSC. It is a shared heritage of the peoples of Suriname, the Dutch Caribbean and the Netherlands.

In 2017, the HDSC started as a Surinamese-Dutch crowdfunding and citizen science project called "Maak de Surinaamse slavenregisters openbaar" [Make the Surinamese slave registers public]. The successful crowdfunding campaign, together with additional funding by the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Stichting Democratie en Media and CLARIAH, made it possible to digitize the slave registers by the National Archives of Suriname and to fund the use of the online citizen science platform Vele Handen (www.velehanden.nl). Although commercial, this platform was chosen, because it is also used by many Dutch archives and many volunteers were already familiar with Vele Handen.

Online transcription allowed participants from all over the world to join and transcribe the slave registers from home. A citizen science project was preferred in order to involve a broad audience and news media in the project, and to create public awareness of the role of slavery in Dutch history. Moreover, it would limit transcription costs in both time and money, and consequently make the data rather quickly available to a large audience ([Bonney et al., 2009](#); [Cohn, 2008](#); [Franzoni & Sauermann, 2014](#); [Irwin, 1995](#)).

Considerable effort was made to involve a wide audience in the project, with the intention to recruit many volunteers so that the pace of processing data would remain high. In this way, we hoped to avoid the usual pitfalls of citizen science projects, such as a difficulty to attract volunteers, dwindling interest during the project or concerns about the quality of the volunteers ([Bone et al., 2012](#); [Crall et al., 2017](#); [Sauermann & Franzoni, 2015](#); [van Galen, 2019](#)). More than 600 Dutch and Surinamese volunteers were recruited through social media and news broadcasts. A core group of 328 participants stayed during the entire project and became experts in reading the Surinamese slave registers. Thanks to this large number of participants, the 17,500 scans of the Surinamese slave registers were transcribed within four months, resulting in publication of the database on the websites of the Dutch and Surinamese National Archives in 2018–2019 ([van Galen, A.B., Mourits, & Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, 2019](#)).

The datasets built by the HDSC can be used independently, but also combined to follow groups or individuals through time, even over multiple generations. Furthermore, the HDSC will release auxiliary datasets that are used to clean variables in the slave and emancipation registers, such as an overview of existing plantation names and available occupational titles. Additional datasets, such as the Suriname plantation dataset (Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, van Galen, & Swaters, 2023), will help to further enhance the research capabilities of this database. Standardization of occupations will require the development of a specific thesaurus of unfree labour that will also be applicable elsewhere in the Caribbean for historical populations in slavery, as the labour structure, occupational titles, and meaning of occupational titles can differ considerably from western populations.

In addition to improving the current database of the Surinamese slave and emancipation registers, the HDSC will develop in two directions. The first direction is to expand the database through time by linking it to the civil registry so that the descendants of former enslaved people, as well as those of former slave owners, can be tracked down through the generations (Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, Mourits, van Oort, & van Galen, 2023). Due to privacy regulations, the limit has been set at 1950 for now, making long-term processes over five generations visible. The second direction is to include other archival sources, such as the manumission registers and the registers of contract workers from China, India, Indonesia and the Caribbean, people who came to Suriname to replace the enslaved workers on the plantations. Collectively, these sources will provide greater insight into the changing multicultural colonial society that was Suriname.

The HDSC will also develop into a much broader database by including the population of the Dutch Caribbean. A database of the slave registers and emancipation records of Curacao, has already been published (Langeveld, van Galen, Quanjer, & Paul, 2020). The data on Curacao will also be expanded to include information on the population up to 1950. Publications on other islands such as St. Eustatius and Aruba are also published (Arends, Raaijmakers, Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, & van Galen, 2023; Raaijmakers, & van Galen, 2023). However, societies in the Caribbean are not isolated and can only be properly studied by taking into account migration patterns that often ignored national boundaries. Hence, an inventory of relevant sources in areas outside the Dutch colonial context, such as the Danish Virgin Islands, the English and French Caribbean, the Dominican Republic and elsewhere, is being prepared.

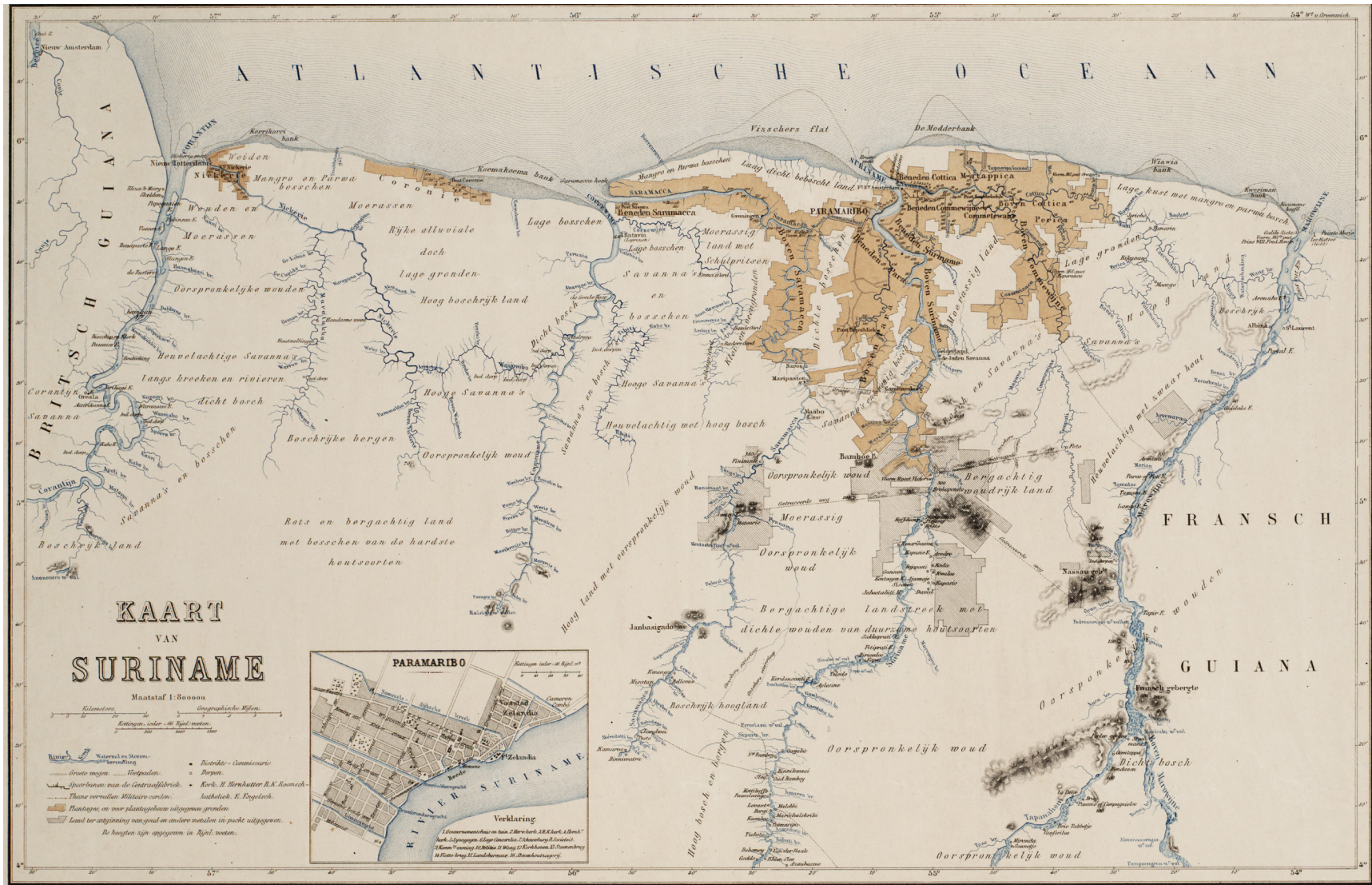
3 SOURCES

The Surinamese slave registers were introduced in 1826 to counteract the illegal trans-Atlantic slave trade. This decision was made under pressure from the British government (van Galen & Hassankhan, 2018). During the Napoleonic wars, the British had occupied the Dutch colonies in the Americas. In 1815, the colony of Suriname (see Figure 2) was returned to the Dutch after the establishment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, provided that the Netherlands accepted a ban on the trans-Atlantic slave trade which was already in force in the British colonies (Buddingh, 2022). As smuggling continued into the 1820s, the slave registers were introduced to curb the illegal international slave trade by registering all enslaved persons.

The Surinamese slave registers list the enslaved persons that were owned by plantations or private slave owners. Individuals owned by the colonial government were only registered after 1850. The books give information about the lives of approximately 90,000 enslaved individuals, 375 plantations, and over 3,500 private owners. Changes in ownership and vital events were duly noted, so that, at least in theory, the number of enslaved persons per owner was known for each point in time between 1830 and 1863. This contrasts with British slave registers in the region, which registered enslaved populations via a census every three years (Higman, 1984, pp. 6–15).

The slave registers of Suriname were kept up-to-date by a special civil servant in Paramaribo, who recorded each enslaved individual's personal information and changes in ownership (see Figure 3). Every so often, information that was still relevant was transcribed into new register books to keep the registration orderly. After an initial phase from 1826 onwards, four series of the Surinamese slave register came into being: 1830–1838, 1838–1848, 1848–1851, 1851–1863, referred to in this paper as series 1 to 4 (see Table 1).

Figure 2 Suriname around 1882



Source: *Kuyper & Heyse, ca. 1882.*

Note: Even if this map was produced after the period under consideration, it depicts the plantation areas that were active during the 19th century (marked in brown). It also shows the vast acreage that was never cultivated for commercial plantations.

Figure 3 Example of slave registers series 2 (1838–1848)

No Fol. 4890

ANNO 1841.

NUMMER van Opgaaf. *Stuger geboren Bruining Weal J.L.*

NAMES.	GESLACHT.		OUDERDOM.	DATUM VAN AANGIFTE DER MUTATIES.			MUTATIEN EN DERTELVER RESULTATEN VAN VERMEERDERING VERMINDERING				Aanmerkingen.	
	Mannelijk.	Vrouwelijk.		Jaar.	Dag.	Maand.	Gehoorde.	VERMEERDERING		Overlijden		Verkoop of anderen titel.
								naar	van			
<i>Cornelia</i>		X		1841	1	Mei						<i>By Verkoop onder naam Beklaan van: Montina</i>
<i>Unico August</i>	X			1841	7	April						<i>Unico August Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Edward Charles</i>	X			1841	7	April						<i>Edward Charles Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Charlotte Christina</i>		X		1841	7	April						<i>Charlotte Christina Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Anna Saraatje</i>		X		1841	7	April						<i>Anna Saraatje Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Elizabeth Henriette</i>		X		1841	7	April						<i>Elizabeth Henriette Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Geertruida Esther</i>		X		1841	7	April						<i>Geertruida Esther Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Annette Josephine</i>		X		1841	7	April						<i>Annette Josephine Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Theodorus Hugo</i>		X		1841	7	April						<i>Theodorus Hugo Hoogberg. v.c.</i>
<i>Pemiere</i>		X		"	7	July						
<i>Sina</i>		/		"	"	"						
<i>Louis</i>		X		1845	20	September						<i>Louis v.c. Hoogberg.</i>
<i>Mimie</i>		/		1845	29	Mei						<i>Mimie v.c. Hoogberg.</i>
<i>Flink</i>		X		1845	10	October						<i>Flink v.c. Hoogberg.</i>
<i>Arantuur</i>		X		1846	21	February						<i>Arantuur v.c. Hoogberg.</i>
<i>Adriaan</i>		/		"	"	"						
<i>Marius</i>		/		"	"	"						
<i>Pinto</i>		X		"	5	Augustus						<i>Pinto v.c. Hoogberg.</i>

Note: Entry in the slave register series 2 for the private slave owner widow L.J. Stuger née Bruining. On top, the name of the slave owner and the page number ("folio number") are mentioned, and the year this record started. Underneath from left to right, there are columns for names of enslaved, sex, date of mutation, the most common types of mutations (birth, purchase, death, sale) and remarks. People sold by the widow Stuger were struck off this entry and transferred to the entry of the new owner. Because information on enrollment and deregistration had to be entered on the same line in the register, the entries could easily become cluttered, as this example shows. For this reason, the registers were renewed every 4 to 10 years. This specific type of register was in use between 1838 and 1848 (NAS inventory number 41, folio 4890).

Roughly 75% of all enslaved were part of a plantation. In Suriname this meant that the workforce had to stay together. Plantation owners were allowed to buy and sell plantations, including the enslaved workforce, but they were not allowed to sell off enslaved individuals from their plantations without the explicit permission of the government. Because of this special legal status, a strict distinction was maintained between plantations and private slave owners, who were registered in separate books.

The other 25% of the enslaved population were privately owned. They could be bought and sold freely within the colony, as long as mothers and their children were not sold separately. Privately owned enslaved persons sold to plantations changed legal status. Until the start of series 4 in 1851, people owned by the government were not registered in the slave registers. This was deemed unnecessary because the government itself did not pay head tax and did not consider itself at risk for involvement in illegal slave trade. In the 1850s, the percentage of government owned people was roughly 1.3% of all enslaved. They mostly worked on the government plantation Catharina Sophia. Others worked for the army or as servants for the government.

All series taken together, the slave registers consisted of 56 volumes, split into 24 books for plantations and 32 books for private slave owners, see Table 1. Although privately owned enslaved persons were a minority, the larger number of books for private slave owners was necessary, because each individual slave owner had a page (folio) in the register, even if she or he owned only one person. Furthermore, names of private slave owners changed frequently over time, while plantations mostly stayed in existence and only a few new plantations were added between 1830 and 1863. Of the 56 books, 15 volumes did not survive and some books are very damaged, mainly from the older series. The newer series are by far the best preserved. Series 4 is almost complete, save for one supplement volume of private slave owners. Conversely, only one damaged volume survives of the plantation books of series 1.

Recording enslaved persons was done by plantation managers and slave owners. Slave owners in Paramaribo were given two weeks and managers of plantations a month to register any changes. However, the government was rather lenient towards them: even in the 1850s some plantations registered changes only twice a year. Because slave owners were required to record only living enslaved persons, there is a strong under-registration of infants who died before registration.

The documentation of enslaved persons of one year of age and older seems to have been rather complete. A survey of the slave registers shows that, beginning in 1859, an administrative audit was conducted in anticipation of the abolition of slavery. In the process, only 12 persons were enrolled who had not yet been registered before. There was even a tendency towards over-registration: 324 people were deleted from the registers who had died before 1859, around 0.9% of the total number of enslaved people at the time. In 1862, slave owners and plantations had to provide lists of all persons they owned to claim compensation from the government when slavery ended on 1 July 1863. When these lists, called *borderellen van aangifte*, were checked by special committees in the spring of 1863, only 31 enslaved persons were found who had not been listed in the slave registers. However, the committees found more than 830 persons missing who had escaped slavery, sometimes years or even decades earlier, but who were kept in the registers by their former owners, presumably to keep a claim on these people in case they were caught (*Algemene Rekenkamer, 1862*). This group consisted of 2.5% of the registered plantation workers and 1.5% of the registered privately owned enslaved.

Table 1 *Number of slave registers of plantations and private slave owners*

	Private owners			Plantations		
	Original number	Surviving books	Missing books	Existing books	Surviving books	Missing books
Series 1 1830–1838	9	6	3	5	1	4
Series 2 1838–1848	9	7	2	5	3	2
Series 3 1848–1851	6	5	1	6	4	2
Series 4 1851–1863	8	7	1	8	8	0
Total	32	25	7	24	16	8

See also *van Galen & Hassankhan, 2018, p. 510*.

Table 2 *Overview of information in the slave and emancipation registers*

	Slavery registers				Borderellen	Register of names
	1830–1838	1838–1848	1848–1851	1851–1863	1862	1863
<i>Owner info</i>						
Name ¹	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mutations	X	X	X	X		
<i>Personal information</i>						
First name before emancipation	X	X	X	X	X	X
First name after emancipation						X
Surname						X
Sex	X	X	X	X		
Name mother	Only new-borns	Only new-borns	X	X		X ²
Age	Only at first entrance				X	X ³
Year of birth			X	X		X ³
Profession					X	
Religion					X	
Remarks ⁴	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Event information</i>						
Date of registration birth	X	X	X	X		
Birth date			From 1850	X		
Date of registration death	X	X	X	X		
Date of death			From 1850	X		Sometimes added
Date of transfer	X	X	X	X		
Transfer from	X	X	X	X		
Transfer to	X	X	X	X		
Date of Manumission	X	X	X	X		
Surname after manumission	X	X	X	X		
Pawns or legal claims	X ⁵	Until 1840				

1 The name field of the owner is not differentiated and can contain information on civil status, inheritance, legal guardianship, legal representation, maiden names, multiple owners, and organizations. Names of plantations also include the location of the plantation.

2 Information on family relations was sometimes added.

3 Could be either age or year of birth.

4 Mostly used to add extra information, but additional information for which no columns existed was sometimes added, mainly on ownership or the health condition of the enslaved.

5 This contains information on people who were pawned or taken into execution for a legal claim on their owners.

Registered information differed between series, as shown in Table 2. In series 1, the 1830–1838 series, there seems to be no logical order in which slave owners and plantations were listed. Beginning with series 2 plantations and slave owners were entered in alphabetical order at the start of the series, listing information on their "property". New slave owners were added as supplements. Slave-owners were obliged to report ownership information and mutations due to births, deaths, sales, and manumissions. Initially, the registers contained little personal information, as only the name and sex of the enslaved persons were recorded, as well as the name of the mother of each new-born child. Age was only mentioned at the start of series 1 in 1830. In series 3 and 4, from 1848 onwards, the year of birth and the name of the mother was registered for all enslaved persons. If multiple persons on a plantation had the same name, a number or sometimes a personal characteristic, such as height, stature, occupation, or skin colour was added to their names to distinguish between individuals. This information was omitted when one of the individuals died or was sold to another owner.

The slave registers differ from other population registers, because of the legal status of enslaved people. Enslaved persons were first and foremost seen as commodities, meaning that they were subjected to different laws than free persons. In Suriname, they were not allowed to marry and fathers had no legal rights over their children. Paternity and other family relationships were never registered and fathers could be separated from their children if the owner wished to sell them. However, according to Surinamese law children could not be traded without permission from the government separately as long as their mother lived, not even when these children had become adults. This meant that the names of the mothers had to be registered. At the start of the slave registers, this was only done for new-born children, but from series 3 onwards registering the name of the mother was compulsory for all enslaved persons. For a more in-depth discussion of the content of the slave registers, see van Galen and Hassankhan (2018).

In 1862–1863, when the abolition of slavery was imminent in Suriname, two new types of registration were generated. In the fall of 1862, slave owners or their representatives had to hand in lists of the people they owned, in order to claim a compensation of 300 guilders per enslaved person from the Dutch government. These lists, called *Borderellen*, were structured exactly in the same way as the slave registers, but added information on religion and occupation of each enslaved person. Furthermore, in May and June 1863 a register of names was created for each district in which the emancipated former enslaved were registered with their new family name, first names, year of birth, name they had before 1863, residence and sometimes information on family relations. The information in these two sources was combined by Lamur (2004) in one single emancipation dataset. For a more in-depth discussion see Lamur (2004, pp. XVII–XLIX). The entries of roughly 34,000 emancipated individuals are linked to series 4 of the slave registers with the permission of the author.

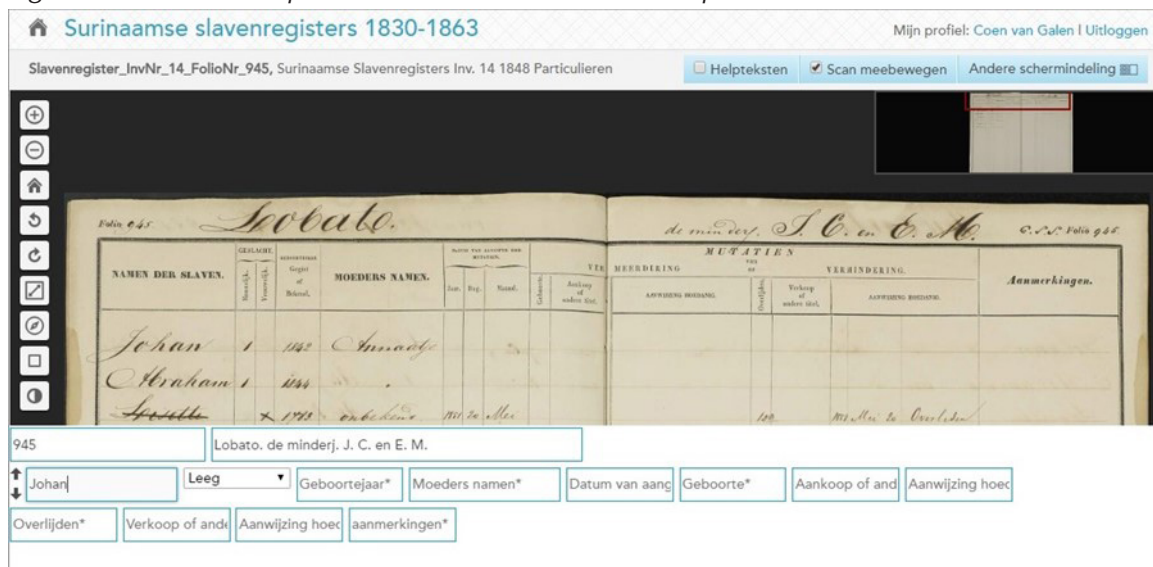
4 DATA ENTRY OF THE SLAVE REGISTERS

An open science project was started on the online citizen science platform Vele Handen to transcribe the slave registers.¹ After registration, people got access to the online platform on which they could immediately start transcribing the assigned scan. The platform also provided general information about the project, a manual with an explanation of the data entry and transcription rules, documents to support the transcription process (such as a list with names of plantations), a forum, and the state of affairs of the project's progress. The forum, where people could interact on content-related questions, increased people's motivation and commitment to the project. It was important to constitute a community that felt responsible for providing the best transcription possible and successfully finishing the project. This community-feeling was further stimulated by regular project meetings on several locations (see van Galen (2019) for an extended discussion).

The slave registers were a suitable source for transcription on a citizen science platform, because information is already largely structured in the original documents. The structure of the source was used for the form in which participants transcribed the text (see Figure 4). Because of differences in the structure and content of the forms used by the clerks over time (see the preceding section), slightly different forms were used for each series.

1 https://velehanden.nl/projecten/bekijk/details/project/run_slavenregisters

Figure 4 Transcription interface on the Vele Handen platform



Note: The online platform Vele Handen was used to transcribe the scans of the slave registers. Volunteers were shown a scan with the fields to be filled in underneath. This was done in the same order as the original register. The register shown here is the register as it was in use in series 3 and 4 (1848–1863). To solve the lack of space mentioned in Figure 3, the information for each enslaved person was spread over two pages in these records. At the top is the page number (“folio number”) and the name of the slave owners, in this case minors J.C. and E.M. Lobato. Below that, from left to right, columns for name, sex, year of birth, mother’s name, date of declaration of mutation, three columns on the addition of the enslaved (birth, purchase and remarks), three columns on the departure of the enslaved (death, sale and remarks) and a column for general remarks (NAS Slave Registers inventory number 14, folio 945).

The quality of data entry was ensured by strategies that optimized correct reading of the sources and minimized interpretation differences between volunteers. Minimizing interpretation differences among different participants depends on clear agreement. These were provided by a detailed manual, accessible in different places, e.g., via a welcome-mail, on the platform, and as a link in the transcription-form. People were urged to transcribe the exact text from the sources, for example, transcribing abbreviations, capitals and dots similar to the sources. An important exception was information that referred to multiple persons entered on the same line by means of a bracket: this information was entered for each person separately.

Differences of interpretation were minimized by having a transcription-form that corresponded to the lay-out of the source as much as possible. Source columns were split into additional separate fields only in rare cases of complex information. For example, as shown in Figure 4, all information on the name of a plantation and its owners was found in the heading of the source, for which only one field in the transcription form was reserved. During the data cleaning process (see next paragraph), this information was split into separate fields, such as initials or first names of the ‘owners’, their last names, and the plantation names. Although this method made the cleaning process more labour-intensive in some ways, it avoided a lot of discussion and differences of interpretation among volunteers, such as which initials belonged to which last name, which improved both the atmosphere among volunteers and the quality of the data entered.

Support to encourage correct reading of the sources was offered in different ways. Teaching aids for reading 19th century script were provided via the platform, such as auxiliary documents with abbreviations and words specific for the Surinamese Slave Registers and the list of plantation names mentioned earlier. Furthermore, questions could be asked on the online forum, which would be answered within a day by a fellow-volunteer or one of the project leaders. The project leaders checked the information on the forum at least once a day to ensure correct information was being spread. If people felt uncomfortable using the forum, they could always contact the project leaders by e-mail. The forum was also used by project leaders to point out frequently made mistakes in order to prevent them in the future, and to provide positive feedback to motivate people and increase commitment to providing high quality data entry.

Most important was the system of working with two different transcribers for each scan, whose transcriptions were checked by a third volunteer. This procedure ensured a correct transcription and uniformity in interpretation. These quality controllers were a small group of people selected by the project leaders based on the high quality of their work. Thanks to this system, new participants could familiarize themselves with the sources and start entering data immediately without this affecting the quality of final data entry. Because of privacy reasons, the volunteers who had entered the data were anonymized for controllers other than project leaders. The controllers became experts who functioned as stand-ins for the project leaders; they identified common mistakes which were communicated to all volunteers. This system of two separate 'data entry volunteers' and one controller per scan has been successful in data quality assurance for many other projects at the Vele Handen platform (De Moor, Rijpma, & Prats López, 2019).

5 RECORD CLEANING

5.1 SLAVE REGISTERS

The transcribed data needed to be cleaned to make the slave registers comparable and matchable. Each row in the source was kept as a record in the database. Each row referred to an enslaved person connected to a specific "owner" in one of the series. This meant that persons could return in multiple rows, if they changed "owner", or when all enslaved persons were transported to a new series. During the matching process, these records were combined into person reconstructions (see Section 6).

Before we started cleaning, all entries were assigned unique identifiers. Cleaning was strictly separated from the data entry process, so that volunteers copied all existing irregularities from the source, but did not accidentally add new variations to the database. Whenever volunteers noted irregularities in the source, they could post about it on the forum or leave a comment via a button during data entry. We used this information to write scripts that automatically detected problematic records. In some cases, this meant that we had to realign data, as the clerk — or transcriber — clearly wrote down information in the wrong column or row. For example, when dates of entry occurred after dates of exit or names occurred in date fields. Text referring to information mentioned earlier, such as ditto marks and words like "etcetera" or "as above" were replaced by the information referred to. After realigning the data, we moved on to cleaning specific variables.²

5.1.1 RECONSTRUCTING SERIES 4

Our first concern was to make series 4 as complete as possible. Series 4 was by far the most complete with only the first and last pages or entries at the bottom or top of the pages missing for the plantations, and one book missing for the private owners. As the order of the registrations in the books was consistent between series 3 and series 4, and the emancipation registers, we could deduce which plantations and concomitant enslaved people were missing. We added the names of the missing enslaved persons to series 4, and indicated whether they were alive at the start and end of the observation period. The missing book with private owners was not reconstructed, as it contained registrations on newly established slave owners from December 1859 until abolition in July 1863 and this information is readily available in the Borderellen and emancipation registers.

5.1.2 NAMES OF ENSLAVED AND THEIR MOTHERS

There was considerable variation in the spelling of names between the four series of the slave register. We left the core names intact to stay close to the original source, but redundant punctuation marks were removed, such as full stops after names. To make matching easier, we split person descriptions from person names by writing out all abbreviations and moving nicknames referring to attributes (like age, colour, occupation, plantations, or stature), numerals, and unidentifiable abbreviations to a separate variable. If the record indicated that a person was known by multiple first names, we opted to keep all name variations in the same field and separate them with the phrase *of*, the Dutch word for 'or'.

² For more details, see <https://www.ru.nl/hdsc/online-sources/suriname-slave-registers/>.

5.1.3 NAMES OF OWNERS

Plantation names were standardized by removing information on produce and location. Then, the names of plantations were standardized using almanacs that list the names of all ~370 plantations that existed between 1830 and 1863 ([Maatschappij tot Nut van 't Algemeen, 1830, 1846](#); [Ministerie van Koloniën, 1856](#)). These almanacs were also used to create an additional dataset of Surinamese plantations, which is made available with the slave registers dataset ([Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge et al., 2023](#)). Cleaning the names of private owners required manual review, as the order of first and last names was not fixed and the name field can contain information on civil status, inheritance, legal guardianship, legal representation, maiden names, multiple owners, and organizations.

Private owners consisted of both natural and juridical persons. Organization names were written out in their entirety, and persons' names required strict standardization. We placed the family name of the first-mentioned owner at the start of the name and removed repeated instances if multiple owners had the same family name.³ Redundant punctuation marks were removed. Information on civil status, inheritance, or maiden names was standardized by removing the different variations of *weduwe* 'widow', *boedel* 'inventory', and *geboren* 'née'. Legal guardians were flagged. We separated owners from legal representatives. Information on the owners was put in the normal text fields, while information on representatives was flagged with the phrase ", door ... qq" to extract them. Most commonly these were husbands who represented their spouse. However, it also happened that a parent acted as the legal representative of a child's trust fund, or someone acted as the legal representative of an inheritance.

5.1.4 SEX

Information on sex from the slave registers was recoded into three possible values: female, male, or unknown. To reduce unknown and miscoded data, we checked whether each name was uniformly coded as female, male, or unknown and flagged all 571 names that were not. We manually controlled these entries and found that when <25% had the alternative sex, the sex of the enslaved person was almost certainly wrongly coded. Therefore, we decided to automatically recode the 440 names where <25% had the alternative sex, except for four names that could be used for both sexes, and used the same procedure to resolve the unknowns.

5.1.5 IN AND OUT EVENTS

For every record, we made separate fields for "in event" and "out event" to clarify why and when observation of the enslaved person started and ended. In and out events were identified using string searches on the text fields that accompanied mutations, such as *vrijheid* 'freedom', *geb* 'born abbr.', or *verk* 'sold abbr.'. We were able to retrieve nearly 100% of all in and out events and could date them accurately. In principle there were three main start events (birth, start of the series, and transfer) and three main end events (death, end of the series, transfer) that comprised more than 96% of all mutations. The remaining 4% mutations were corrections of errors in the register or removal due to disease, ill health, escape, or manumission of the enslaved before 1 July 1863 (the official abolition of slavery in Suriname marking the end of series 4).

5.1.6 DATES

Dates related to the in and out events were standardized to the yyyy-mm-dd format. These dates were directly mentioned in the source itself, except for dates marking the beginning and end of a series and most dates of birth in series 1 and 2. In those two series, dates were mentioned for new-borns only; for others, only the age at registration was available, so date of birth was estimated by subtracting age from the registration date.

³ In theory, each folio contains only one owner, or one set of owners, but in practice there are ample exceptions to this rule. In those cases, clerks wrote down extra information on the folio, struck out owner names, or added new ones. The clerks sometimes chose this solution when the enslaved were not sold to a third party, but inherited by a widow, inherited by offspring, marked as inventory for inheritance, or sold to a secondary owner already on the folio. We chose not to split these records, as the change in ownership was not dated. Rather, we sort ownership by the family name of the first owner, so that we follow the logic of the clerks.

We ensured that there are no missing start and end dates and that there are no date inconsistencies (such as individuals dying before they are born or individuals leaving before they enter), which were mainly caused by incorrect date transcriptions.

5.1.7 REMARKS

Remarks in the source were stored in a separate field, which received very little cleaning, because of a large variety of types of remarks and formulations. Only references to information mentioned with foregoing persons in the source, for example by ditto marks, was used to add information, so each entry would be understandable in itself. The remarks were used to retrieve information on in and out events (see Section 4.1.5), and might be standardized further in later versions of the database. In the meantime, the remarks (written in Dutch) are understandable in their current form.

5.2 EMANCIPATION REGISTER

The emancipation register dataset was constructed by Lamur (2004) from the *Borderellen* and the register of names that was generated for each Surinamese district after emancipation (see [Algemene Rekenkamer, 1862](#)). Accordingly, some basic cleaning had already been applied by the author, and the plantation names had already been standardized. Nevertheless, it was necessary to correct obvious typos and inconsistencies in the Lamur dataset and split or standardize certain variables. The name of the enslaved before 1863, for instance, was split into first names, nicknames based on attributes, and baptismal name, if applicable. The private owners' name was split into the last name and the remaining information. Similarly, information on residential locations, enslaved names, occupations, and other remarks were split into multiple variables.

6 MATCHING

6.1 MATCHING INDIVIDUALS TO RECONSTRUCT LIFE COURSES

The main feature of the reconstituted life courses when compared to the Suriname: Slavenregisters Dataset 1830–1863 already published with the Dutch National Archives is that we matched individuals within and between the four series of the slave register as well as with the emancipation register. Accordingly, we reconstructed individual life courses of the enslaved population of Suriname which enables researchers to conduct longitudinal life course research.

Matching within the series was necessary to follow enslaved individuals who were transferred from one owner to another, because they were sold, given away, or inherited. Matching between the series was necessary to follow enslaved individuals that lived with their owners when a new series was created, that is, 1838, 1848, and 1851. To give an example, Philippina (Id_person: 24082) was born on plantation Anna Catharina in 1849 when series 3 was still in place. In 1851, series 4 started which required matching Philippina *between* series 3 and 4. In 1861, Philippina was transferred from plantation Anna Catharina to plantation Kroonenbrug which required matching her *within* series 4. When slavery was abolished in July 1863, 14-year-old Philippina was still alive and successfully matched to the emancipation register.

6.2 MATCHING THE RECORDS IN THE SLAVE AND EMANCIPATION REGISTERS

To account for differences in spelling (for instance Philippina, Philipina, Philippine), we matched names of enslaved, their mothers, and private owners with a maximum Levenshtein distance dependent on the length of the specific name. Names of plantations were matched without Levenshtein distances, as they were already standardized. Our matching algorithm ignores internal blanks and upper-case characters. In addition, certain letters and letter combinations were replaced, such as kw => qu and ph => f), as they were used interchangeably in the register.

The matching process proceeds in several steps. In the first step, we select the relevant entries based on the in and out events. In the second step, we retrieve candidate matches based on the Levenshtein distances between enslaved names using the "property to person" algorithm ([Mourits & Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, 2023](#)). Third, we filter out obviously false matches, based on certain rules. Most

importantly, we discarded matches between females and males as well as matches with different birth years. When matching different series, we also discarded matches of enslaved persons who belonged to different owners. In the fourth step, we scored matches on their plausibility using characteristics such as mother's name, nicknames, year of birth, and names of the enslaved in the preceding and following entry (the order of names was often kept when new registers were made or several enslaved were transferred at the same time). For instance, correct mother names were awarded 2.5 points, correct year of birth 2 points, and name of enslaved in preceding or proceeding entry 1 point.⁴ Finally, we selected the match with the highest score per entry, and discarded ties or matches with low scores to prevent false matches.⁵

The matching approach differed slightly for matching between series and matching within series. For matching between series, we included records that were present at the end of one series or the start of the following series, and only matched records with the same owner. For matching within series, in contrast, we only selected entries whose out event or start event was a transfer, and matched *only* on the name of the enslaved (because the enslaved changed owners). In addition, we filtered candidate matches also based on the date of transfer. To deal with wrongfully transcribed years, we also allowed matches with an identical month and day of birth instead of a matching year of birth, and matches with an identical month and day of transfer instead of a matching year of transfer.

The end of series 4 and the emancipation register were matched according to the same procedure as applied for the between matches. First, we included records that were present at the end of series 4 and all records in the emancipation registers. Second, we matched records based on the first name of the enslaved and the name of the owner. Third, we filtered out individuals with an identical or unknown sex and an identical or unknown year of birth. Since sex is not available in the emancipation register, we inferred the sex of the individuals based on their first names before starting the matching procedure. To achieve this, we used information on sex and name combinations derived from the slave registers. We did not use mother's name in our matching procedure, because it was usually not available in the emancipation register. Finally, we picked the highest-scoring entry and dropped ties. In a second step, that we only applied to the remaining unmatched cases, we also allowed matches between privately-owned and plantation-owned individuals, as information on both plantations and the plantation owners is available in the emancipation register dataset.⁶

6.3 CHECKING RECOND LINKAGE QUALITY

We checked the quality of the matching procedure in three steps. First, we checked the retrieval by selecting a limited number of plantations and private owners to check whether unmatched records could be matched by hand. Second, we checked the precision by verifying whether the established matches made sense. Finally, we checked the reconstructed life courses for inconsistencies to see if parts of our process needed reiteration. These tests highlighted several challenges in our historical data that needed to be dealt with.

6.3.1 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Since the slave registers consist of four series that registered enslaved persons in slightly different ways, this caused some difficulties when matching the records of an enslaved person from one series to those of him or her in the following series. Another challenge was caused by the fact that not all plantations and private owners are present in all four series, as not all registers survived. Obviously, all the records of a plantation that was only present in one of the two series would always turn out as missing matches. For instance, when plantation Arendrust is not present in series 1 while it is part of series 2, all records of plantation Arendrust will not have a match when matches are made between series 1 and 2. Therefore, we took a sample of 44 plantations to check for missing matches between two series. For each set of matched series different plantations were selected to minimize biases. The matching rate in the samples ranged from 81% for individuals who survived series 1 to 99% who were transferred from series 3 to series 4. This indicates that our matching algorithm works better for the later slave registers, which is logical, seeing that the latter series contain more information on the year of birth and mother of the enslaved.

4 For more details, see <https://www.ru.nl/hdsc/online-sources/suriname-slave-registers/>.

5 The entire script is available at <https://github.com/HDSC-Nijmegen/Slavenregisters>.

6 For more details, see <https://www.ru.nl/hdsc/online-sources/suriname-slave-registers/>.

Although the algorithm automatically matched the vast majority of records correctly, some recurring problems emerged from unstandardized names. Records of enslaved on plantations match better than records of privately owned slaves, as the names of plantations were all standardized. For the private owners, variations in the spelling of the last names sometimes led to overlooked matches. Similarly, the lack of standardization for the spelling of both names of enslaved people and mother's names was initially a major cause of missing matches. Ignoring whitespaces and upper cases solved most of this problem. But all mismatches caused by spelling variations could not be solved, because most names cannot be standardized without manually checking the source. Allowing too many letters to differ would, especially for shorter names, result in more incorrect matches being added than correct matches being gained. For example, this could result in Damon and Simon being matched whilst they are clearly two different names. Therefore, missed matches can also be seen as an indication of transcription quality.

Another recurring obstacle was a difference in birth year between two records. Often there was only a one-year discrepancy in the birth year when the series reported the age at registration rather than the birth date. This issue could be solved relatively easily by allowing a one-year difference while filtering our candidate matches. However, problems were harder to solve when years or dates contained transcription errors. Levenshtein distances do not apply to dates, so getting a single digit wrong results in a missed match if date filters are applied stringently. On the other hand, dates cannot be ignored, as this would steeply increase the number of false matches. To retrieve records with transcription errors in the dates, we applied extra filtering rules, such as having matching names of the enslaved in the preceding and following entry or having the same month and day of birth.

More troublesome was missing information. When a birth year was missing in one of the series, the candidate match received a lower matching score. Depending on the scores for other elements this could result in a missing match. This problem could also surface with other matching elements, for instance the mother's name was present in series one and not in series two. This problem occurred most often in the earlier series as these contained less information. This issue was partly solved by allowing missing mother names to also match. Nevertheless, the quality of the results from our matching algorithm is highly dependent on the available information, which increases with each series.

It was much harder to adapt the algorithm to cases where multiple factors prevented records from being linked. These complex cases required close comparison of the two records and consultation of the primary documents, as they indicate the limitations of the matching program. Fortunately, the complex cases mostly occurred on a small number of plantations where the registration was not done correctly. Again, the quality of the matching result is an indication of the quality of registration and transcription.

6.3.2 MATCHING WITHIN THE SERIES

Table 3 shows that the share of fully observed lives in slavery within a series, which are defined as life courses that could be completely followed within the relevant series, increases over time ranging from 57.4% in series 1 to 93.4% in series 3. That the first two series have a significantly lower share of fully observed life courses is a consequence of the higher number of missing registers (see Table 1) and lower rates of matching given fewer types of information available. With 93.4% and 92.7%, series 3 and 4 have a high share of complete life courses indicating high internal consistency.

Table 3 *Number and percentage of complete life courses within series*

Series	Total life courses	Complete life courses in %
Series 1: 1830–1838	21,939	57.4
Series 2: 1838–1848	33,319	70.1
Series 3: 1848–1851	33,626	93.4
Series 4: 1851–1863	55,644	92.7

6.3.3 MATCHING BETWEEN THE SERIES

Table 4 shows the share of individuals that are successfully matched between the end of the preceding and the beginning of the succeeding series. Matching success between the first and the second series is comparatively low given the large number of missing books and the scarce personal information available in these series. Matching success is highest between series 3 and series 4 with nearly 96% of enslaved individuals present at the end of series 3 being matched to individuals present at the beginning of series 4.

Table 4 *Number and percentage of persons matched between series*

Series	Number of persons matched	Persons present at end of preceding series		Persons present at beginning of preceding series	
		Number	% Matched	Number	% Matched
Between series 1 and series 2	4,889	13,699	35.7	21,263	23.0
Between series 2 and series 3	11,924	17,800	67.0	29,449	40.5
Between series 3 and series 4	27,741	28,938	95.9	39,554	70.2

6.3.4 MATCHING BETWEEN SERIES 4 AND EMANCIPATION REGISTER

Compared to the internal matching of the slave registers, the matching between the end of series 4 and the emancipation register has a high success rate. Table 5 below shows that more than 90% of the enslaved individuals present at the end of series 4 and nearly 88% of the individuals present in the emancipation register are matched.

Table 5 *Number and percentage of matched life courses between series 4 and emancipation register*

Series	Persons matched Number	Persons present at end of series 4		Persons present in emancipation register	
		Number	% Matched	Number	% Matched
Between series 4 and emancipation register	30,133	33,432	90.1	34,430	87.5

We checked all matches between series 4 and the emancipation registers manually and found not more than 73 incorrect (0.2%) and 65 unclear matches (0.2%), indicating that the matching quality between series 4 and the emancipation register is extraordinarily high.

7 THE OUTPUT

The database Suriname Slave and Emancipation Registers Dataset is stored in CSV-format in UTF-8 code according to open standards, with commas (,) as separators and quotation marks (" ") to signal text fields. The database and the detailed description can be downloaded from the IISH Dataverse ([Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge et al., 2023](#)). The database contains one table in which each row in the data represents a unique entry in the slave registers for one individual. Individuals have multiple entries in the registers if they were sold to another owner or appeared in several series. The life course of an enslaved person between 1830 and 1863 can be reconstructed by linking all entries using the `Id_person` variable. An additional database Suriname Plantation Dataset with information on plantations in Suriname is included for researchers who want to do research on specific types of plantations, such as selecting by produce or location ([Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge et al., 2023](#)).

The dataset provides basic demographic information on date of birth, date of death, sex of the enslaved, name of the enslaved, mother's name, and the name of the owner. In addition, the start and end date of each entry as well as the reason for the start and the end of each entry is recorded. A full list of variables, their short descriptions, and their variable type can be found in the Appendix.

8 POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE SURINAME SLAVE AND EMANCIPATION REGISTERS DATASET

Until now, all research on the social and demographic history of slavery in Suriname had to rely on case studies. Often, these were relatively large plantations or the government plantation Catharina Sophia, but these might not be representative for the enslaved population as a whole (Everaert, 1999; Lamur, 1987; van den Boogaart & Emmer, 1977; van Stipriaan, 1993). The current dataset enables researchers to study not only all plantations, but also often overlooked groups of enslaved persons, like household staff and craftsmen working in the cities.

The completion of the database will expand the scope of slavery research. This opens the opportunity for demographic research to compare fertility and mortality across different types of enslaved and different types or locations of plantations. The social history of slavery can also be enriched, as we have more insight on who was living in slavery, who managed to escape or who was manumitted. To what extent were formerly enslaved able to manumit their friends and family, for example?

Nevertheless, there are some limitations to the current dataset. First, the linkage of the various entries per enslaved person is good but not perfect. Due to lost slave registers, misspellings and a conservative matching approach, optimal linking has not yet been achieved. Because the linking strategy was probability-based, a threshold was used to match entries based on a linking score. It is impossible to systematically assess whether all individual links are correct, but smaller case studies indicate the share of incorrect links is quite low (around 1%). As the number of persons in the database is large enough, it is still possible to provide reliable outcomes. Series 1 and 2 are much less complete and contain less individual information, which strongly decreases the share of correct matches. The missing registers are random. In most cases, the absence of this material does not bias research conducted with it. The only exception is research on plantations in the 1830s. The only remaining plantation register in Series 1 contains mostly plantations from the western districts of Nickerie and Coronie. These were new plantations that were only eight to twenty years old in 1830. As during the construction phase mostly men were purchased, the gender ratio is not typical for Surinamese plantations.

Other limitations are the lack of information on ethnicity or occupation in the slave registers. Occupation is only available for enslaved persons living in 1862–1863. Furthermore, the slave registers are based on legal ownership. This meant that enslaved persons were connected to their legal owner, a plantation or a private person, but they could be rented out to others. Particularly for the privately owned enslaved, it is unclear whether the address of the owner always corresponded with the place where the enslaved lived. This makes it difficult to study the external conditions in which these people lived. Were they enslaved in an urban environment or engaged in plantation labour, and in what kind of area in the country?

For the persons enslaved on plantations we can be more certain of the places where they lived and performed their day jobs. They mostly stayed on the same plantations and when they were transferred to other plantations it was often done for the whole group at once and registered in the slave registers. For this group it is therefore possible to examine the external conditions of their enslaved lives.

To some extent missing information can be complemented by enriching the information in the slave registers by linking to other sources. For example, in the 1850s the Surinamese almanacs offer information on the whereabouts of groups of plantation workers who were rented out to other plantations. In Paramaribo, the only city in the colony of Suriname, we can enrich the information in the slave registers by linking to other sources, for instance the Paramaribo ward registers. These annual registers recorded all inhabitants of the capital per household, also counting the number of enslaved people domiciled at an address, including information on sex, skin color and whether they were child or adult. In combination with the names of the free persons in the household (usually the head of the household) as potential

owners, we can match around 43% of the enslaved persons from the slave registers to the ward registers. In this way, we can establish with a reasonable degree of certainty where urban enslaved people lived.⁷

9 CONCLUSION

The publication of the database of the Surinamese slave and emancipation registers is a step in the ongoing process of forming the Historical Database of Suriname and the Caribbean (HDSC). Emphatically, it remains a work in progress. In the coming years we will continue to improve the existing database. Linkage is already exceeding 90% for the slave registers from 1848 onwards, but our goal is to increase it even further by addressing specific issues. First of all, we will improve the cleaning process by dealing with the missing dates and inconsistent information described in the cleaning section. Second, we will improve our matching algorithm to further increase linkage success. In particular, we will allow for a larger difference between birth years to address age heaping in series 1. Finally, we will improve our matching algorithm with manual checks and corrections on the underlying transcribed data to minimize incorrect and maximize correct matches.

We also want to further improve functionality for users by improving the linkage to the mothers of enslaved people and by standardizing information, including information on private slave owners and occupations. In the long-term, we see the HDSC leading to a Caribbean Demographic Database, comprising both Dutch and non-Dutch territories in the Caribbean. This database will function as a data infrastructure from which tailor-made databases can be formed, adapted to the specific research questions of researchers from history, sociology and other disciplines.

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7 In a pilot we selected one district in the 1846 register and could manually match enslaved people living on 41 out of 96 addresses with varying degrees of certainty. See https://gitlab.com/thunnis1/WOCE/-/blob/main/Pilot%3A%20matching%20with%20slave%20registers/Rapport_Bevindingen_Matchen_Wijkregister_en_Slavenregister.docx

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APPENDIX VARIABLES IN RELEASE SLAVEREGISTER_SURINAME_V1.1

Category	Variable	Description	Process
Identifiers	Id_person	Person identifier (primary key)	constructed
	Id_source	Entry identifier	transcribed
General	Name_enslaved	The name of the research person	transcribed
	Sex	Sex of the research person	logical edit
	Age	Age of the research person as stated in the register	transcribed
	Age_Sex	Categories for age and sex as stated in the register	logical edit
	Day_birth	Day of birth	constructed
	Month_birth	Month of birth	constructed
	Year_birth	Year of birth	transcribed
	Year_birht2_ER	Second year of birth from emancipation register	transcribed
	Day_death	Day of death	constructed
	Month_death	Month of death	constructed
	Year_death	Year of death	constructed
	Name_mother	Name of the mother of the enslaved person	transcribed
	Plantation	Name of the plantation for that entry	standardized
	Name_owner	Name of the owner for that entry	transcribed
	Start entry	StartEntryDay	Start day entry
StartEntryMonth		Start month entry	constructed
StartEntryYear		Start year entry	constructed
StartEntryInfo		Reason for start entry (Dutch)	transcribed
StartEntryEventDetailed		Detailed reason for start entry	constructed
StartEntryEvent		Reason for start entry	constructed
End entry	EndEntryDay	End day entry	constructed
	EndEntryMonth	End month entry	constructed
	EndEntryYear	End year entry	constructed
	EndEntryInfo	Reason for end entry (Dutch)	transcribed
	EndEntryEventDetailed	Detailed reason for end entry	constructed
	EndEntryEvent	Reason for end entry	constructed
Emancipation register	First_name	First name after emancipation	transcribed
	Family_name	Family name after emancipation	transcribed
	Baptized_name	Baptized name	transcribed
	Family_relations	Information about family members	transcribed
	Occupation	Occupation on emancipation register	transcribed
	Remarks_ER	Further remarks on emancipation register	transcribed
Source	Inventory_number	Inventory number of the original source	transcribed
	Folio_number	Folio number of the original source	transcribed
	Serieregister	Year of the register	transcribed
	Typeregister	Type of the register	transcribed