Introducing the Record Group Explorer

With billions of pages of records, there’s no question that the holdings of the National Archives are vast. The breadth can be intimidating to researchers and online users, especially first-time users, who may not have familiarity with the organization and management of archival material.

That’s why we are excited to announce a new tool to help you navigate the universe of records held at the National Archives: the Record Group Explorer.

This data visualization allows you to browse NARA’s holdings by Record Group. You can use it to get a sense of the scale and organization of records at the National Archives and to
explore what is available online via the National Archives Catalog. Click any of the blue boxes to see an overview of the scans available online, and find links to the Catalog, organized by format.

Each Record Group page has a progress bar that provides an estimate of the percentage of textual pages that are currently available online. Want to join us as a Citizen Archivist? Follow the link on each Record Group page to learn more about tagging and transcribing historical records in our Catalog to make them more searchable and accessible.
Give our Record Group Explorer a try! We’d love to hear your input on how this might be beneficial to you in your research, and your ideas about how we could further refine this data visualization for future projects. Also, the data powering the Record Group Explorers will be updated monthly, so check back to see what we have added and what changes have been made.

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It's American Archives Month!

The National Archives is celebrating American Archives Month throughout October. Join us to learn more about how our staff make your history accessible to you! Follow us on social media and share your archives stories using the hashtag #ArchivesMonth.
**Pieces of History** has a collection of blog posts highlighting the work of our staff, along with some special videos. On [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), Archives staff will take over and share photos of their day and the fascinating records they come across.

The National Archives will also be hosting our annual virtual [Genealogy Fair](https://www.archives.gov/genealogy-fair) on Wednesday, October 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tune into YouTube as our experts discuss family history research in Federal records—and answer your questions in real time.

You can read more about American Archives Month resources on [National Archives News](https://www.archives.gov/).  

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**World War I Mission: Capture the Captions**

The National Archives recently completed a massive digitization project of World War I material, including series of photographs documenting American activity on the home front and on the battlefield during the war years.
The “American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs” series contains photographs depicting the unity of the nation and how overwhelming the war effort was. Within this series, you will find activities of libraries, hospitals, first aid stations and training camps, pictures of bonds, savings stamps and war loan drives, public gatherings, peace demonstrations and parades, as well as photographs of airplanes and other wartime industries, and much more.

Continue to help us with this large citizen archivist mission that looks for your help to “capture the captions.” Transcribe the text found on each photograph card to enhance the description. Want extra credit? Tag features and details found with each photograph. All of these details will make these records more searchable in our Catalog and help unlock history.

Get started transcribing and tagging!

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.