

A Selection of Online Resources from the National Archives

The National Archives' Catalog

- <https://catalog.archives.gov>
- <http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog>

Remember to search using as few words as possible. Try to include an important word from the name of the Federal agency creating the records, if you know it.

Think broadly. Use "drug law" not "marijuana law." You are looking for groups of records. They are NOT usually organized by topic. You will find both groups of records (often called "Series") and online copies of the actual records.

National Archives main webpage

- <http://www.archives.gov>

There is a general search box on this page. Don't forget it. It is great for finding secondary sources written about various topics by National Archives' experts.

Research Our Records

- <http://www.archives.gov/research>

There are three major sections on this page

1. Online Catalogs
2. Information for visiting the Archives in person
3. Information pages (background, instructions, and lists.)

The National Archives Microfilm Catalog

- <http://www.archives.gov/research>

You will be searching microfilm titles and descriptions. Look at a few to get an idea of how limiting that is. Think broadly. Many of these films have been or are being digitized by National Archives' digitization partners.

Guide to Federal Records

- <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fedrecords>

A great place to see what records are associated with each federal agency represented in the National Archives. Also sometimes useful for finding terms for searching in the Online Catalog.

Locations of the National Archives' Facilities, Presidential Libraries, and Affiliated Archives

- <http://www.archives.gov/locations>

Includes contact information, hours of operation and maps.

National Archives Education Page

- <http://www.archives.gov/education>

Leads you to nearly all our education-related pages, blogs, and websites.

DocsTeach

- <http://www.docsteach.org>

Here you can search by topic. Try several search terms. There are currently about 8000 primary sources related to classroom subjects listed on this website and nearly all have been meta-tagged to make searching easier. It is always a great place to start looking for documents and activities!

National Archives' Digitizing Partners

Ancestry.com & Fold3.com

- <http://www.ancestry.com>
- <http://www.fold3.com>

Both websites are owned and operated by one commercial company scanning and indexing National Archives' and other records. They are primarily focused on records of individuals. Each website holds somewhat different records and indexes in different ways. Each commercial company charges a separate fee for home use, but are also available free in many libraries and in the National Archives research rooms across the country.

FamilySearch.org

- <http://www.familysearch.org>

Contains electronic copies of National Archives documents as well as documents from other Archives and Libraries across the world. Primarily focused on records of individuals. Free.

Heritage Quest Online

No direct website connection from home. Available only in libraries across the country. Free