

Secrets for Searching the National Archives Online Catalog

Q&A

January 2016

Questions we didn't have time to answer in class.

Population Reports

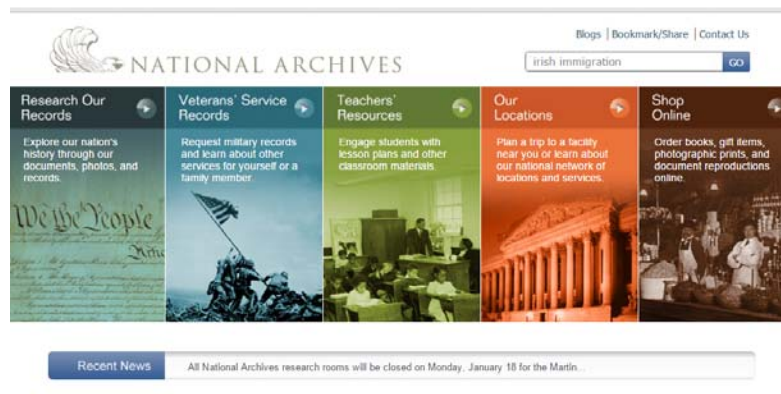
- Population reports are government publications. Government publications are easiest to find in University Library Government Publications rooms or online at the U.S. Census Bureau (www.uscensus.gov). Only a few are in the National Archives Online Catalog as scanned copies.

Looking for records of your own County in the National Archives Online Catalog.

- Of course, first go to Google and look for your County archives. Just type the county name and the word archives and visit their website, if they have one. You may have to go there in person.
- However, the National Archives also has Federal material about counties. I typed "Osborne County" Kansas and got the best results of several tries. Remember ... keep trying!

Irish Immigration

- Immigration records are a whole subject of their own. Lots of different approaches are possible. Immigrants generally came into the country on ships with more than one nationality on board. Some possibilities are:
 - If you want to know more about Irish Immigration generally, you could search the box on the NARA Opening page at www.archives.gov. Type in Irish Immigration and you will get lots of information, mostly secondary sources.



- In the Online Catalog, use the search term Immigration. Either scroll through thousands of results or use the tabs and filters to narrow the search down.
- Use the search terms Ireland immigration. However, you get lots of U.S. Consulate records in Ireland that way.
- If you want to search for individuals during the Irish Potato Famine
 - Go to the AAD at <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/> and either
 - Type in a surname
 - Or, for records between 1846-1851
 - Click on Passenger lists

- Click on **Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, created, 1977 - 1989, documenting the period 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851 - Collection CIR**. You can search that record or browse.

Influenza Epidemic

- This is actually a good example of what we talked about in the class. First, figure out what Federal Agencies might have been involved. To the Guide to Federal Records at <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/> and type Influenza, or epidemic, or influenza epidemic into the search box and find one that sounds promising. Then search each of the individual agencies using the advanced tab or link in the Online Catalog.

Indian Treaties

- The United States Indian Treaties are in Record Group 11, Records of the United States Government with all other treaties written by the U.S. Only about 9 Indian treaties at this moment are actually reproduced in the Online Catalog. Type Indian Treaty into the catalog and you will get most of them. Transcriptions of nearly all Indian treaties are available in their entirety at <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/index.htm> .
- There is also a short page on the National Archives website about Indian Treaties. <http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/treaties/>

Indian Reservations

- Go to <http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/bia-guide/> ... then choose the state you are interested in on the right. That list will help you figure out what TRIBES are in each agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We don't have a reservation list online at this time.

Archivists

- Archivists usually work in an Archives. Unless a government agency has its own Archives, there is usually no archivist at the agency level.

Records of Foreign Countries (like Croatia)

- Remember, the National Archives is an agency of the U.S. Federal Government. So let's brainstorm for a minute about what records of foreign countries we might have ... there might be:
 - Records of the U.S. Consulate in that country
 - U.S. Military records
 - Records of the CIA
 - Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency
- Search the Guide to Federal Records at <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/> using the search term foreign government. Then go to the Online Catalog and use the advanced search using the Record Group Number for each agency listed.

Cost of Natural and Unnatural Disasters (like Katrina)

- Some government reports have probably been published. Government publications are easiest to find in University Library Government Publications rooms or online at the U.S. Census Bureau (www.uscensus.gov). Only a few are in the National Archives Online Catalog as scanned copies.
- In the Guide to Federal Records at <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/> use the search term disaster. Then go to the Online Catalog and use the advanced search using the Record Group Number for each agency listed.

Land Records (Such as Colorado Land Grants)

- See our Land Information booklet at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip114.pdf>
- Search the Online Catalog using the terms Colorado land.

Bills Introduced to the U.S. Congress

- The best place to find these is in the Library of Congress (it is their library, after all). ☺ Specifically http://thomas.loc.gov/home/bills_res.html

Records of a Specific Airline Crash (such as the Pan American crash near Elkton, MA, in 1963).

- In the Guide to Federal Records at <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/> use the search term airline accident. Then go to the Online Catalog and use the advanced search using the Record Group Number for each agency listed.