

# Organization of Topics based on Genealogy Card Sort Results

## Census Records

- Links to Census Resources; by Census Year; 1790-2010
- Accessing and Using Census Records (1790-1840)
- Accessing and Using Census Records (1850-1930)
- The 1890 Census
- The 1930 Census: Accessing and Using Records
- Indexes to 1930 Census Microfilm Records
- How to Use Nonpopulation (Businesses; Farms; etc.) Census Records
- Indexes of Microfilmed Nonpopulation (Businesses; Farms; etc.) Census Records for Each State
- Microfilm Records of the 1935 Business Census

## Ethnic Groups

- African American Records
- West European Genealogical Research Resources
- Native American Records
- Online Resources Relating to Specific Ethnic Groups
- Ethnic Heritage Resources on Other Web Sites
- Jewish American History Resources
- Hispanic Records

## Events

- Genealogy Workshops
- 2010 Nationwide Genealogy Workshop Calendar

## Genealogy Basics

- Beginning Your Family History Research
- What Genealogy Resources Does The National Archives Have?

## Help and Tips

- Genealogy Research Methods and Tips
- How to Locate Living Individuals
- Hiring a Professional Genealogical Researcher
- Online Resources for Genealogy Research Beyond the National Archives
- Print Resources for Basic Genealogy Research
- Using Military Records for Genealogical Research
- Genealogy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## Immigration Records

- Immigration Records: What's Available and How To Find It
- U.S. Customs Records
- Ship Passenger Arrival Records
- Border Entry Records
- Microfilm Indexes to Canadian Border Entries
- Ship Passenger Arrival Records
- Locating and Using Naturalization Records
- Indexes to Microfilmed Passport Applications
- Indexes to Microfilm Records of Chinese Arrivals

## Military Records

War Records

Pension Records

**Preserving Family Records**

Preserving Your Family's Old Photos; Documents; and Movies

**Record Topics**

Income Tax Records

Social Security Records

Land Records

Maritime Records

Colonial Records

Court Records

US Government

Women

Vital Records

**Tools for Genealogists**

Online Tools for Genealogical Research

List of Forms Related to Genealogical Research

Microfilm Publications by Year

## Genealogy Topics Card Sort Analysis Summary

Card	Expert Selection	Sorters' Top Pick	Sorters' Second Pick
Links to Census Resources; by Census Year; 1790-2010	Census Records	Census Records	Record Types
Accessing and Using Census Records (1790-1840)	Census Records	Census Records	Genealogy Basics
Accessing and Using Census Records (1850-1930)	Census Records	Census Records	Genealogy Basics
The 1890 Census	Census Records	Census Records	Genealogy Basics
The 1930 Census: Accessing and Using Records	Census Records	Census Records	Genealogy Basics
Indexes to 1930 Census Microfilm Records	Census Records	Census Records	Records Indices
How to Use Nonpopulation (Businesses; Farms; etc.) Census Records	Census Records	Census Records	How To...
Indexes of Microfilmed Nonpopulation (Businesses; Farms; etc.) Census Records for Each State	Census Records	Census Records	Records Indices
Microfilm Records of the 1935 Business Census	Census Records	Census Records	Microfilm
African American History Resources	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	African American Records
Overview of African American Records At the Archives	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	African American Records
West European Genealogical Research Resources	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Tools for Genealogists
Native American Census Records and Resources	Ethnic Groups	Native American Records	Ethnic Groups
Locating Native Americans in Archival Records	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Native American Records
Using the Dawes Rolls Resources (Lists of Native American Tribe Members; 1898-1914)	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Native American Records
Online Resources Relating to Specific Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Tools for Genealogists
Index of Native American Records and Resources at the National Archives	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Native American Records
Ethnic Heritage Resources on Other Web Sites	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Related Sites
Jewish American History Resources	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Tools for Genealogists
Mexican Border Crossing Records	Ethnic Groups	Immigration Records	Ethnic Groups
Hispanic American Records	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Hispanic American Records
Beginning Your Family History Research	Genealogy Basics	Genealogy Basics	General Information
What Genealogy Resources Does The National Archives Have?	Genealogy Basics	Genealogy Basics	Tools for Genealogists
Online Resources for Genealogy Research Beyond the National Archives	Genealogy Basics	Genealogy Basics	Tools for Genealogists
Print Resources for Basic Genealogy Research	Genealogy Basics	Genealogy Basics	Tools for Genealogists
Using Military Records for Genealogical Research	Genealogy Basics	Military Records	Genealogy Basics
Genealogy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	Genealogy Basics	Genealogy Basics	General Information
2010 Nationwide Genealogy Workshop Calendar	Genealogy Basics > Genealogy Workshops	Genealogy Basics	Tools for Genealogists
Genealogy Research Methods and Tips	Help and Tips	Genealogy Basics	Help and Tips
How to Locate Living Individuals	Help and Tips	Genealogy Basics	Help and Tips
Hiring a Professional Genealogical Researcher	Help and Tips	Genealogy Basics	Help and Tips
Immigration Records: What's Available and How To Find It	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Genealogy Basics
U.S. Customs Records; 1820-1891; Microfilm Index	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Census Records
Microfilm Indexes to Arrival Records at West Coast Ports; 1890-1957	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Records Indices
Indexes to Microfilmed Passenger Lists; Ships Arriving at East Coast Ports; 1800-1906	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	US Citizens
Microfilm Indexes to Canadian Border Entries; 1895-1952	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Records Indices
Ship Passenger Arrival Records	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Census Records
Locating and Using Naturalization Records	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Genealogy Basics
Indexes to Microfilmed Passport Applications; 1795-1925	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Records Indices
Indexes to Microfilm Records of Chinese Arrivals in Seattle and San Francisco; 1882-1916	Immigration Records	Immigration Records	Records Indices
Indexes to Microfilmed Records of WWI Draft Registration Cards for Each State	Military Records	Military Records	Records Indices
Pension Files; 1850-1934; Microfilm Index	Military Records	Military Records	Records Indices
War of 1812 Military Records	Military Records	Military Records	Census Records
Resources Related to Enemy Aliens During World War II	Military Records	Military Records	Immigration Records
Pension Records	Military Records	Military Records	Census Records
Preserving Your Family's Old Photos; Documents; and Movies	Preserving Family Records	Genealogy Basics	General Information
Income Tax Records	Record Topics	Record Topics	Federal Records
Social Security Records	Record Topics	Record Topics	Vital Records
Land Records	Record Topics	Land Records	Record Topics
Maritime Records	Record Topics	Record Topics	Military Records
Pre-Federal (Colonial) Records	Record Topics	Colonial Records	Record Topics
Court and Bankruptcy Records	Record Topics	Record Topics	Court Records
Federal Employee Records	Record Topics	Record Topics	Federal Employee Records
Lighthouse Records	Record Topics	Record Topics	Maritime Records
Records and Resources About Women	Record Topics	Ethnic Groups	Tools for Genealogists
Microfilm Publications Issued by the Archives; 2000-2009	Tools for Genealogists	Tools for Genealogists	Microfilm
Online Tools for Genealogical Research	Tools for Genealogists	Genealogy Basics	Tools for Genealogists
List of Forms Related to Genealogical Research	Tools for Genealogists	Genealogy Basics	Tools for Genealogists
Vital Records (Births; Marriages; Deaths)	Record Topics > Vital Records	Vital Records	Genealogy Basics
American Deaths Overseas	Record Topics > Vital Records	Vital Records	Census Records
WWI Draft Registration Records	War Records	Military Records	War Records
Civil War Records	War Records	Military Records	War Records

## Resopndent Comments

### NARA

Some of these need to have subcategories, like the numerous Native American related cards, and the indexes to microfilm cards
If you have several topic lists like records for African Americans, Why not also provide a list to clarify other "ethnic" records like- Irish history records. I.e. Irish can be found throughout our holdings but a influx of Irish is reflected in the Passenger Arrival records of 1841-1855. I think people expect to see a subject category and if one exists it needs to be comprehensive or if one doesn't, we need to clarify. It is all about reminding people that our holdings are comprised of various agencies and not identified as an "African -American " records but one record may have more potential for a particular topic.
The titles in general of the items to be sorted needs clarification. Titles of items also need to be standardized.
I had difficulty deciding whether to organize the cards according to type of record (census, microfilm) or by content (ethnic, military service). I tried to go with the content-based organization because I think I could find my way around either (because I approach a genealogical search with an idea of a specific record that I want in mind), but I suspect less experienced users will come to it with less of an idea of what sorts of information which records contain, but it was difficult to organize purely by content.
I'm not sure that lighthouse records are a major category of genealogy research.
I think the Genealogy Pages are among the better organized pages currently on the site. <a href="http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/">http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/</a> is a good portal. There is some redundancy, but compared to other parts of the site, it makes sense.
You could further break down the "specific Records" category into: Census, Military, Immigration, Other Legal Documents
The categories that I labeled "Records" and "Indexes" feel that they could be broken into smaller, more specific categories. However, I don't have the knowledge to decide what belongs together.
I don't know what Maritime or Lighthouse records entail.
Why must everything be described and labeled in terms of worth as a "genealogical" topic? Many other researchers use these records and the information in them for other topics. Tell people what kind of materials we have and what's type of information they'll find therein, and let them decide how to use it. I've heard complaints from people about the way that all articles and information for researchers must be approached on the current site must be approached on from "Genealogists and Family Historians" page. Put the 1890 veterans' census on BOTH the military and census topic pages.

### Public

These are "topic" entries. Any topics that fall into a Record Group should also be arranged by Record Group number and separately by title. NARA and non-NARA items should be separate (maybe I didn't get those right).
There are some categories that I would like to place in multiple groups. For example, "Locating Native Americans in Archival Records" is something I'd like to place in both the getting started group and also a more specific Native American folder. Pre-Federal (Colonial) Records feel like what we had before the census so I have grouped it there. However, I feel it could also fit into the "Records" group.
Anonymous_25: census records military records immigration records, Passport Records, Enemy Aliens Vital Records (Birth, Marriages, Death, Bankruptcy, Land Records, Living Individuals) General Genealogy Native American Records
Recommend starting with Beginner or Expert portals, thereby allowing an experienced person to bypass intro or basic materials, without multiple mouse clicks. Under the major categories, such as Census provide subcategories such as Census Help, Census Indexes, etc, and grouping the associated links. Provide a decision tree, (color code possibly?), to guide the inexperienced. Please clarify if records are to be found in DC or College Park.
Anonymous_27: Need to allow multi-category selection for items. need two levels of organization.
Need to make accessing the records quick and easy at a glance
I'm not content with this == I think categories should be "wide" not "deep" but it's too hard to manipulate on my tiny screen....
I am glad you are reorganizing the website. I have also found the "plan a trip" information to be circuitous. Thank you for the excellent work!
I think this user-preference sort input is a great idea. As you can see I prefer a hierarchy based on records type. It is most useful to me to have "about X records in general," "what X records are at NARA," "other online resources about X records" together. By using drop-down or expanding menus I can navigate methodically page by page and be certain to explore all of the web pages devoted to the topic I am researching. (By contrast, it is extremely annoying to be shuttled back and forth by hyperlinks to entirely different parts of a website.) I know NARA tries to put "hot topics" at the website user's fingertips, but it is confusing to have tons of links and buttons thrown at you on the first page. Like it or not, an introduction to the vast records resources at NARA requires some background information and step by step instruction. (It might be necessary to cross-index a few specific pages. For instance, links to Rev. War records page(s) might be found under both military and pre-Federal. )
The "About Record Types" group needs to be hierarchical, but it was impossible to show that. Where is the category for the 1790-1920 census microfilm indexes?
would like to order within categories by year where applicable
1. The item descriptions in "Genealogy Records" didn't give enough information to tell me if these items described how to use the records or how to find the records. 2. What does "resources" mean? Records? Resources other than records? 3. The present website infuriates me because it holds out the possibility that I can do some genealogy online. There is little indication that all I am going to find are finding aids and explanations of how to use NARA materials whose online or offline presence is not specified. Each link holds the promise that I might be able to do some genealogy online. But after exploring the twisty maze of passages that all look alike for nearly an hour, I give up in frustration, never quite knowing if there are records online or not.
It is not clear from these if you are naming RECORDS (databases) or ARTICLES with information about records. Get rid of most of the stuff not related to NARA - vitals, living people. Do you mean "Online tools for genealogical research" here at NARA or links?? By "US Customs Records 1820-1891" do you mean Customs Passenger Lists?? Categories move around making it next to impossible to add items. Lots of this I would leave off. there would be a very clear, simple front page, then detail once a broad category is chosen i.e. census or immigration and naturalization or military records or learn or shop or Explore More.
Can divide the Records into further groups, i.e., War records, Land Records, Governmental Records, etc... The same can go for Indexes.
It would be nice to be able to assign subcategories under broader topics. Some items should be listed under more than one heading, but this can't be done using this exercise. For instance, Native Americans & Census, or Other Ethnic... & Chinese arrivals. Also, the Census record section might be divided into Population Schedules and non-population!
What a great tool!
Some of the Category names are too broad like pension records are those Military pension ( which war Revolution Civil, WWI or WWII) or government employees or members of Congress. It is hard to do this exercise with out knowing what you have as data.
I approached this as a means of grouping records by type, but I strongly hope that, in a new index , it will be possible to search for these categories in many different ways rather than having to guess which category to search for a specific record. For instance, "Overview of African American Records at the Archives" should be able to be found under African American Records, under Genealogy How-to's, under Resources Available at the Archives, and even by its own title. I hope a keyword search is available.
Pension records unclear as to whether military or federal employees or other. Also many records could be placed in more than one category
I did it, but don't know why!

## Summary Information

### Number of Responses

Public	63
Government	0
NARA	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>

### Question 1: Rate Your Level of Experience

	Beginner	Intermediate	Expert
Public	14	30	21
Government	0	0	0
NARA	11	24	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>30</b>

### Question 2: Which best describes your interest in or involvement with genealogy research?

	Professional Genealogist	Family Historian	Historian or Researcher	Casual Interest	No Interest	Other
Public	15	36	3	7	2	3
Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
NARA	3	10	12	17	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>46</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

