

Organization of Topics based on Historical Topics Card Sort Results

20th Century

- Television Interviews; 1951-1955: Interviews with newsmakers of the era
- Voices of the Postwar Era; 1945-1954 (list of recordings)
- The Great Depression and the New Deal for the Arts
- Watergate

Air and Space

- Aviation
- Crew of Apollo 8
- Space Exploration
- Space Shuttle Challenger Accident

America's Founding Documents

- Continental and Confederation Congresses (1774-1789)
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Constitution
- The Bill of Rights

Crime

- Prison Inmates
- Prohibition Era (bootleggers and organized crime leaders)

Ethnic Groups

- African American History
- Civil Rights Movement
- Japanese Americans
- Jewish Americans
- Native Americans
- 1970s Black Chicago (photographic exhibit)

Foreign Policy

- Cold War Era
- Creation of the State of Israel
- Far East
- Middle East
- Soviet Union
- State Department and American Foreign Policy

Genealogy

- Bankruptcy
- British Isles Genealogical Materials
- Census Records (1790-1930)
- Chinese Immigration
- Mexican Border Crossings
- Immigrant Ship Passenger Lists
- Income Tax Records from the Civil War Era
- Migration of Americans North to Alaska; and West to East
- Land Ownership Records
- Naturalization Documents
- Social Security Records
- Vital Records (Birth and death certificates; marriage licenses; etc.)

Judicial Branch

- Historical Court Documents
- Brown v. Board of Education Court Case
- Chief Justice John G. Roberts

Maps and Architecture

- Cartographic and Architectural Documents

Maritime Records

Maritime history (lighthouses; ships; and seamen)

Military Records

US Armed Forces (including Coast Guard)

Military Personnel Service Records and Documents

Presidents

Gerald & Betty Ford

Nixon's Meeting with Elvis at the White House

Presidential Campaigns and Elections

Significant Events

9/11 Commission

Flu Epidemic of 1918

John F. Kennedy Assassination

San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906

The Arts

Contemporary African Art

Political Cartoons

US Government Records

Congressional Records

Federal Civilian Employees

Federal Laws and Regulations

Old Postmaster Appointments and Locations

Special Prosecutors and Independent Counsels

Wars

American Revolution

US Military Involvement in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion

Civil War

Churchill and Roosevelt during WW II

Holocaust Era and Nazi War Crimes

Korean War

Captured Nazi documents (including speeches and broadcasts)

Mexican War

Spanish American War

Vietnam War

War of 1812

World War I

World War II

Women

Significant Women in American History

Historical Topics Card Sort Analysis Summary

Card	Expert Selection	Sorters' Top Pick	Sorters' Second Pick
Television Interviews; 1951-1955: Interviews with newsmakers of the era	20th Century	Famous People	20th Century
Voices of the Postwar Era; 1945-1954 (list of recordings)	20th Century	Famous People	Historical Eras
The Great Depression and the New Deal for the Arts	20th Century	20th Century	The Arts
Watergate	20th Century	20th Century	Presidents
Aviation	Air and Space	Air and Space	Exploration
Crew of Apollo 8	Air and Space	Air and Space	Exploration
Space Exploration	Air and Space	Air and Space	Exploration
Space Shuttle Challenger Accident	Air and Space	Air and Space	Significant Events
Continental and Confederation Congresses (1774-1789)	America's Founding Documents	America's Founding Documents	US Government
The Declaration of Independence	America's Founding Documents	America's Founding Documents	US Government
The Constitution	America's Founding Documents	America's Founding Documents	US Government
The Bill of Rights	America's Founding Documents	America's Founding Documents	US Government
Prison Inmates	Crime	Genealogy	Crime
Prohibition Era (bootleggers and organized crime leaders)	Crime	20th Century	Crime
African American History	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	African American History
Civil Rights Movement	Ethnic Groups	African American History	Civil Rights
Japanese Americans	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Minorities and Women
Jewish Americans	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Genealogy
Native Americans	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	People
1970s Black Chicago (photographic exhibit)	Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Groups	Multimedia
Cold War Era	Foreign Policy	Wars	Foreign Policy
Creation of the State of Israel	Foreign Policy	Foreign Policy	Wars
Far East	Foreign Policy	Foreign Policy	Geographic Areas
Middle East	Foreign Policy	Foreign Policy	Geographic Areas
Soviet Union	Foreign Policy	Foreign Policy	Cold War
State Department and American Foreign Policy	Foreign Policy	Foreign Policy	Politics
Bankruptcy	Genealogy	Genealogy	Economic History
British Isles Genealogical Materials	Genealogy	Genealogy	Foreign Policy
Census Records (1790-1930)	Genealogy	Genealogy	Records
Chinese Immigration	Genealogy	Genealogy	Immigration
Mexican Border Crossings	Genealogy	Genealogy	Immigration
Immigrant Ship Passenger Lists	Genealogy	Genealogy	Immigration
Income Tax Records from the Civil War Era	Genealogy	Genealogy	Records
Migration of Americans North to Alaska; and West to East	Genealogy	Genealogy	Immigration and Migration
Land Ownership Records	Genealogy	Genealogy	Records
Naturalization Documents	Genealogy	Genealogy	Immigration
Social Security Records	Genealogy	Genealogy	Records
Vital Records (Birth and death certificates; marriage licenses; etc.)	Genealogy	Genealogy	Records
Historical Court Documents	Judicial Branch	Judicial Branch	US Government
Brown v. Board of Education Court Case	Judicial Branch	Judicial Branch	African American History
Chief Justice John G. Roberts	Judicial Branch	Judicial Branch	Famous People
Cartographic and Architectural Documents	Maps and Architecture	Maps and Architecture	Records
Maritime history (lighthouses; ships; and seamen)	Maritime Records	Maritime Records	Military Records
US Armed Forces (including Coast Guard)	Military Records	Wars	Military Records
Military Personnel Service Records and Documents	Military Records	Genealogy	Military Records
Gerald & Betty Ford	Presidents	Presidents	Politics
Nixon's Meeting with Elvis at the White House	Presidents	Presidents	Famous People
Presidential Campaigns and Elections	Presidents	Presidents	US Government
9/11 Commission	Significant Events	Significant Events	US Government
Flu Epidemic of 1918	Significant Events	20th Century	Significant Events
John F. Kennedy Assassination	Significant Events	Presidents	Significant Events
San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906	Significant Events	20th Century	Significant Events
Contemporary African Art	The Arts	The Arts	African American History
Political Cartoons	The Arts	The Arts	20th Century
Congressional Records	US Government Records	US Government	Historical Records
Federal Civilian Employees	US Government Records	US Government	Genealogy
Federal Laws and Regulations	US Government Records	US Government	Laws
Old Postmaster Appointments and Locations	US Government Records	Genealogy	US Government
Special Prosecutors and Independent Counsels	US Government Records	US Government	Judicial Branch
American Revolution	Wars	Wars	Military Records
US Military Involvement in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion	Wars	Wars	Military Records
Civil War	Wars	Civil War	Military Records and War
Churchill and Roosevelt during WW II	Wars	Wars	Presidents
Holocaust Era and Nazi War Crimes	Wars	Wars	Foreign Policy
Korean War	Wars	Wars	Military Records
Captured Nazi documents (including speeches and broadcasts)	Wars	Wars	Military Records
Mexican War	Wars	Wars	Military Records
Spanish American War	Wars	Wars	Military Records
Vietnam War	Wars	Wars	Military Records
War of 1812	Wars	Wars	Military Records
World War I	Wars	Wars	Military Records
World War II	Wars	Wars	Military Records
Significant Women in American History	Women	Ethnic Groups	People

Resopondent Comments

Public

I am having reservations re the premise that NARA's holdings can or should be grouped by subject - historical topics if you will. First, it appeals to the lowest common denominator e.g. "dumming down" history, and second, users may be beguiled into thinking that having consulted these they have actually performed exhaustive historical research.

This was a lot of FUN!!! Some of it I wanted to make sub-categories with, and I imagine you will with links to new pages and such. Such as I listed all the wars under Military History, but I would want then to take my Revolutionary War, World War II categories and link them to the broad list. Just as one does historical research by starting off with a broad topic and narrowing down, so would I expect the National Archives website to work...After all, the primary usership will be those interested in history. It would be best to parallel the experience of research. Yet, it is also good to appeal to the general public and I think it would be kind of neat to have a formal page, but perhaps a page highlighting all of the really cool historical topics which don't come up so often. Kind of like Google's "I'm Feeling Lucky" search button. It could be a place where new ways of looking at history would be located. This is why I created such categories like America's Historical Trends or Illegal History...they are broad and just a bunch of neat stuff could fall under them. For historical interest to grow, I think at first it needs to be engaging and fun. This would give the opportunity.

Many of these need to be cross-referenced/linked, e.g. I put Social Security Records in a Records category, but they also need to be linked from the 1930s. Same with Military: the Mexican War, Civil War etc. belong both in their relative time period and in the Military category.

The entire section I have called "Records Created Because of War" should also be an item in the "Major Genealogical Sources" list also.

Had no idea what was even meant by the category of federal civilian employees--information about them? Information for them? Could this fall into genealogy or of general interest?

NARA

Why does Cartographic and Architectural Documents warrant it's own category? Categorizing information by the presentation media makes no sense. What is important is the information; this is the problem with the current search function; too much emphasis on the media, not enough on the actual CONTENT.

Things need to be more cross-referenced better and ARC needs to be tagged better, that's why we need citizen archivists or archivists 2.0. I think the big photo collection (American Cities, Civil War, World War II, etc) that are currently on the site and discuss how to order, need to become "exhibitized". These categories, when you see them together, show that the site is just so random. This site <http://www.archives.gov/research/topics.html> is just a non-useful page. Like this list is full enough to explain what we have. It seems like it was randomly added to over time by a ever changing group of people and not well thought out. This is the hardest to categorize because there are not that many common themes (which is why I gave up after two tries; it literally hurt my head)...this area of the website, which actually describes what we are, needs the most attention. It is such a laundry list of things...if anything, it could be eliminated or consolidated if search was improved dramatically...Couldn't re if anything, combining this with the how to research or through ARC would make sense. How to do that, i have no idea.

I realize that my choices reflect pretty much the way these topics are currently grouped on the NARA public web site, but I find that most of it makes sense--to me at least. The items list does not contain 73 items. Only 18 2. Only one item seems out of place. All others can remain under the category of Historical Topics. The card that looks out of place is "Federal Laws and Regulations." If this is a topic with content in it about all federal laws and regulations, and not just those related to NARA, then this one stays as a historical topic. I think the bigger problem is how to make all categories equally accessible to visitors.

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Summary Information

Number of Responses

Public	15
Government	10
NARA	23
Total	48

Question 1: Rate Your Level of Experience

	Beginner	Intermediate	Expert
Public	3	10	2
Government	0	7	3
NARA	12	10	1
Total	15	27	6

Question 2: Describe your interest in historical topics?

	Veteran	Genealogist	Historian	Teacher/Student	Govt. Employee	Records Mgr.	Casual Interest	No Interest	Other
Public	0	8	2	2	1	0	0	0	1
Government	0	1	0	0	4	0	4	0	0
NARA	0	0	0	1	21	0	1	0	0
Total	0	9	2	3	26	0	5	0	1

