

Organization of Topics based on Research Card Sort Results

Catalogs

- Catalog of bibliographic information on books; records and documents at the Archives
- Catalog of microfilm available for purchase; renting; or viewing
- Documents listed by format (print; audio; video)

Lost or Stolen Government Documents

- How to identify and report lost or stolen US government documents

Online Research

- An online gallery of popular historical documents
- Database containing descriptions and facsimiles of historical documents and photos
- Database containing electronic copies of records and photographs
- List of major research topics such as civil rights and military personnel records

Presidential Libraries

- Information on Presidential Libraries and Museums

Research Guides

- Guide to the federal records held by the National Archives
- List of published guides to finding documents and photos in the National Archives' holdings
- Information on performing research using specific media (microfilm, maps, photos, etc.)
- How to obtain copies of records
- How to hire a researcher
- How to get started in researching records at the National Archives

Resources

- Resources for National History Day Research
- Veterans and Military Research Resources

What's New

- News items related to research services at the Archives
- List of research-related web pages recently added to Archives.gov
- Historical documents recently added to the National Archives

Research Card Sort Analysis

Card	Expert Preference	Sorters' Top Pick	Sorters' Second Pick
Catalog of bibliographic information on books; records and documents at the Archives	Catalogs	Catalogs	Finding Aids
Catalog of microfilm available for purchase; renting; or viewing	Catalogs	Catalogs	Finding Aids
Documents listed by format (print; audio; video)	Catalogs	Catalogs	Finding Aids
How to identify and report lost or stolen U.S. government documents	Lost or Stolen Government Documents	Lost or Stolen Government Documents	General Information
An online gallery of popular historical documents	Online Research	Online Research	General Information
Database containing descriptions and facsimiles of historical documents and photos	Online Research	Online Research	Records Available Online
Database containing electronic copies of records and photographs	Online Research	Online Research	Records Available Online
List of major research topics such as civil rights and military personnel records	Online Research	General Information	Getting Started
Information on Presidential Libraries and Museums	Presidential Libraries	Presidential Libraries	General Information
Other web sites that feature items from the National Archives' collections	Related Sites	Related Sites	Online Research
Guide to the federal records held by the National Archives	Research Guides	Research Guides	Finding Aids
List of published guides to finding documents and photos in the National Archives' holdings	Research Guides	Research Guides	Finding Aids
Information on performing research using specific media (microfilm; maps; photos; etc.)	Research Guides	Research Guides	Research at the National Archives
How to obtain copies of records	Research Guides	Research Guides	Getting Started
How to hire a researcher	Research Guides	Research Guides	How To...
How to get started in researching records at the National Archives	Research Guides	Research Guides	Getting Started
Resources for National History Day Research	Resources	Resources for Teachers	Resources
Veterans and Military Research Resources	Resources	Military Research	Resources
News items related to research services at the Archives	What's New	News	What's New
List of research-related web pages recently added to Archives.gov	What's New	Recent Acquisitions	What's New
Historical documents recently added to the National Archives	What's New	Recent Acquisitions	What's New

Respondent Comments

Public

Another category that would be helpful-links to other institutions holding documents that pertain to the subject being researched. For example-lighthouse logbooks. At least one set of logbooks I know, the earlier set is held at the Bowling Green University. The later set at NARA D.C. If a researcher could leave a comment or link to the material(perhaps as it is done on facebook), it would be very helpful to other researchers). As it is now, for first time visitors to the NARA site there is an over-whelming amount of information. Navigation is very difficult. The staff are very helpful. Also an email address box to the appropriate department for further questions on the main page would really be helpful. Good title: Still Have A Question? Then under that title have the appropriate department listed, just click on the department and the appropriate email box pops up. Thanks for you dedicated work.

When did the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) become the National Archives ? It is a distinction with a difference. You need to distinguish between NARA the agency, and the National Archives, which are the records of enduring value of the Federal Government and which are held by NARA. Once you've sorted this out the proper citation fto Guide (see Publications above) and the misguided reference to National Archives' "collections" should sort themselves out.

Re: my "useless to me" category: I'm interested in the subject of the document, not their format. Although the format is nice to know, it's not a major category for me in trying to find what I'm looking for.

NARA

"documents listed by format" is a bit unclear. Is that ARC or AAD? Also, a mini tutorial (preferably using camtasia or other animated presentation software) showing the process that a researcher expects to experience when performing research at the archives would be incredibly helpful. Not knowing what to expect when you walk into the archive can cause a lot of anxiety.

It would have been good to have categories pertaining to NARA's regions.

Need an Education Area...

The "Order Online" and Microfilm being together is ridiculous. To see which places have a microfilm, you basically have to pretend like you are going to buy it. Make it more of an actual catalog. Heck, integrate it within ARC and make ARC better. Search for microfilm through it as a part. Having to go out and do another search through ARC for digital copies is also ridiculous. Digital Copies should come up first, be commentable, annotatable, etc, especially if NARA is only doing minimal processing. Need to really integrate Education and Research so that it is more seamless. Educators/Students should really be able to go from the Education pages to these pages without having to get a 2 page how to search in ARC. If you need two pages to explain about searching in ARC, it is too difficult for 99% of people.

I probably have arranged it pretty much the same way it currently is arranged. Clearly thought-out linking (and please avoid circular links!) is a great help in navigating.

Starting Historical Research and Tools to Use

1. see same category in card sort for sitewide - should some of the categories on the sitewide card sort be moved to this one, or vice versa? Are we overlapping categories across the pages? 2. What's new. But how new is new? Will it go here and in the "Find stuff link" so that it's integrated with all the "stuff" 3. Resources to aid in research - from getting copies, to obtaining secondary source material about the primary source material. Possibly move obtaining copies of records to the "Find stuff" category since finding stuff and wanting copies are sequential and related tasks. (Question - is "how to get started doing research..." generic or only focused on Archives I and Archives II? 4. Should news go into the sitewide category that contains news, press releases, etc? 5. Can this also be on the sitewide category of "who are you and what do you want to do?" 6. In addition to "information on presidential Libraries..." under resources, can the cross archives.gov search be added to the "Find stuff at the National Archives?"

Summary Information

Number of Responses

Public	16
Government	5
NARA	37
Total	58

Question 1: Rate Your Level of Experience

	Beginner	Intermediate	Expert
Public	3	5	8
Government	0	5	0
NARA	0	16	21
Total	3	26	29

Question 2: Describe your interest in historical research?

	Veteran	Genealogist	Historian	Teacher/Student	Govt. Employee	Records Mgr.	Casual Interest	No Interest	Other
Public	0	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	2
Government	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
NARA	0	2	4	1	27	0	2	0	1
Total	0	12	10	1	29	0	2	0	4

