What Is Online in the National Archives Archival Databases

Personally, I had never used the U.S. National Archives databases until a couple of years ago, when I started using the Numident Files, which are a fantastic resource. I have discovered a wealth of documents, indexes, and a search capability that you can get lost in!

A great place to start is to review the Research Topics that you are interested in. There will be indexes and databases specified that you can search or browse. Here is the list with link:

- African-American Research
- Aliens
- Bankruptcy Case Files
- Census Records (1790-1940)
- Chinese Immigration
- Congressional Records: Private Claims and Private Legislation
- Court Records
- Electronic Records for Genealogy or Other Personal Research
- Ethnic Heritage Research and Resources
- Exploration and American Expansion
- Federal Employees
- Immigration Records
- Income Tax Records of the Civil War Years
- Internal Migration
- Japanese Americans
- Land Records

- Maps of interest to Genealogists
- Maritime
- Microfilmed Records
- Military Records
- Native American Records
- Naturalization Records
- Naval Records
- Passenger Lists
- Passport Applications
- Post Office Records
- Pre-Federal Records
- Prisons
- Social Security Records
- State Department Records of Genealogical interest
- Tax Records
- Vital Records
- Women

I would also recommend that you read the National Archives Catalog Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians

You will find many databases above, in the list of Resource Topics. There is an important page that you should then peruse. It is Access to Archival Databases There are several links that help you to find online databases and indexes. I will repeat the links here:

Genealogy/ Personal History

- Casualties
- Civilians
- Military Personnel
- Passenger Lists
- Prisoners of War

Indexes to:

- Photographs
- Textual Records

Private Sector

- Businesses
- Foundations
- Labor Unions
- Securities

Places

- Countries
- States
- Counties
- Cities/Towns
- Zip Codes

Wars/ International Relations

- Civil War
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Cold War
- Diplomatic Records

Government Spending

- Contracts
- Grants and Assistance

Time Spans

- 1800 –1900
- 1900 –1940
- 1940 –1955
- 1955 –1965
- 1965 –1975
- 1975 –1985
- 1985 –1995
- 1995 – present

Browse by Subjects >>

And finally, the Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT) files from the Social Security Administration have three types of files: 25 million life or death claims; about 50 million death files; and 72 million SS-5 Application files. All span 1936-2007.

Don't miss these resources. They are abundant and I'm sure that they will grow in the coming years.