

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 for free! 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	Private Sector	Wars/ International Relations	Time Spans
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casualties• Civilians• Military Personnel• Passenger Lists• Prisoners of War	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Businesses• Foundations• Labor Unions• Securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil War• World War II• Korean War• Vietnam War• Cold War• Diplomatic Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1800 –1900• 1900 –1940• 1940 –1955• 1955 –1965• 1965 –1975• 1975 –1985• 1985 –1995• 1995 – present
<p>Indexes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photographs• Textual Records	<p>Places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Countries• States• Counties• Cities/Towns• Zip Codes	<p>Government Spending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contracts• Grants and Assistance	<p>Browse by Subjects >></p>

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.

