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

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Resopondent Comments

Public

I am having reservations re the premise that NARA's holdings can or should be be grouped by subject - historical topics if you will. First, it appeals to the lowest common denominator e.g. "dummying 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 warrent 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, thats 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 currenly grouped on the NARA public web site, but I find that most of it makes sense—to me at leaThe 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.st. I think the bigger problem is how to make all categories equally accessible to visitors.

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Summary Information

Number of Responses

Total	48
NARA	23
Government	10
Public	15

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





