During 2005, new research sources and tools became available from the National Archives and Records Administration. This article will describe online and microfilm products of critical interest to genealogists.

**NARA Web site**

The NARA Web site was redesigned in 2005, and it continues to grow with more information and other research tools. It is a very large site, so it is helpful to have a guide to some of the best places to start research.

**NARA home page**

<http://www.archives.gov> is a splash page with links to the most popular parts of the Web site.

**Genealogy**

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy> links you to information about great genealogy resources available from NARA.

**How to obtain copies of records**

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html> explains your options: online, by mail, in person, by hiring a private researcher.

**Order Online!**

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html>

“Made to order” reproductions of original records are done in response to information you provide during the ordering process for census pages, immigration records, land files, military service and pension records, and Native American records.

**Microfilm catalog (part of Order Online!)**

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html> or more directly at <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start> and click on “Microfilm”

The NARA Microfilm Catalog is now (almost) fully online. Using advanced search, you can search for microfilm by publication number, title, keyword, record group, and other features. When you find a title of interest, you’ll learn which NARA facilities have the microfilm. When you click on important publication details, you can download a PDF file of the descriptive pamphlet or roll list. Newer microfilm publications may not yet be online. You do not have to register to use the microfilm search functions.

**New NARA microfilm publications issued 2000–05**

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/microfilm/2005.html> gets you to the 2005 page; click on links to previous years. These pages will help you get information that may not yet be in “Order Online!”

**Guide to Federal Records**

Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States (Washington, D.C., 1995), 3 volumes, is $95 when you buy the print version, but there is a free online version at <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records>.

**Citing records**

General Information Leaflet 17, Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/17.html> will help you craft a citation to help future researchers find that great nugget you found.

**Archival Research Catalog (ARC)**

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc>

This is the online catalog of NARA’s nationwide holdings in the Washington, D.C. area, Regional Archives, and Presidential Libraries. ARC allows you to perform a keyword, digitized image, and location searches. ARC’s advanced functions also allow you to search by organization, person, or topic. Links to digital images are included for selected items. The content continues to grow, so visit again and again. ARC includes the “Index to the Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory
(Dawes Roll),” the “Index to the Applications Submitted for the Eastern Cherokee Roll of 1909 (Guion Miller Roll),” “World War II Casualty Lists,” and much more.

**Access to Archival Databases (AAD) system**

<http://www.archives.gov/aad> has approximately 400 data files. AAD gives you online access to nearly 50 million historic electronic records created by more than twenty federal agencies on a wide range of topics. It includes various series about military personnel in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict. You’ll also find the Irish Famine Immigrants (1840s) database.

**Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration**

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue>

Prologue is a full-color, glossy magazine packed with a great deal of information about unique and useful records at the National Archives. If you don’t subscribe to it, or read it, you are missing a great deal for $20 per year. The Prologue Genealogy Notes Page <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/genealogy-notes.html> links you to articles directly related to genealogy.

**Archives Library Information Center (ALIC)**

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic>

NARA’s Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) is more than a traditional library. ALIC’s Web pages give convenient access to content beyond the physical holdings of NARA’s two traditional in-house libraries at the National Archives Buildings in Washington, D.C., and in College Park, Maryland. ALIC specializes in information on American history and government, archival administration, information management, and government documents.

**Guides to research by selected topic**

<http://www.archives.gov/research/topics.html> links to information about selected topics in NARA records. Please note that this represents only a small fraction of possible research topics in the records of the National Archives.

**Regional Archives selected guides and research aids**

<http://www.archives.gov/locations/finding-aids> links to information to records held by NARA’s thirteen Regional Archives.
NARA publications
<http://www.archives.gov/publications> links you to information about free and fee publications from NARA.

NARA digital classroom (educators and students)
<http://www.archives.gov/education>
The “Teaching with Documents” link gets you to lesson plans on various aspects of U.S. history. Brush up on your own education and see some great historical records here.

NARA calendar of events
<http://www.archives.gov/calendar>
Genealogy workshops in NARA facilities nationwide, as well as movies and other events in Washington, D.C.

NARA online exhibit hall
<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits>
If you can’t get to Washington to see current (or past) exhibits, see them online here!

Center for Legislative Archives
<http://www.archives.gov/legislative>

If you need information about the current or historical records of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives, this is the place to start.

Microfilm publications
The National Archives continues to have an active microfilm program that both preserves our documentary heritage and helps make those records more widely available for researchers. Records relating to immigration, naturalization, and the Freedmen’s Bureau were among those made available on microfilm in 2005.

Census and government publications
M1919. List of Selected African Americans from the 1890 and 1900 Federal Population Censuses of Delaware and Related Census Publications “Agriculture in the State of Delaware” (1901) and “Negroes in the United States” (1904). 1 roll.

Freedmen’s Bureau


M1940. Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points (“Ardelia Hall Collection”):
Miscellaneous Property Reports, 1945–1948. 7 rolls.

Immigration

A3385. Lists of Passengers Who Arrived at San Pedro/Los Angeles, California, 1920–1949, in Transit to their Final Destinations. 30 rolls.


A3400. Manifests of Alien Arrivals at International Falls, Baudette, Duluth, Mineral Center, Pigeon River, Pine Creek, Roseau, and Warroad, Minnesota, January 1907–December 1952. 2 rolls.


A3402, Manifests of Alien
Arrivals at Newport, Vermont, ca. 1906–June 1924. 8 rolls.

A3404. Index to Passenger Arrivals in the U.S. Virgin Islands, ca. 1906–ca. 1947. 7 rolls.


A3410. Index to Passengers, not Including Filipinos, Arriving at Honolulu, Hawaii, ca. 1900–ca. 1952. 37 rolls.

A3411. Index to Filipino Contract Laborers and Their Wives and Children Arriving at Honolulu, Hawaii, 1946. 1 roll.


Military


Naturalization


M1952. Index to Naturalizations of World War I Soldiers, 1918. 4 rolls.


Postal

M1918. Stamp Bill Books of the Post Office Department, September 30, 1870–July 10, 1897. 2 rolls.

Southern Claims Commission


Tax


M1776. Internal Revenue Service Tax Assessment Lists for New Mexico and Arizona, 1883–1917. 5 rolls.

Weather


NARA microfilm publications are available at the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. (“genealogy”), National Archives at College Park, Maryland (“non-bibliography”), NARA’s thirteen Regional Archives, and at libraries with genealogical or historical microfilm collections.

Make use of NARA’s records this year

A genealogical researcher can make good use of the unique federal records in NARA’s custody by reading about what is available, considering how those records may relate to his or her own family, and then by delving into the records either at a research facility or online. I hope you find something new about your ancestors in 2006! 🌳

Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, a microfilm projects archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., served as NGS registrar (1996–98) and director (1998–2000). She can be reached at ckluskens@yahoo.com.