Locating Native American Archival Collections in Federal Repositories

ATALM 2019
International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums
Pre-Conference Workshop
Tuesday, October 8th, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Rabbit Room
Pechanga Casino and Resort, Temecula, California

Information Packet

Eagle dancer. Screen print by Woody Crumbo, 1952.
Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress. //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3g02451

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(202) 707- 6394; http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/

Researching Native American Archival Collections at the Smithsonian Institution

Searching ONLINE for Native American Archival Collections in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), and beyond

The Smithsonian's millions of books, manuscripts, museum objects, artifacts, artwork, photographs, sound recordings, and film are searchable online through two online databases: **Collections Search Center** (**CSC**; collections.si.edu) and the **Smithsonian Online Virtual Archive** (**SOVA**; sova.si.edu). Searching online is a great place to start, as it can give you a sense of what materials are available, if they are available digitally, where they are physically located, and who to contact to learn more information.

The majority of Native American collections are held by NMNH and NMAI, but other archives, libraries, and museum departments within the Smithsonian also hold related materials. Using the online databases, websites, and tips for searching we've listed below, will allow you to search for all related content to a specific tribe, individual, topic, etc. held within the Smithsonian.

Collections Search Center
collections.si.edu

Enter desired keywords (collection names, individuals' names, cultural groups, region, etc.) and hit "search."

TIP: start broad, and then use the menu bar on the left side of the results page (see page 6 of this handout) to narrow down your results.

Once you enter a keyword in the search box (shown above), search results from **ALL** Smithsonian museums, archives, libraries, and research centers will be displayed. The "data source" listed in each catalog record will reveal which repository holds this material. You can click on the "contact info" button to find the email and phone number for that particular repository.

See this search example for "Seneca":

Tips for searching on Collections Search:

The results in CSC will be from all over the Smithsonian, but you can limit your results to a specific repository, such as the "**National Anthropological Archives**," the "**Human Studies Film Archives**" (film material held within the NAA), or the "**National Museum of the American Indian Archives**" by selecting the repository name in the "catalog record source" tab in the left bar menu (shown below).

You can also limit your results by type (photographs, documents, etc.), date, culture, place, etc. Your search path will show above the results list. If a collection has a finding aid (a detailed list of the items within the collection) or is digitized, a thumbnail box of an image, "online finding aid" or "digital content," will appear to the left of the catalog record title. The "Tutorial" tab in the blue bar on the top of the page also provides further search tips.

NAA search example:

NMAI Archives Search Example:

You can also search Collections Search Center for museum object collections (artifacts). For anthropology collections held in the National Museum of Natural History, choose "**NMNH Anthropology Dept**." from the "catalog record source" tab. For object collections in the National Museum of the American Indian, choose "**National Museum of the American Indian**" from the "catalog record source" tab.

For example, here is a search for "Seneca" in the NMNH Anthropology Department object collections:

And here is a search for "Seneca" in the National Museum of the American Indian object collections:

Digitized Content- Image Galleries on Collections Search Center
http://collections.si.edu/search/gallery.htm

There are other entry points into Smithsonian collections through Collections Search Center. To browse only digitized content by museum, archive, library, or by topic, click on the "Gallery" button in the top blue menu bar of Collections Search Center.

If you scroll down on this Gallery page, there are pages on topics, including a gallery on "Native American and Indigenous" digitized collections, as well as pages on digitized collections from NMAI, the NAA, and more.

Exploring SI Collections Online through SOVA:
Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives
sova.si.edu

Results in SOVA are from Smithsonian archival units only (not object collections). In SOVA, researchers can search within finding aids for archival collections. Enter desired keywords (collection names, individuals' names, cultural groups, region, etc.) and hit "search." You can also explore digitized material (either generally or within each collection) by clicking on the "blue present" icon in SOVA and within each collection.

You can also view all the finding aids available online at each repository by clicking either "National Anthropological Archives" or "National Museum of the American Indian" (see the red arrows below)

Exploring SI Collections Online through the
Smithsonian Transcription Center:
https://transcription.si.edu/

Through the Transcription Center, anyone with internet access and a computer can help transcribe and review digitized Smithsonian collection projects. Just head to the website (linked above) and sign up for an account (https://transcription.si.edu/user/register) to take part in transcribing.

You can also browse ongoing and completed transcription projects by searching for individual keywords, etc. on the search page, or by hovering over the "projects" tab and browsing by the Smithsonian repository the material is held in or by project themes, such as "Native American and Indigenous History."
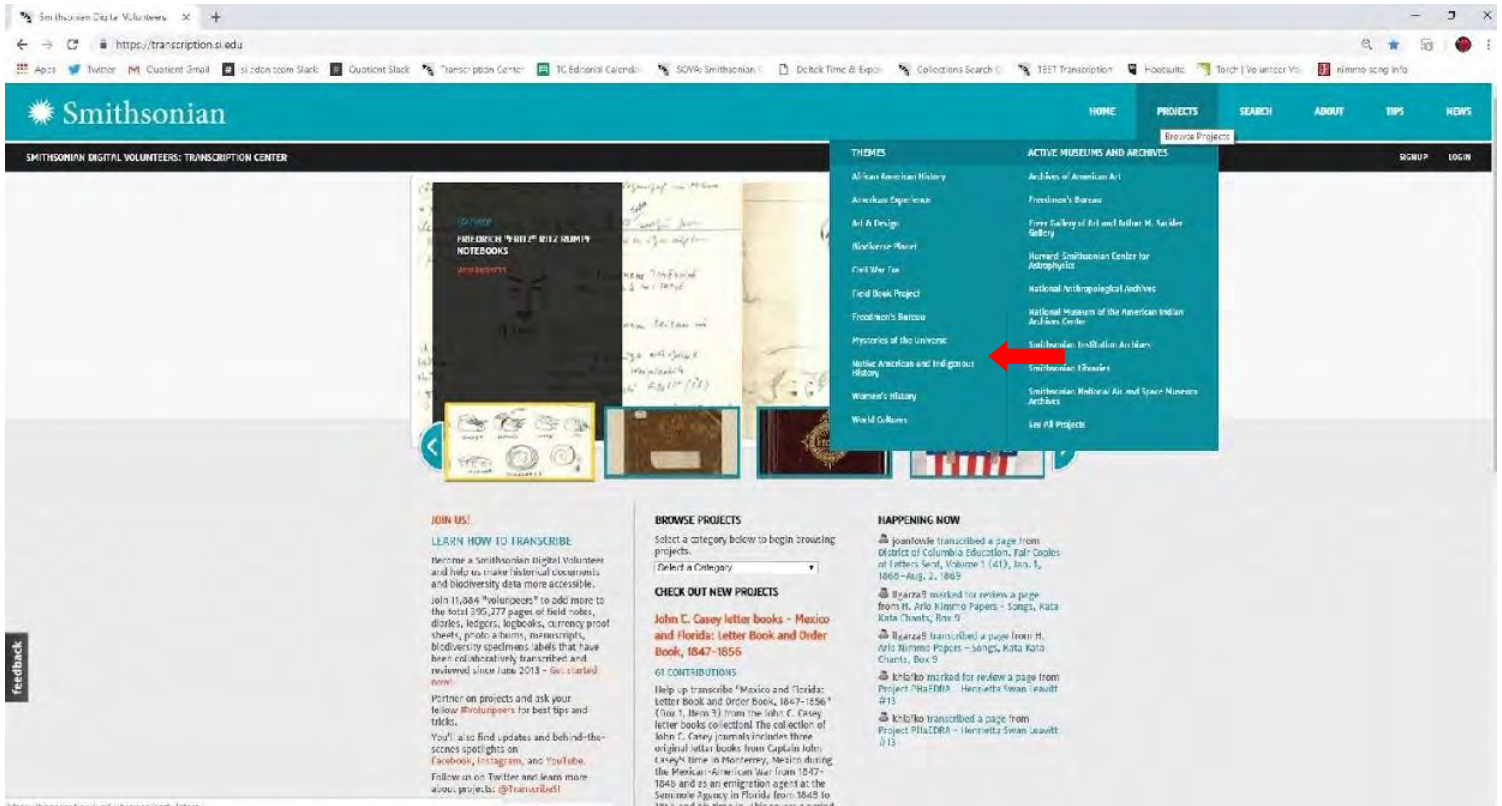
Searching ONSITE for Indigenous-Related Collections in the Smithsonian Institution's (SI) National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of the American Indian

The Smithsonian Institution is a public, federal institution open to all persons interested in visiting its many museums, archives, object collections, and libraries. Due to time, staff, and space constraints, however, appointments are required to visit some archives, libraries, and collections. Listed below are links for making research appointments, along with hours and locations for the object collections and archives at the NMAI and NMNH: (refer as well to page 2 of this packet for contact information for individual staff).

National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center
Located at the NMAI Cultural Resources Center (CRC) in Suitland, Maryland.
- Open to researchers by appointment only, Mondays-Fridays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Email nmaiarchives@si.edu for appointment inquiries.
- Further information on accessing collections at the Archive Center, including directions to the CRC: http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/accessing-collections/.

National Museum of the American Indian Object Collections
Located at the NMAI Cultural Resources Center (CRC) in Suitland, Maryland.
- Open to researchers by appointment only, Mondays-Fridays, 9:30 am-12 pm and 1 pm-4:30 pm.
- Research visits to object collections **must be requested at least 2 months in advance** by completing an Object Collections Research Request, found online here (along with further information): http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/accessing/.

National Anthropological Archives, National Museum of Natural History
Located at the Museum Support Center (MSC) in Suitland, Maryland.
- Open to researchers by appointment only, Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 am-4:30 pm.
- Appointment request forms can be accessed and submitted online here: https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access/anthropology-collections-appointment-request
- Further information on accessing the NAA: https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access
- Further information about visiting the Museum Support Center: https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access/msc-visitor-information

NMNH Anthropology Department Object Collections

Located at the Museum Support Center (MSC) in Suitland, Maryland

- Open to researchers by appointment only, Mondays-Fridays, 9 am-4:30 pm.
- Appointment request forms can be accessed and submitted online here: https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access/anthropology-collections-appointment-request
- Further information on accessing the Anthropology object collections: https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access
- Further information about visiting the Museum Support Center: https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access/msc-visitor-information

Additional Resources for Researching/Accessing
Indigenous-Related Materials at the Smithsonian

What other Smithsonian repositories (other than NMNH and NMAI) hold North American Indigenous materials or provide other access points to these collections?

- The Smithsonian American Art Museum Collections AmericanArtInfo@si.edu
- The Smithsonian American Art Museum, Archives and Special Collections sapa@si.edu
- The Archives of American Art aaa.si.edu/askus
- The Smithsonian Libraries askalibrarian@si.edu
- The National Portrait Gallery Collection NPGResearch@si.edu
- The Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections rinzlerarchives@si.edu
- The National Museum of American History's Archives Center archivescenter@si.edu and Object Collections (202-633-3129)
- The Smithsonian Institution Archives osiaref@si.edu
- The Smithsonian Transcription Center transcription.si.edu

What opportunities are available through the Smithsonian for research funding or community research programs?

- Recovering Voices: https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/programs/recovering-voices
- The National Breath of Life: Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages: http://nationalbreathoflife.org/
- Minority Awards Program- Visiting Student: https://www.smithsonianofi.com/internship-opportunities/minority-awards-program/
- Native American Community Scholars Awards: https://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/native-american-community-scholars-awards/
- Native American Visiting Student Awards: https://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/native-american-visiting-student-awards/
- Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship: https://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/%20smithsonian-artisit-research-fellowship-sarf/
- Additional Smithsonian Unit Fellowship Opportunities: https://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/

Researching Native American Records at the
National Archives and Records Administration

What is the National Archives?

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is an independent agency established in 1934 to identify, protect, preserve, and make publicly available the historically valuable records of the U.S. Federal Government. NARA's holdings date from the Revolutionary War era to the present and document the activities of Federal agencies, the Federal court system, and the U.S. Congress.

NARA only holds Federal records determined to have ongoing value. This amounts to about 2 to 5 percent of records created in any given year. Overall, NARA houses more than 5 million cubic feet of analog records (about 12.5 billion pages) and 795 terabytes of electronic archival records in multiple research facilities and Presidential Libraries around the country.

For more information on NARA's history, mission, and strategic goals, please visit NARA's website at: https://www.archives.gov/about.

How do I start my research at NARA?

First, determine the connection between your research topic and Federal policies and programs. NARA only houses Federal records, so not all historical records can be found at NARA. For example, NARA generally does not house vital records (birth, marriage, divorce, and death records), which are created by state and local governments.

Second, become familiar with how records are arranged at NARA. All records at NARA are part of a record group associated with a records creator: an agency, bureau, commission, or other entity of the Federal Government. Within record groups, records are maintained in series, which reflect how the creating agency used them. Records are generally not arranged by name or subject, although name and subject indexes might be available.

Third, consult Archives.gov for tips and strategies for conducting your research: https://www.archives.gov/research/start. NARA's website can help you determine if you need to visit a NARA research facility in person or if you can access records online from home.

You are also always welcome to start simply by contacting us. While NARA is not staffed to conduct in-depth research on your behalf, our reference specialists can point you in the direction of potentially useful resources in our holdings. The best way to contact us is by email at inquire@nara.gov. You will usually get a response within three weeks.

Can I search for NARA records online?

Yes! The National Archives Catalog (https://catalog.archives.gov) includes archival descriptions of record groups and series in NARA's holdings, as well as millions of digitized and electronic records. The Catalog is free to access and can help you determine which records are available, where they are physically housed, and whether or not you can access them online.

You can perform a general keyword search of the Catalog, or you can use the Advanced Search option (https://catalog.archives.gov/advancedsearch) to narrow your results by record group, type of materials, date range, NARA location where the records are housed, and more.

Main Catalog Page:
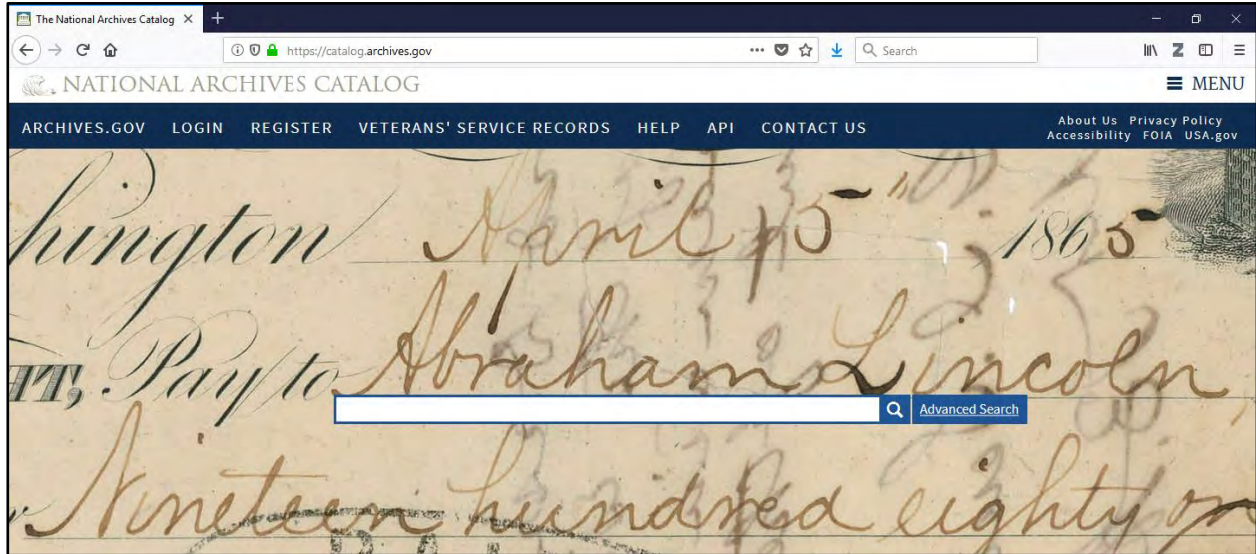
Advanced Search Page:
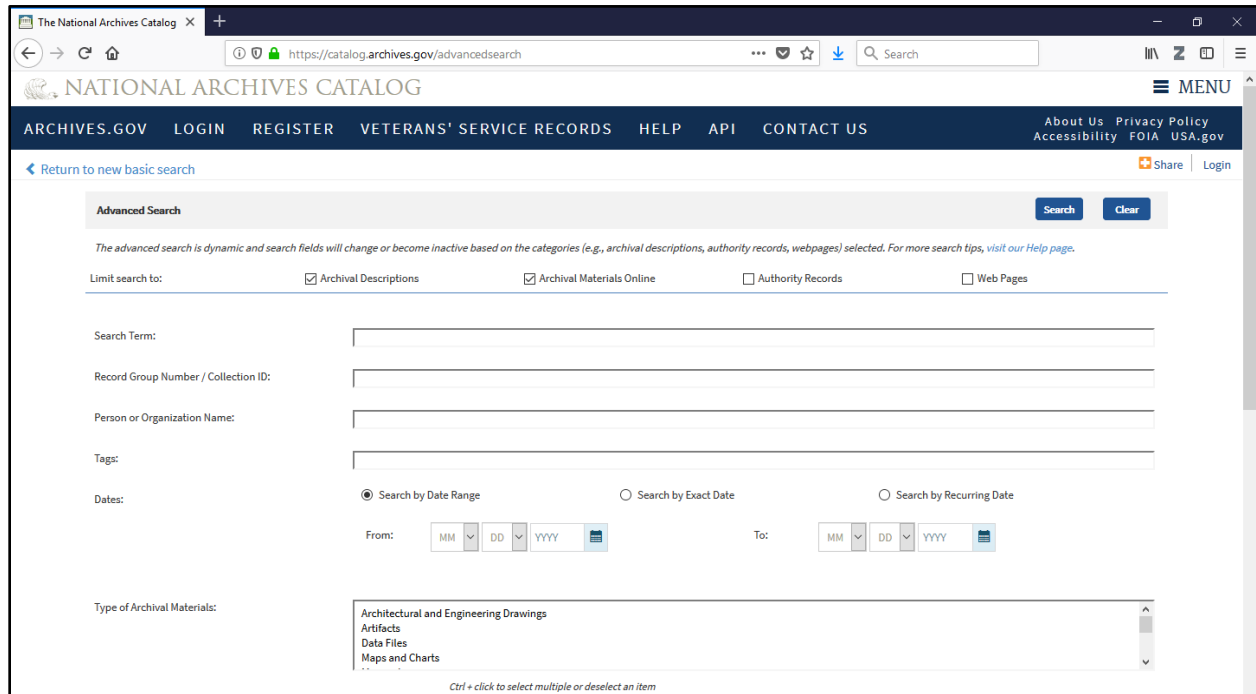
Tips for searching NARA's Catalog are available here:
https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/help/search-tips.html.

You can also use NARA's Microfilm Catalog (https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline) to search for records that have been microfilmed and/or digitized by one of NARA's partners. You can search the Microfilm Catalog by keyword, record group number, microfilm publication number, and more. You can also use the Microfilm Catalog to order digitized copies of microfilmed records. Please see NARA's How to Order Digitized Microfilm page for more information: https://www.archives.gov/research/order/microfilm-pubs.

Microfilm Catalog Page:
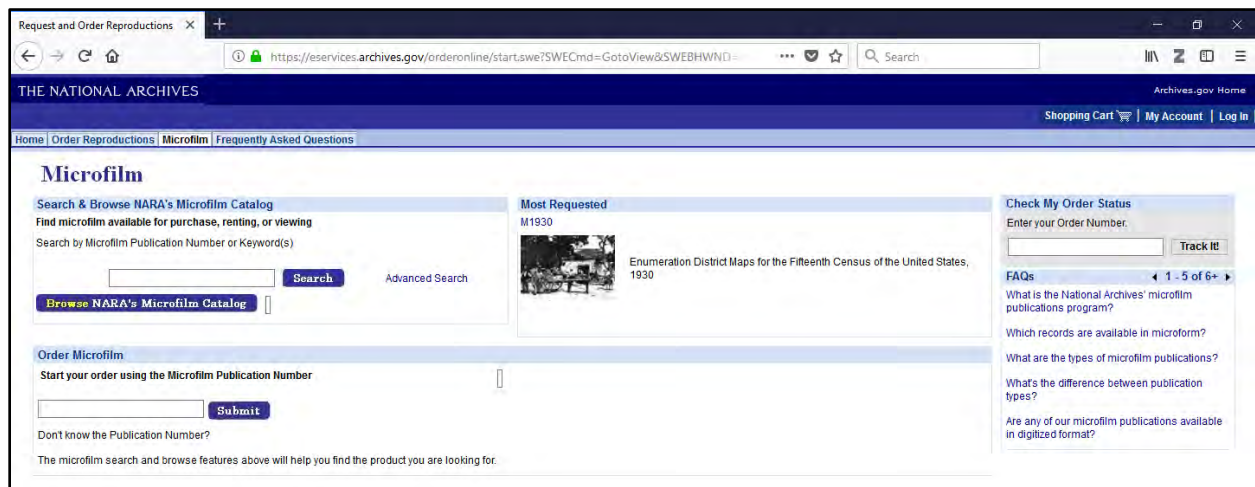
Read about other ways to search online for NARA records here: https://www.archives.gov/research/start/online-tools.html.

Why are some of NARA's records only available on paid websites (e.g. Ancestry.com)?

NARA partners with some private institutions to expand online access to Federal records. In many of these partnerships, NARA makes its records available to the partners to digitize, and in exchange, the partners can publish the digital images exclusively on their own websites for a specified period of time. On-site researchers at all NARA research facilities can access digitized records on partners' websites for free, even if the partner website requires a subscription to access from home.

After an agreed-upon period of time, known as an embargo period, NARA gains unrestricted rights to the digital images and can publish them in the NARA Catalog, which is free to access. More information about NARA's digitization initiatives and current partnerships can be found here: https://www.archives.gov/digitization.

What records does NARA have related to Native Americans?

NARA houses numerous records related to the Federal Government's many interactions with Native Americans from the Revolutionary War era to the present. These records include census rolls, allotment records, military service records, boarding school files, Federal court cases, employment records, maps, photographs, and much more.

Some of the record groups with the most records related to Native Americans include:

- Record Group 48: Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior
- Record Group 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management
- Record Group 75: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Record Group 123: Records of the United States Court of Claims
- Record Group 267: Records of the United States Supreme Court
- Record Group 279: Records of the Indian Claims Commission
- Record Group 435: Records of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board

Records related to Native Americans can also be found among records of the U.S. Armed Forces (multiple record groups) and records of Congress (U.S. Senate records in Record Group 46 and U.S. House of Representatives in Record Group 233).

NARA's website provides an overview of Federal records related to Native Americans: https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans.
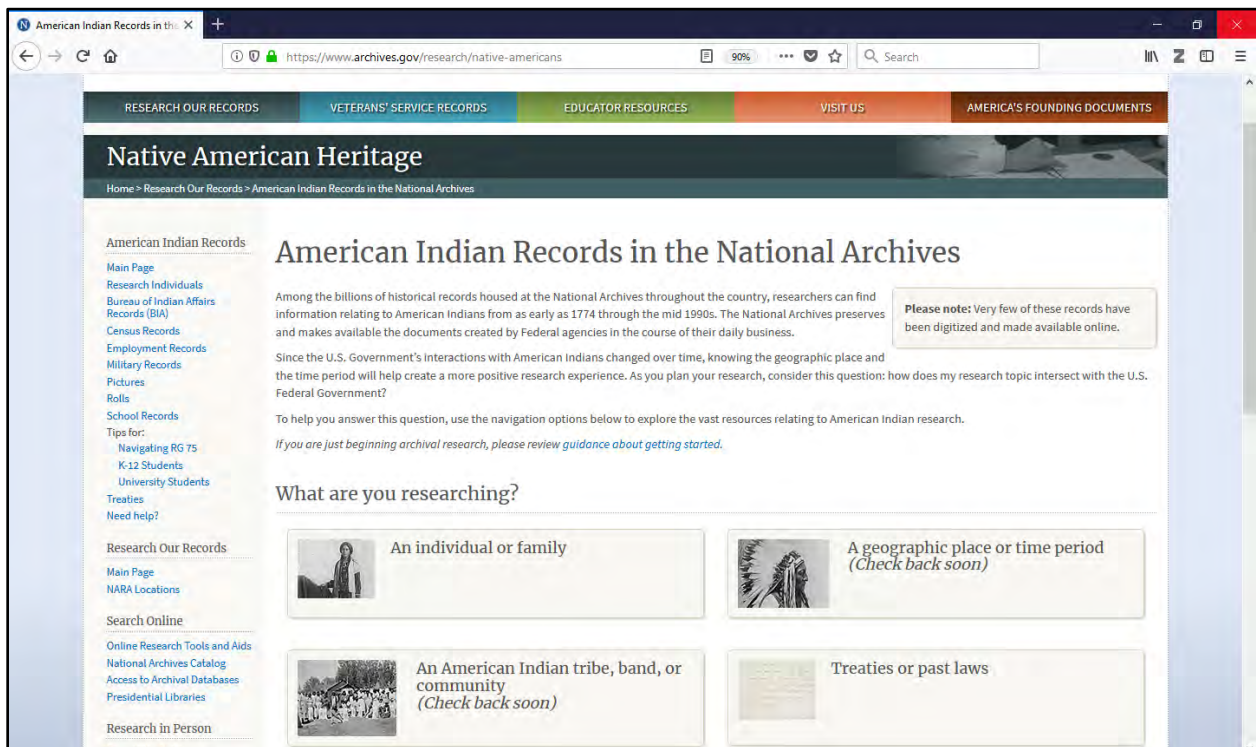
Can I find all of NARA's records related to Native Americans online?

No. While NARA has digitized over 235 million pages, the agency houses more than 12.5 billion pages in its holdings. The vast majority of NARA's records (related to Native Americans or other topics) are not yet available online.

To access records that have not yet been digitized, researchers can visit the NARA research facility that houses the records or order copies remotely for a fee. (For the current fee schedule, please see NARA's website here: https://www.archives.gov/research/order/fees).

Can I find all of NARA's records related to Native Americans at one NARA research facility?

No. NARA facilities house different record groups (or parts of record groups). For example, textual records of the U.S. Supreme Court (Record Group 267) and records of Congress (Record Groups 46 and 233) are only housed at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. However, records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Record Group 75) can be found at NARA's DC location and at each of its regional research facilities. A guide to locating BIA records at NARA is available on NARA's website: https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/bia-guide.

NARA facilities also house records in different formats. Although you can occasionally find photographs, maps, sound recordings, and other special media among the textual records at any NARA research facility, most special media is housed with the appropriate section at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. In addition to their textual records section, NARA's College Park location has separate sections for the following:

- Photographs and Graphic Works
- Motion Pictures, Sound Recordings, and Video
- Cartographic and Architectural Holdings
- Electronic Records

The best way to locate the NARA facility that houses particular records is to find a description of those records in NARA's Catalog. Each Catalog entry includes contact information for the NARA facility the houses the records under the "Archived Copies" heading.

What do I need to know before I make an in-person visit to a NARA research facility?

On-site researchers at NARA facilities must present a valid NARA researcher card each time they visit the facility. First-time researchers can obtain a researcher card by going through a registration process when they arrive on site. New researchers must present an official government ID that includes a photograph (such as a driver's license or passport), complete a short form that provides their name and contact information, and review orientation materials that discuss the safe handling of archival records and explain facility policies and procedures. The registration process usually takes between 15 and 20 minutes. Once researchers have obtained a NARA researcher card, the card is valid for one year.

While all NARA research facilities require researchers to obtain a researcher card, NARA facilities may have different hours and records retrieval policies. They may also have different parking and transportation options, on-site equipment for making copies, and proximity to restaurants and hotels. Make sure to double-check Archives.gov for this information ***before*** you visit and reach out to the facility's staff with any specific questions. A list of NARA research facilities is available at: https://www.archives.gov/locations#research-facilities.

I have additional questions. Who do I contact?

If you have a question related to a specific NARA facility, or to records that you know are housed at a specific NARA facility, you may contact that facility directly. Email addresses and phone numbers for each NARA facility can be found on their individual webpage on Archives.gov. The Location page provides a list of NARA research facilities (with links): https://www.archives.gov/locations#research-facilities.

If you have a general question about NARA, or you do not know whom to contact, please email our main address: inquire@nara.gov. Please allow approximately three weeks for a response to your inquiry.

Records Related to Native Americans in the Center for Legislative Archives
Courtesy of NARA's CLA Staff

Overview of Available Records:

Beginning with the first Federal Congress in 1789 and lasting until roughly 1820, various select committees were established in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to assess and debate legislative matters related to Native American tribes and the interactions of the governments of those tribes with the U.S. Government.

In 1820, the U.S. Senate established the standing Committee on Indian Affairs, which remained in existence until the Congressional Reorganization Act of 1946. The records of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee include: bill files; committee papers; petitions and memorials submitted by a variety of citizens, groups, and tribes; minutes and docket books; and other material. An overview of these records is available on NARA's website: https://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/senate/chapter-12-indian-affairs.html.

Of note are records related to the Indian Affairs Investigation Subcommittee. These records document a Senate investigation stemming from the Merriam report and S.Res. 79 during the 70th Congress, which sought to assess the condition of American Indians, their lands, and laws affecting them. For more information, please see: https://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/senate/chapter-12-indian-affairs.html#IAIS.

In addition to committee records, the records of the U.S. Senate also contain files of Treaties signed with various tribes until the Indian Appropriation Act (followed by the Dawes Act) overhauled the ways in which the Federal Government recognized tribal land and agreements. For more information, please see: https://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/senate/chapter-12-indian-affairs.html#1-41.

The House of Representatives established a standing Committee on Indian Affairs in 1821 that also remained in existence until 1946. For more information, please see: https://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/house/chapter-13-indian-affairs.html.

After the Congressional Reorganization Act, more and more of the duties previously fulfilled by the House and Senate Committees were instead handled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other Executive branch agencies. However, various subcommittees, as well as a more modern iteration of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, have performed similar legislative duties in the second half of the 20th century and into the 21st century.

Most of the records of these recent committees and subcommittees may be unavailable for research due to various privacy concerns, as well as the House and Senate Access Rules. For more information, please see: https://www.archives.gov/legislative/research/rules-of-access.html.

Published Legislative Sources Related to Native Americans:

The U.S. Serial Set is comprised of published committee reports, Executive agency reports, and other documents related to legislation printed or published by Congress. These reports and documents date back to 1817 and include a wide variety of information about Native American tribes. The Serial Set is available in Government Depository Libraries and digitally via ProQuest Congressional, which requires a subscription but is free to use in NARA facilities and at the Library of Congress.

Transcripts of public hearings are published by the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and often contain testimony, exhibits, maps, and other material. Historic transcripts can be accessed in Government Depository Libraries and digitally via ProQuest Congressional, and more modern transcripts are available, along with a host of other congressional documents published by GPO, here: https://www.govinfo.gov/app/browse/category/bills-statutes.

Early Congressional publications, such as the American State Papers and the Congressional Globe, can be accessed electronically via the Library of Congress Century of Lawmaking page: https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/.
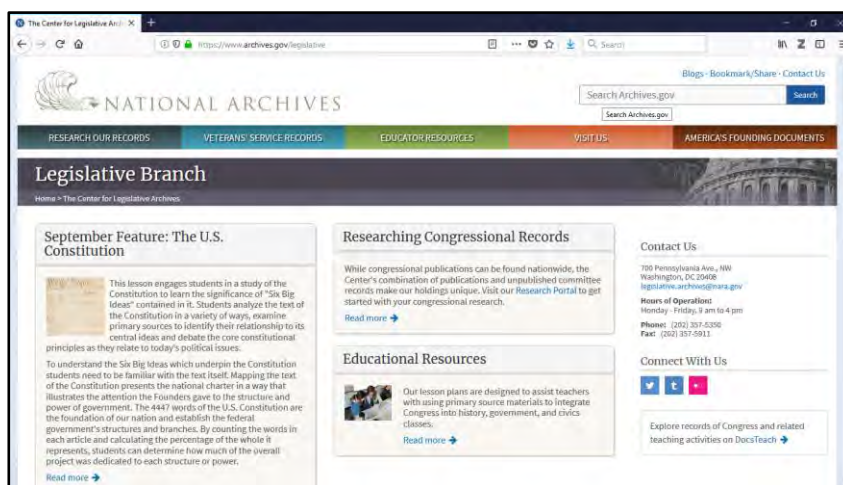
In addition, the Law Library of Congress provides a wide variety of digital resources on their website: http://www.loc.gov/law/help/.

Visiting the Center for Legislative Archives:

NARA's Center for Legislative Archives is located at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Their staff provides on-site reference assistance from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays).

For additional questions related to NARA's Congressional records, please contact the Center for Legislative Archives directly at legislative.archives@nara.gov.

More information can be found on their website at: https://www.archives.gov/legislative.

Researching Indigenous-Related Collections
at the
Library of Congress

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Library of Congress was originally established to save important documentation on foreign affairs and diplomacy, and to supply research resources in a broad range of subjects for members for Congress. At the end of the 19th century, the Library moved from its original location within the U.S. Capitol, expanded its holdings and services, and evolved to become the United States' largest public library. The Library offers resources in many formats, from books, rare books, maps, photographs, newspapers, music, recordings, motion pictures, genealogical records, manuscripts, Braille books, and blogs, podcasts and webcasts. It holds resources in languages other than English, including some Native American and First Nation linguistic resources, and publications pertaining to areas of the world outside the United States.

Resources can be accessed in different forms, including physical archival collections, electronic databases, microfilm, digitized materials and online presentations. Researchers can plan their research visits in advance and find many helpful sources, by using information available online through the Library of Congress web site. Public admission to the Library is free. Visitors of all ages can come to see the exhibitions and public programming without registering as readers. There is also a reading room specifically for young readers. Researchers who want to access collections through the various Library reading rooms must obtain a reader's card, and meet the user-criteria for the specific reading rooms they want to utilize. The Library also serves as the Copyright repository for the United States. The Congressional Research Service wing of the Library conducts research expressly for Congress. The following addresses some basic **Question and Answers** about conducting research at the Library.

Where should I start to find out information about the Library and what it has to offer?

The main portal page of the **Library of Congress Web Site** is: https://www.loc.gov/
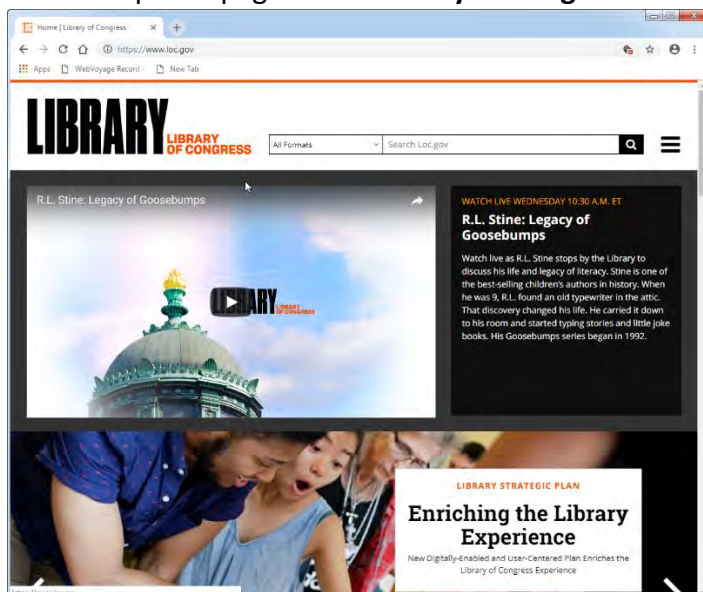
Use the "Researchers" tab on the portal to go the **Research and Reference Services** web page. It is filled with information about conducting research with Library of Congress resources. http://www.loc.gov/rr/
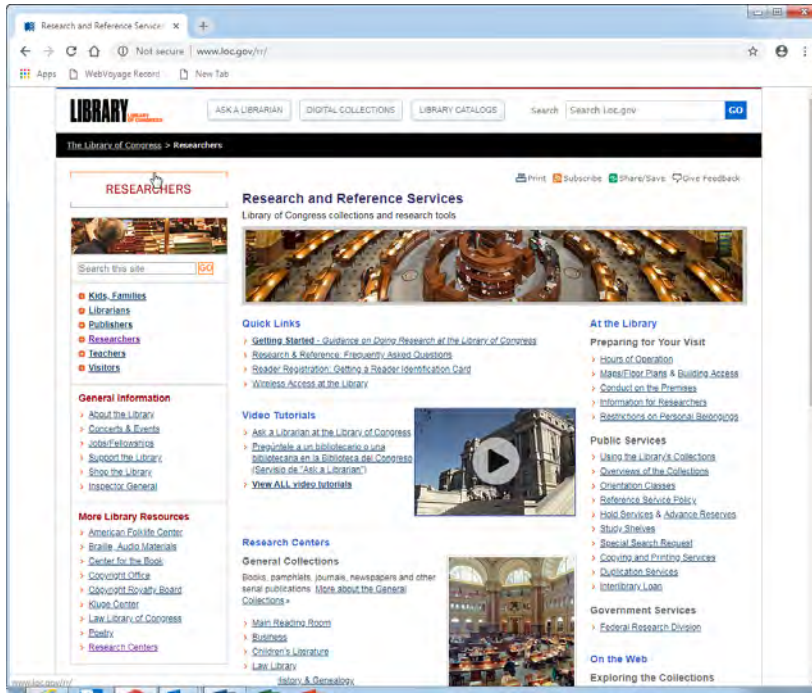
Getting Started is another helpful page. It includes video tutorials and an easy listing of all the different research sections of the Library. http://www.loc.gov/rr/gettingstarted.html

Who can use the Library, and how do I get a reader identification card to access the reading rooms, if I want to do research on-site?

The Library of Congress is a free public library. Reading rooms are open to researchers of every nationality and from anywhere in the world, who have a collections-based research purpose. Check with individual reading rooms about age requirements. Information about obtaining a read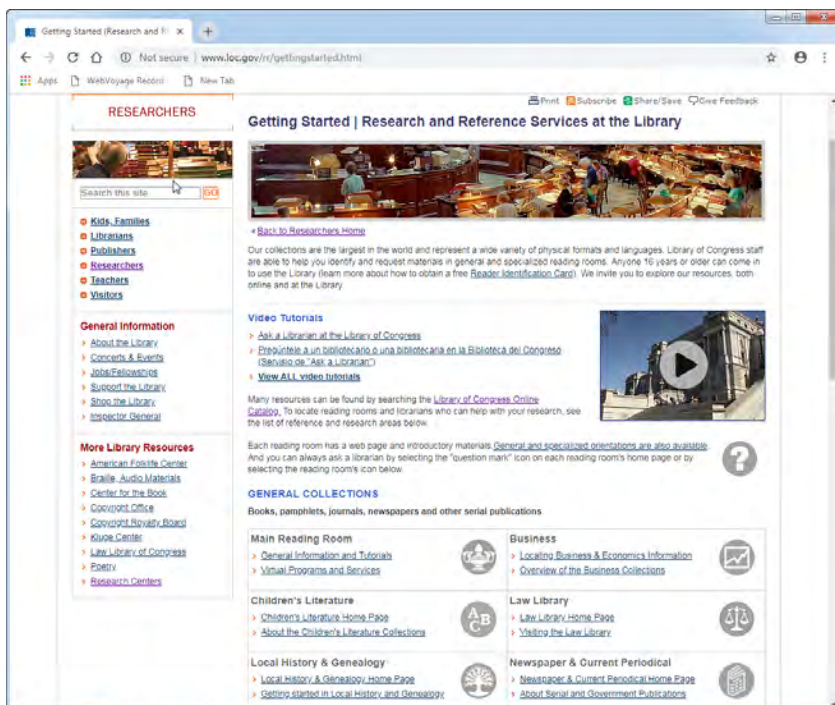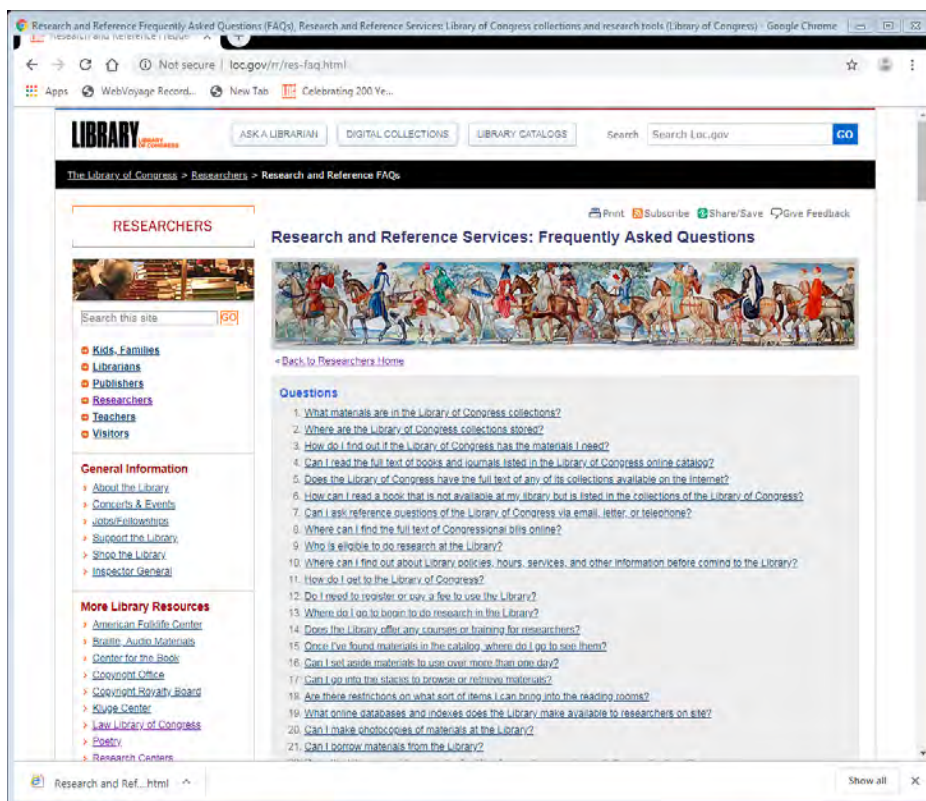er card is available at http://www.loc.gov/rr/readerregistration.html You can start the reader registration process online before you arrive at the Library. Remember to bring a picture i.d. in order to register.

Answers to some frequently asked research and reference questions are available at http://www.loc.gov/rr/res-faq.html .

Can I check physical resources out of the Library of Congress, or use some at my own library?

The Library of Congress is a non-circulating library. The Library does, however, participate in Inter-Library Loan, and some published library holdings, such as microfilm and non-rare books, can be ordered for temporary loan to other repositories that participate in the Inter-Library Loan program. http://www.loc.gov/rr/loan/ . Some published printed sources have also been

digitized by HathiTrust and these, or other electronic resource versions, can be accessed through links in the Library of Congress Online Catalog record for the item.

 How do I look up collection information at the Library of Congress?

The **Library of Congress Online Catalog** contains records of many of the materials from throughout the Library of Congress: https://catalog.loc.gov/. The catalog contains a mix of collection-level and item-level cataloging. Within individual catalog records you will sometimes see links that lead to digital copies of special collections resources (such as a manuscript collection or a photographic image). For additional access to digital versions of special collection material please visit https://www.loc.gov/collections/.
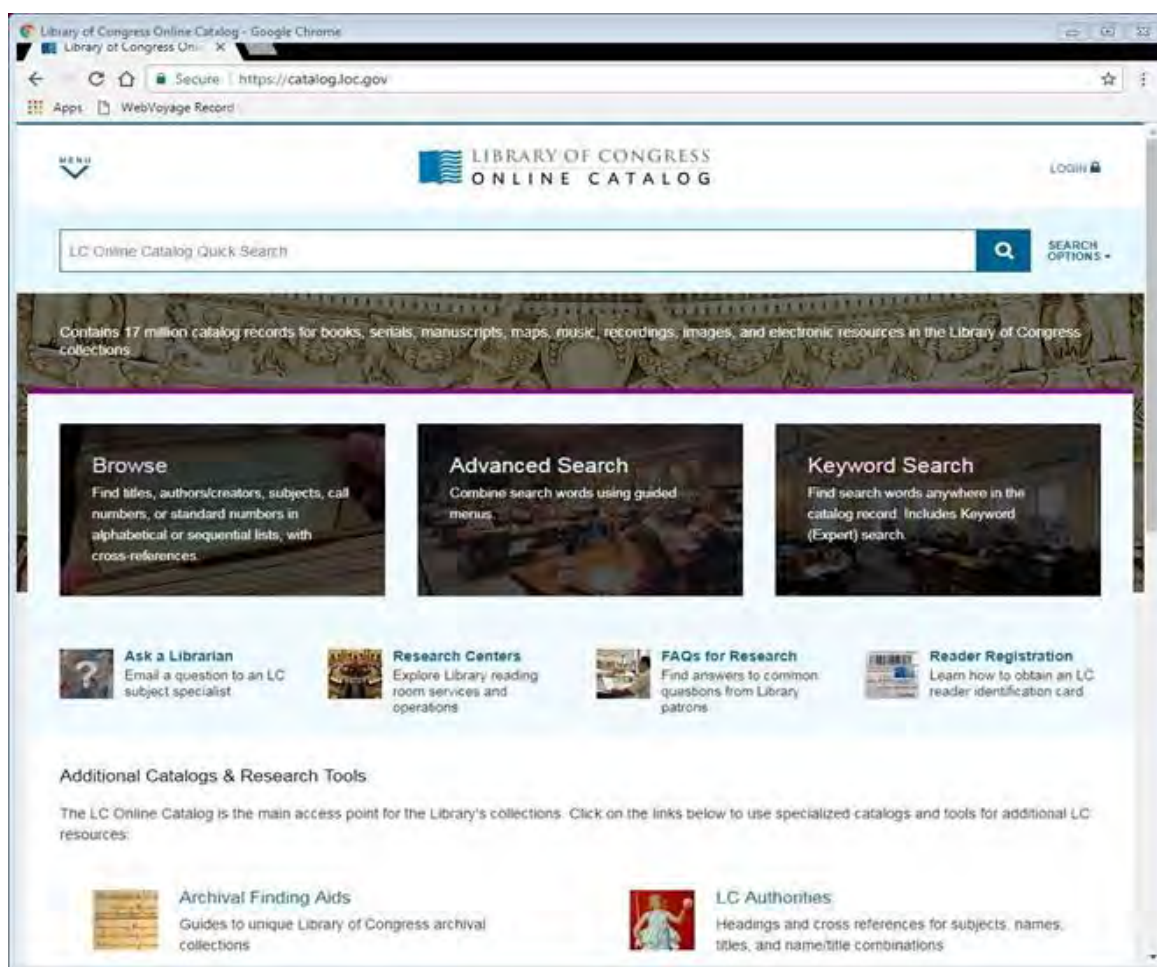
You can do general keyword searches in the Online Catalog, or you can use the **Advanced Search** mode to narrow your search to certain types of materials, certain repository areas of the Library, or to combine specialized search fields, such as titles, subjects, keywords and phrases, or authors. You can also limit the search to certain languages, or places or date spans of publication. https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/searchAdvanced
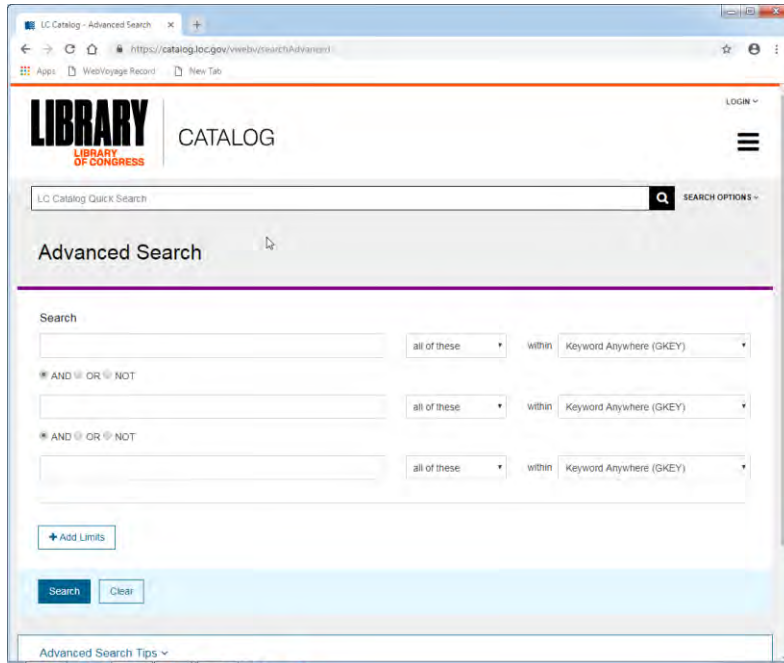
You can also plan some of your primary collections research in advance of a visit, or decide which parts of a collection you would like to see when you are in a reading room, by using the **Archival Finding Aids** available online. http://findingaids.loc.gov/
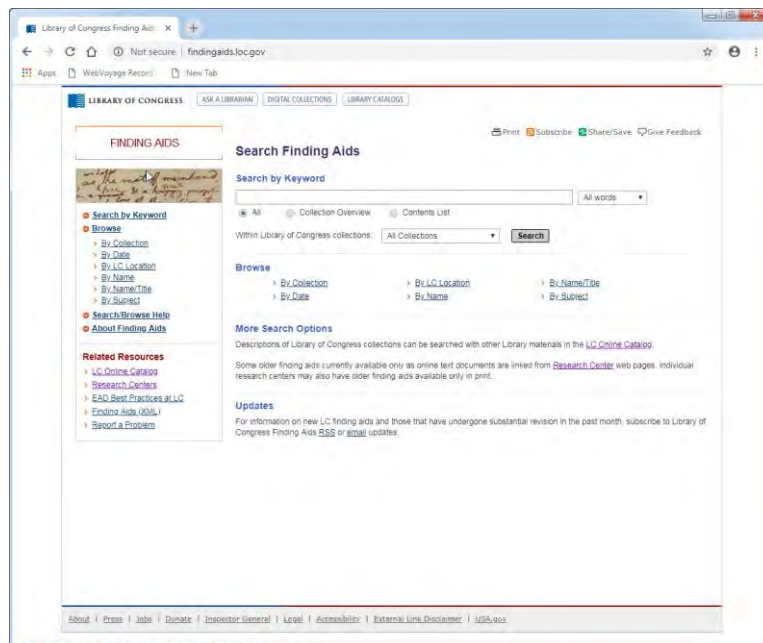

You can also use the Archival Finding Aids as a reference in placing advance orders for off-site materials before you arrive at the Library, or to decide which reels of microfilm you may want to order by Inter-library Loan. Some Archival Finding Aids contain direct links to digitized materials in a particular collection.

What reading rooms at the Library offer Native American resources, either on site in various physical formats, or online?

The Library holds materials in the fields of ethnology, folklore, history, language, dance, geography, law, politics, photography, art, and other subject areas related to Native American culture, history, politics, and experience, in Native and non-Native voices, and by Native and non-Native creators. You can find the various reading rooms, or research centers, of the Library of Congress listed on the general information page for researchers, at http://www.loc.gov/rr/. Each reading room has its own web page that you can consult for information, or use to contact the reference librarians in that part of the Library, to find out what hours the reading room is open and if there are any special arrangements you should make before you arrive.
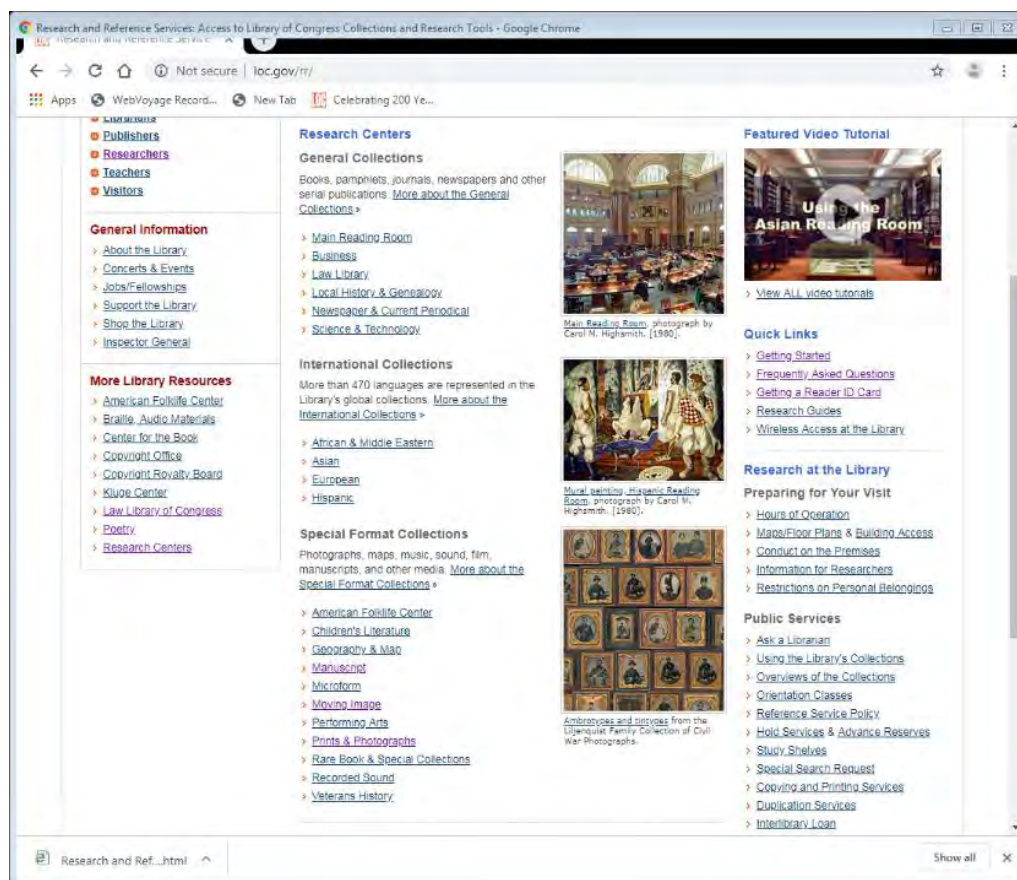
Where do I go for books and bound periodicals?

The **Main Reading Room** in the Library's Jefferson Building serves non-rare published books, bound periodicals, microform and printed resources. It also has an extensive general reference collection available for researchers. http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/   The Special Collections reading rooms are located in various buildings on the Library campus. They also have their own subject area reference sections, as well as specialized book collections and guides.

What are the key reading rooms for research in special collections resources by and/or about Native Americans?

● The **American Folklife Center** (AFC) (for fieldwork recordings, music, and many other key resources in American Indian ethnology, folklore, and culture) http://www.loc.gov/folklife/ Omaha Indian Music is an example of an online presentation based on AFC holdings https://www.loc.gov/collections/omaha-indian-music/about-this-collection/

● The **Veterans History Project** (created by Congress, and part of the AFC, this project is actively collecting first-person accounts of war experiences, including oral histories of Native American veterans) https://www.loc.gov/vets/ For information about participating see https://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-questions.html

● The **Manuscript Division** (holds original manuscripts and related miscellany in many subject fields, including items in Indian policy and history, ethnological fieldwork, and Indian languages resources) http://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/. Finding aids describing the content of manuscript collections can be searched at http://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/f-aids/

● The **Prints and Photographs Division** (holds portraits and other historical photographs of American Indians received by gift, purchase, or copyright deposit, as well as works by contemporary Native American artists) http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/ Many images are online through the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog http://www.loc.gov/pictures/ .

● The **Rare Book and Special Collections Division** (holds early and rare print editions, including early Bibles translated into Indian languages, broadsides, printed pamphlets, and ephemera). http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/

● The **Hispanic Reading Room** (holds materials related to indigenous peoples of Latin America) http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/

● The **Law Library** (holds reference resources on treaties and laws) http://www.loc.gov/law/index.php The Law Library hosts the **Indigenous Law electronic portal** http://www.loc.gov/law/help/indigenous-law-guide/index.php

● The **Geography and Map Division** (holds historic and modern maps and atlases). https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/ Selective maps are available digitized online at https://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/

● **Moving Images** (holds films, television shows, and video materials, including documentary and feature films). See bibliographic guide to *American Indians on Film and Video* by Jennifer Brathvode at   http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/findaid/indian2.html and *American Indians and*

Silent Film by Karen Lund at http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/findaid/indian1.html

● **Recorded Sound Reference Center** (holds recordings of Indian poetry, recorded books, and other sound recordings) http://www.loc.gov/rr/record/

● **Performing Arts Reading Room** (holds Native American music, songs, scores, and etc.) http://www.loc.gov/rr/perform/

What are some useful tips for locating resources in various parts of the Library?

1.   Consult the Library of Congress publication *Many Nations: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Indian and Alaska Native Peoples of the United States.* A hard copy of this out-of-print guide is available in many Library reading rooms. You can find it online at   https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003140184

2.   Use **subject term searches** to search the Library of Congress Online Catalog https://catalog.loc.gov/ for various types of materials available in different reading rooms. Sample search terms include:

● Indians of North America (and subsets, such as Civil Rights, Education, Ethnic Identity, Folklore, Games, Government Relations, History, Intellectual Life, Languages, Library resources, Medical Care, Pictorial works, Politics and Government, Religion, Study and teaching; or names of places, tribal groups, regions, and specific states).

● Indian dance—North America; Pow Wows; Indian theater—North America; Indian literature— North America; but also American Literature—Indian authors

● Indian reservations—United States; and by specific title or location

● Tribal names with term "Indians"; e.g., Abenaki Indians, Arapaho Indians, Cherokee Indians, Cheyenne Indians, and etc.

3.   Use "Native American" and "American Indians" in **title searches** of the Library of Congress Online Catalog.

4.   Use "Indian" as a **keyword search** term in the **Archival Finding Aids** search page http://findingaids.loc.gov/ and in the **Prints & Photographs Online Catalog** http://www.loc.gov/pictures/

5.   If you are working on-site at the Library of Congress, you can go to the Electronic Resource page http://eresources.loc.gov/ to access primary resources in the *Indigenous*

Peoples of North America by Gale, to search electronic newspapers, or use other kinds of specialized databases of archival, print, or primary materials.

What if I can't visit the Library in person? Are there digitized materials available online?

Some Native American collection materials have been digitized and are available online. For information on digital resources generally, see the **Digital Collections** link on the Library's home page https://www.loc.gov/collections/ .
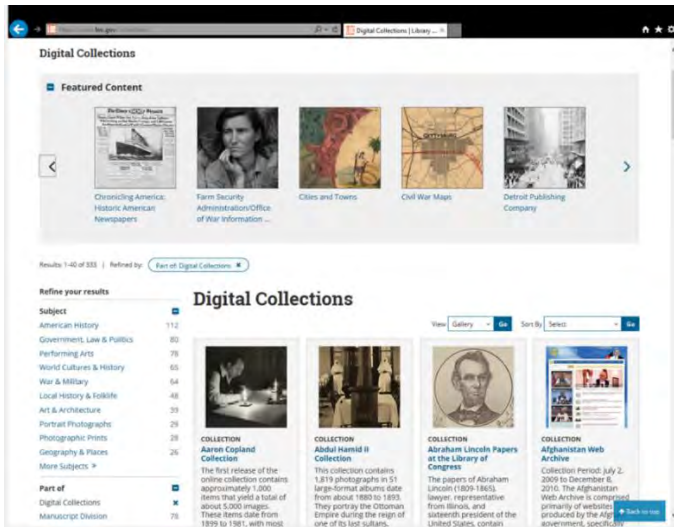

The Library of Congress is particularly strong in digitized pictorial resources. You can search the **Prints and Photographs Online Catalog** (PPOC) for digitized images of visual items from the collections, as well as for descriptions of materials that have not yet been digitized. Many of the images are available for download, while a smaller proportion appear only as "thumbnail" images due to rights considerations. http://www.loc.gov/pictures/

Prints and Photographs Division Reference Librarian Melissa Lindberg has created an online Research Guide devoted to Native American pictorial resources. It is called *Native American History and Culture: Finding Pictures* and you can find it at https://guides.loc.gov/native-american-pictures It includes an annotated guide to selected collections, and provides tips for searching the collections.
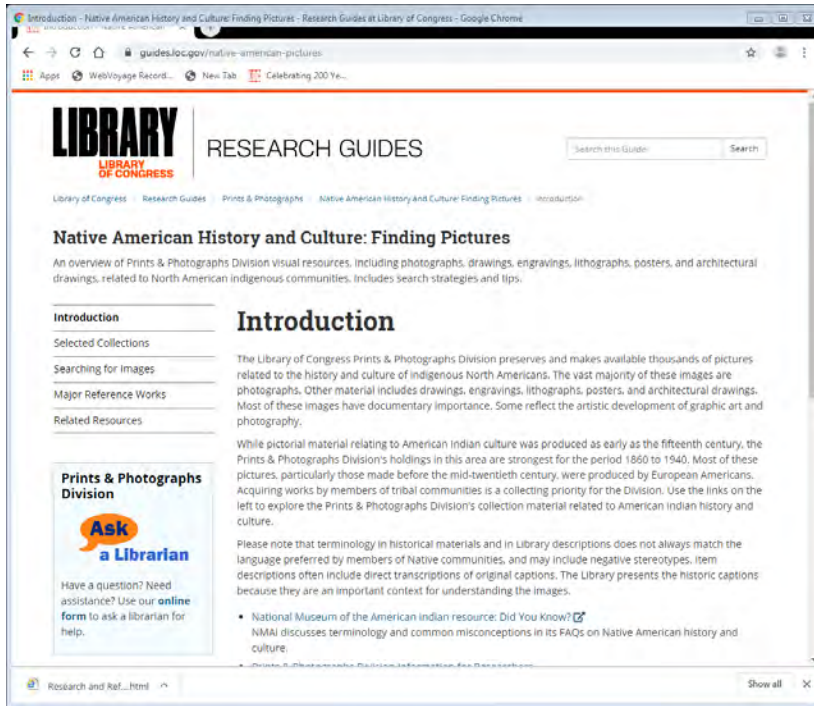
What if I have more questions?

You can call reference librarians in the different divisions or departments of the Library of Congress, or use the *Ask a Librarian* electronic reference service, to ask a librarian a question about the collections, find out more about making a visit to the library, or receive guidance to items available on the Library of Congress Web site   https://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/