

## African American Studies Resource Guide

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This guide provides selected information resources supporting African American Studies and includes both historical materials and those relating to current issues. Included in this guide are the Mildred F. Sawyer Library subscription databases, selected web resources, and a brief list of print resources.

For specific book and periodical titles, check the [Suffolk University Library Catalog](#).

### **General Reference and Statistical Sources**

Sawyer Library Online Subscription Sources:

## [Oxford African American Studies Center](#)

The Oxford African American Studies Center provides full-text access to several publications from Oxford University Press relating to African American studies, including: the five volume *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience*, (second edition); the *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass*; *Black Women in America*, (second edition); *African American National Biography*; and the *Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature*.

## [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)

This collection of online reference works from Thomson Gale publishers includes several titles useful to African-American studies (*African American Almanac*, 9th ed., 2003; *African-American Years: Chronologies of American History and Experience*, 2003; *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History*, 6v, 2006; *Encyclopedia of African American Society*, 2v, 2005; *Encyclopedia of Black Studies*, Vol. 1, 2005, and *Who's Who Among African Americans*, 18th ed., 2005), as well as more general sources like the 10 volume *Dictionary of American History*.

## [Sage eReference](#)

Sage eReference is an online collection of over 40 reference titles from Sage Publications. Users may search across all titles, or browse by subject. Two titles are specific to African American Studies: the *Encyclopedia of African American Society*, and the *Encyclopedia of Black Studies*.

## [Cambridge Histories Online](#)

Cambridge Histories Online provides electronic access to over 250 scholarly volumes published by Cambridge University press since 1960. A sample search for "African American" generates 305 results, the bulk being from *The Cambridge History of American Literature*, *The Cambridge History of Law in America*, and *The Cambridge History of Music*.

## [CQ Press Political Reference Suite](#)

CQ Press's Political Reference suite is a collection of reference book titles on government and politics. Sources include: *CQ Almanac* (legislative analysis and policy tracking, 1945-2006); *Congress and the Nation* (legislative history and policy analysis, 1945-2004); *Historic Documents Series* (key primary source documents, 1972-2005); *Politics in America* (congressional profiles, 2000-2006); *Supreme Court Yearbook* (case summaries and analysis, 1989-2005); and *Vital Statistics on American Politics* (elections, public opinion, voting). Examples of materials that may be retrieved from this set include a legislative chronology of Civil Rights from 1945-1964 (in *Congress and the Nation*), and the full-text of speeches such as Governor Wilder's Inaugural Address (Virginia, January 13, 1990) - the first black to be elected governor of any state (in the *Historic Documents Series*).

## [Historical Statistics of the United States](#)

This is the updated, online edition of the standard reference source for historical U.S. statistics. It contains more than 37,000 annual time series of historical information, arranged in broad data areas- population, work and welfare, economics governance. For example, an article on the

history of slavery in America links to multiple tables with statistics on the demography and economics of slavery.

### [LexisNexis Statistical](#)

"LexisNexis Statistical enables easy access to statistics produced by the U.S. government, major international intergovernmental organizations, professional and trade organizations, commercial publishers, independent research organizations, state government agencies, and universities." See the **Sawyer Library Guide to LexisNexis Statistical** for help in using this database.

### [Microsoft Encarta Africana \[interactive multimedia\]](#)

Sawyer Circ. CD-ROM

"Comprehensive encyclopedia of Black history and culture." Available to Suffolk University students and faculty in the Sawyer Library.

U.S. Census Bureau:

### [U.S. Census Bureau - Minority Links: Facts on the Black/African American Population](#)

<http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/NEWafamML1.html>

### [U.S. Census Bureau - Race Data](#)

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race.html>

### [U.S. Census Bureau - Black Population in the United States \(Current Population Survey \(CPS\) Reports\)](#)

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/black.html>

Links the user to PDF files and other Census pages providing specific data on African-Americans. Much of the data is from the latest census, in 2000. But there is one section of historical statistics with data as far back as 1790.

### [U.S. Census Bureau - News Releases - Race](#)

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/race/index.html>

Other U.S. Federal Online Sources:

### [Bureau of Labor Statistics - Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#)

<http://stats.bls.gov/cps/>

"The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey of households conducted by the Bureau of Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It provides a comprehensive body of data on the labor force, employment, unemployment, and persons not in the labor force."

### [National Center for Health Statistics - Health of Black or African American Population](#)

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/black\\_health.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/black_health.htm)

## [MEDLINEplus: African American Health](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/africanamericanhealth.html)

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/africanamericanhealth.html>

This site from the National Library of Medicine includes news, research links, statistics, and information specific to age and gender groups. There is also a link that allows a quick search for recent articles (not full-text) in the Medline database. (Current Suffolk University students and faculty also have access to [Medline](#) as one of the Sawyer Library's subscription periodical databases.)

Print Sources:

## [The African American Almanac](#)

REF E185 .A267 2003

### [Gale Virtual Reference Library: African American Almanac](#)

Topics range from Africans in America 1600-1900 to sections on law, politics, media, and the military. In addition to the printed edition, Suffolk University students and faculty have access to the online version from Gale Virtual Reference. Link from the Sawyer online catalog, or use the link above.

## [African American History in the Press, 1851-1899](#)

REF. E185.2 .A25 1996; Volume 1: 1851-1869; volume 2: 1870-1899.

Recounts African American history "from the coming of the Civil War to the rise of Jim Crow as reported and illustrated in selected newspapers of the time."

## [Chronology of African American History from 1492 to the Present](#)

REF. E 185.H64 1997

Following a year-by-year day-by-day format, this volume covers all the events of African American history from 1492 through December 1996. The lengthy appendix includes reprints of historic documents.

## [Encyclopedia of African American Business History](#)

REF. HD2344.5.U6 E53 1999

Covers the African American business experience from 1600s - 1990s. Entries include biographical articles on Black businesspeople, essays on Black business history, and surveys of Black participation in selected industries. This title is also available in full-text online, through ebrary and Greenwood ebooks.

## [Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History](#)

REF. E185 E54 1996

This five volume set strives to cover "all aspects of the African-American experience." Two-thirds of the essays are biographical articles on African-Americans, the remaining essays are devoted to significant events, historical eras, legal cases, cultural achievement, the professions, sports and places.

## [Organizing Black America : an Encyclopedia of African American Associations](#)

REF. E185.5 .O74 2001

Organized in alphabetical order, the entries discuss the "origins, goals, founders, membership, staff, activities, achievements, and failures" of African American associations.

## [Reference Library of Black America](#)

REF. E185 .P56 1997

A five volume set which covers topics such as Africa and the western hemisphere, Black entrepreneurship, science and medicine, and African-American firsts.

## Print Statistical Sources

### [Black Americans : a Statistical Sourcebook](#)

REF E185.5 .B512 2004

Includes data collected on demographics, vital statistics, health, education, elections, public opinion, law enforcement, labor force, and special topics such as Black owned firms and housing affordability.

### [Health, United States](#)

REF. RA407.3 .H43 2007

This report, a good source of minority health statistics, is produced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics. The publication has a corresponding [website](#), which is also accessible through the library's online catalog.

### [Portrait of Health in the United States](#)

REF. RA407.3 .P67 2001

This publication, which describes itself as covering major statistical trends, also includes health statistics based on race, ethnicity, and gender. This title is also available online in full-text, through ebrary.

## **Special Collections, and Indexes & Guides to Periodicals**

### Online Full-text Sources

#### [Primary Sources in U.S. History: African American History](#)

Primary Sources in U.S. History contains two sections: Primary Sources in African American History and Primary Sources in American Women's History. Each contains primary and secondary source material from colonial times to the present. The database includes the full-text of primary sources (autobiographies, manuscripts, government and legal documents) related to

race, as well as scholarly secondary articles.

### [In the First Person Plus](#)

In the First Person is an index to five separate collections of personal narratives and primary sources (diaries, letters, autobiographies, and speeches). The collections include:

- [Black Thought and Culture](#) (materials relating to leading African American figures)
- [The American Civil War: Letters and Diaries](#)
- [North American Women's Letters and Diaries](#) (Colonial Times to 1950)
- [North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories](#) (1850 to the present).

Browsing the individual collections provides the better results than attempting to search across the collections.

### [JSTOR](#)

JSTOR allows searches to be limited to a set of eight journals in African American Studies: *African American Review*, 1992-2001 [previously *Black American Literature Forum*, 1976-1991; and *Negro American Literature Forum*, 1967-1976]; *Callaloo*, 1976-1994; *Journal of Black Studies*, 1970-2001; *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, 1993-2002; *Journal of Negro Education*, 1932-1999; *Journal of Negro History*, 1916-2001; *Phylon* (1960-) 1960-1992 [*Phylon Quarterly* 1957-1959; *Phylon* (1940-1956) 1940-1956]; and *Transition*, 1961-1999.

### [The New York Times \(1851 - 2005\)](#)

This full-text database of *The New York Times* (1851 - 2005) consists of scanned images of the actual paper. In addition to searches for articles, users can also search for advertisements, editorial cartoons, obituaries, and letters.

### [ACLS Humanities E-Book Project](#)

Formerly known as the ACLS History E-Book Project, this resource is a fully searchable collection of over 1500 books in the humanities and history, from the American Council of Learned Societies. Users may search or browse. Browsing by subject will display a range of topics concerning African Americans, from 'African American Baptists' to 'African American women -- History.'

### [The Afriterrra Map Collection](#)

<http://www.afriterra.org/>

Afriterrra is an archive of antique maps and books related to Africa. Their mission is the collection and preservation of the history of Africa, as recorded by maps. The collection includes maps in various languages of all regions of Africa, dating from 1482 to 1900. Many of the maps in this collection may be viewed on the website.

### [Academic Search Complete](#)

### [Academic OneFile \(InfoTrac\)](#)

Many of the Sawyer Library periodical databases can be used to research African American studies. Academic Search Premier (from EBSCO) and Academic OneFile (from Thomson Gale)

are both good starting points for researching periodical literature suitable to African American studies.

## Print Sources

### [African-American Newspapers and Periodicals : a National Bibliography](#)

REF. PN4882.5 .A35 1998

A bibliography of more than 6500 newspapers and journals, from 1827 to the present, edited and published by African-Americans.

### [Antislavery Newspapers and Periodicals](#)

REF. AI3 .B55

5 volumes. Annotated index of letters in the following periodicals: V. 1. *Philanthropist, Emancipator, Genius of Universal Emancipation, Abolition Intelligencer, African Observer*, and the *Liberator*, 1817-1845. V. 2. *Liberator, Anti-Slavery Record, Human Rights Observer*, 1835-1865. V. 3. *Friend of Man, Pennsylvania Freeman, Advocate of Freedom, American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Reporter*, 1836-1854. V. 4. *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, 1840-1860. V. 6. *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, 1861-1871. Each periodical is briefly described, entries are grouped by periodical, and there is an index of correspondents.

### [Black Abolitionist Papers, 1830-1865 : a Guide to the Microfilm Edition](#)

REF. E446 .B5

Guide to the microfilm of over 14,000 documents written by Black men and women abolitionists. Examples include editorials in Black newspapers and letters by Black abolitionists which appeared in White newspapers. A list of the newspapers and periodicals from which the material is derived is also included. The [Black Abolitionist Papers, 1830-1865 \[microform\]](#) is available for use in the Sawyer Library.

### [Black Literature, 1827-1940](#)

MICROTEXT: Microfiche Cabinet - Floor 1

CD-ROM Index: Sawyer CD-ROM Workstation

Author/Title Index Unit 1, Microfiche Index, CD-ROM User Manual: REF. PS508.N3 B5

The Black Periodical Literature Project "documents the fiction, poetry and literary reviews which appeared in black owned and edited newspapers published in the United States between 1827 and 1940. A team of researchers at Harvard University, under the supervision of Henry Louis Gates Jr., have discovered over nine hundred such publications." Facsimilies of the black periodicals and newspapers have been produced on microfiche. The Sawyer Library owns microfiche 1-993. This collection is accompanied by an author/title index to unit 1 (microfiches 1-198), an index on CD-ROM, and a user's guide to units 1-3 on a separate set of 39 microfiches.

### [Dictionary Catalog of the Collection of African American Literature in the Mildred F. Sawyer Library of Suffolk University](#)

REF. E185 .C58 1996

Compiled in 1996, this book describes the Mildred F. Sawyer Library's Collection of African American Literature, which was founded in 1971 by Dr. Edward Clark, professor emeritus of English at Suffolk University. A more detailed [description of the collection and its origins](#) can be found off of the Sawyer Library homepage.

### [Guide to African American and African Primary Sources at Harvard University](#)

REF. E184.6 .B87 2000

Descriptive listing of primary source material, dating from the 17th century to the present, held in over 800 collections at Harvard University's libraries, archives, and museums. The Guide describes such items as deeds, wills, diaries, ship's papers, and playbills, however books are not included.

### [Index to Periodical Articles by and about Negroes](#)

REF. AI3 .I52

Decennial Cumulation 1950-1959. Cumulated 1960-1970, 1971, 1972. Includes subject and name index of topics and persons covered in the literature, and a list of the periodicals indexed. Continued by *Index to Periodical Articles by and about Blacks*.

### [Index to Periodical Articles by and about Blacks](#)

REF. AI3 .I52

Annual volumes, 1973-1983. The index has grown to include entries from over 3000 articles in 23 periodicals. Author and subject terms are interfiled in a single alphabet. Creative works are listed under the appropriate category (drama, music, novels, etc.) and reviews are listed as book reviews, drama reviews, etc. Continued by *Index to Black Periodicals*.

### [Index to Black Periodicals](#)

REF. AI3 .I52

Annual volumes, 1984 - .

### [Index to Black Poetry](#)

REF. PS153.N5 C45

This work indexes 94 books and pamphlets of published poetry by individuals, and 33 anthologies, from 1760-1970. It includes a title and first line index, author index, and subject index.

### [The Papers of W.E.B. Du Bois : 1803 \(1877-1963\) 1979 : a Guide](#)

REF. E185.97.D73 M35

This is a guide to the microfilm of the collection of Dubois's papers. The original collection, held at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, contains over 100,000 items. Copies of [The Papers of W. E. B. Du Bois : 1803 \(1877-1963\) 1965](#) microfilm, (89 reels), are available for use in the Sawyer Library.

## Biographical Sources: Online and Print

### [Oxford African American Studies Center](#)

The Oxford African American Studies Center provides full-text access to several publications, including the *African American National Biography*. Over 4000 biographical articles are available to search, or browse alphabetically.

### [Biography Resource Center](#)

"The Biography Resource Center is a comprehensive database of biographical information on over 320,000 people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas. It combines more than 400,000 biographies from over 800 volumes of more than 130 respected Gale sources such as Contemporary Authors, Encyclopedia of World Biography, Newsmakers, Contemporary Theatre, Film, and Television, Contemporary Musicians, Historic World Leaders, Notable Twentieth-Century Scientists, Contemporary Black Biography, Religious Leaders of America, International Dictionary of Art and Artists, Writers Directory, and many more, with full-text articles from more than 265 magazines..." including *African American Review* and *Black Enterprise*.

### [The New York Times \(1851 - 2005\)](#)

This full-text database of *The New York Times* (1851 - 2005) consists of scanned images of the actual paper. In addition to searches for articles, users can also search for advertisements, editorial cartoons, obituaries (a good source of biographical information), and letters.

### [LexisNexis Academic](#)

For more recent newspaper coverage, users should look to LexisNexis Academic. Lexis contains the full-text of hundreds of domestic and international newspapers, including *The New York Times* (1980 -), the *Boston Globe* (1988 -), the *Boston Herald* (1994 -), and *The Washington Post* (1977 -). Users can retrieve full-text articles, including obituary articles; however advertisements, illustrations, and classifieds are not available. Use the News section or the People section (Biographical Information) to search for articles and directory information.

### [Primary Sources in U.S. History: African American History](#)

Primary Sources in U.S. History contains two sections: Primary Sources in African American History and Primary Sources in American Women's History. Each contains primary and secondary source material from colonial times to the present. The database includes the full-text of primary sources (autobiographies, manuscripts, government and legal documents) related to race, as well as scholarly secondary articles.

### [Dictionary of Literary Biography Complete Online](#) series

This is the online version of the extensive reference set, the Dictionary of Literary Biography, the main series, as well as Dictionary of Literary Biography Documentary Series and Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook Series. The purpose of the DLB series is not only to provide career

biographies of important writers, but also to provide an overview of specific areas of literature and to discuss the writers within "the larger perspective of literary history and to offer appraisals of their accomplishments by qualified scholars." The volumes are organized by topic, period, or genre as appropriate, and hence each volume serves as a stand-alone reference source. Users may search or browse through the complete online set. Some of the volumes relevant to African American Studies, (also owned in print by Sawyer Library) are listed below:

[Afro-American Fiction Writers after 1955](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A34 1984; Volume 33.

[Afro-American Writers, 1940-1955](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A386 1988; Volume 76.

[Afro-American Writers after 1955 : Dramatists and Prose Writers](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A39 1985; Volume 38.

[Afro-American Writers before the Harlem Renaissance](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A393 1986; Volume 50.

[Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A396 1987; Volume 51.

[African American Writers](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A344 2001

A two volume set which provides a biographical overview and a survey and discussion of the writer's main works.

[Afro-American Artists; a Bio-Bibliographical Directory](#)

REF. N6538.N5 C42 1973

This volume compiles data on African American artists and craftsmen culled from exhibition catalogues, reviews, periodicals, and books to span the period of the 18th century slave craftsmen to the time of the volume's publication in 1973.

[Afro-American Poetry and Drama, 1760-1975 : a Guide to Information Sources](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A37

A bibliography of poets and published black playwrights, born or with a primary residence in the United States.

[A Bibliographical Guide to African-American Women Writers](#)

REF. PS153.N5 B48 1993

Coverage spans from the first African American woman poet, Lucy Terry (1746) to 1991. Authors are listed alphabetically, with a bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

[Black Literature Criticism](#)

REF. PS153.N5 B556 1992

This three volume set compiles "excerpts from criticism of the most significant works of Black authors over the past 200 years."

### [Black Writers in New England](#)

REF. PS153.N5 C57 1985

"A bibliography, with biographical notes, of books by and about Afro-American writers associated with New England in the collection of Afro-American literature, Suffolk University, Museum of Afro-American History, Boston African American National Historic Site." Compiled by Edward Clark, Professor Emeritus of English, Suffolk University, and founder of Suffolk's Collection of African American Literature.

### [Broadside Authors and Artists; an Illustrated Biographical Directory](#)

REF. PS153.N5 B34

Brief biographical data and bibliography of works by authors published by the [Broadside Press](#) of Detroit, Michigan.

### [Index to Black American Writers in Collective Biographies](#)

REF. PS153.N5 C35 1983

The goal of this volume was to analyze and index the contents of over 250 collective biographies, dating from 1837-1982, in order to provide "references to biographical information on 1900 black American writers," who are not to be found in standard biographical sources. The scope includes not only creative writers, but also biographers, autobiographers, historians, journalists, literary critics, book illustrators, scholars, and bibliographers.

### [St. James Guide to Black Artists](#)

REF. N40.S78 1997

A biographical dictionary of artists of African descent. Each entry includes biographical and career information as well as a brief illustrated discussion of the artists work. The primary focus is on artists of the twentieth century, however some nineteenth century artists are included. African Americans make up the majority of the selected artists, with artists from Africa, the Caribbean and other areas of the African diaspora making up the remainder.

### [Voices of Multicultural America : Notable Speeches Delivered by African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Americans, 1790-1995](#)

REF. PS663.M55 V64 1996

This volume includes biographical information, the full-text of speeches, and background information on the events and people contributing to the circumstances of each speech. The book is arranged alphabetically by speaker, with an ethnicity index, a speech category index, and a keyword index.

## **Slave Narratives and Contemporaneous Publications**

Note: a subject search in the online catalog for "Slave narratives," or "Slaves' writings, American" will bring up numerous titles of print volumes on the subject.

### [Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938](#)

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

"Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938 contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and assembled and microfilmed in 1941 as the seventeen-volume Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves. This online collection is a joint presentation of the Manuscript and Prints and Photographs Divisions of the Library of Congress and includes more than 200 photographs from the Prints and Photographs Division that are now made available to the public for the first time. Born in Slavery was made possible by a major gift from the Citigroup Foundation."

### [American Slave Narratives: An Online Anthology](#)

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/wpa/wpahome.html>

Bruce Fort, of the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, created and maintained this site until 1998. Although some of the links are no longer working, the actual narratives are still available. "The narratives in this online anthology are transcribed verbatim from the interview transcripts collected by writers of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the late 1930s." This website offers a selection of these narratives, together with some of the accompanying photographs taken at the time of the interviews. "The entire collection of narratives can be found in George P. Rawick, ed., *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1972-79)."

### [North American Slave Narratives](#)

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/>

North American Slave Narratives is one section of "Documenting the American South," a digitization project of primary materials sponsored by the University Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "North American Slave Narratives' collects books and articles that document the individual and collective story of African Americans struggling for freedom and human rights in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. This collection includes all the existing autobiographical narratives of fugitive and former slaves published as broadsides, pamphlets, or books in English up to 1920. Also included are many of the biographies of fugitive and former slaves and some significant fictionalized slave narratives published in English before 1920."

### [African-American Women On-line Archival Collections; Special Collections Library, Duke University](#)

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>

This project from the Digital Scriptorium (Special Collections Library, Duke University) includes three separate collections of digitized and transcribed materials, written by nineteenth century

African-American women: "Elizabeth Johnson Harris: Life Story," "Hannah Valentine and Lethe Jackson: Slave Letters," and the "Vilet Lester Letter" (a slave letter).

### [Slavery & Abolition in the U.S.: Select Publications of the 1800s](#)

<http://deila.dickinson.edu/slaveryandabolition/index.html>

"Slavery and Abolition in the US: Select Publications of the 1800s is a digital collection of books and pamphlets that demonstrate the varying ideas and beliefs about slavery in the United States as expressed by Americans throughout the nineteenth century." The collection is presented by Millersville University and Dickinson College, and it includes "first person narratives, legal proceedings and decisions, anti-slavery tracts, religious sermons, and early secondary works."

## **Selected Websites on African American Studies**

### [Primary Research: African-Americans in Antebellum Boston](#)

<http://www.primaryresearch.org/bh/>

African-Americans in Antebellum Boston is one of several projects exhibited on the Primary Research website. All of the projects are based on the collaboration of local research institutions and high school students. The African-Americans in Antebellum Boston project represents the work of thirteen students from Beverly High School in collaboration with the Boston Athenaeum and the Boston African-American National Historic Site. The students also attended a lecture by Suffolk University history professor Robert Allison on the history of the antebellum African-American neighborhoods of Beacon Hill and the West End. The project's finished product contains digitized documents from the Boston Athenaeum, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Massachusetts State Archives, the Massachusetts State House Special Collections, the City of Boston Archives, and the American Antiquarian Society, - including selected full-text articles from William Garrison's abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator* (1831 - 1855).

### [African American Odyssey, the Library of Congress](#)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/aohome.html>

Part of the Library of Congress's American Memory, a project to digitize historic collections for the National Digital Library. Digital primary historical materials include papers of Frederick Douglass held at LC, materials related to Jackie Robinson's break through baseball's color line, and selections of slave narratives and 19th century pamphlets. Two other Library of Congress websites specific to African-American studies include:

### [The African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture](#)

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>

An online exhibit from the Library of Congress, covering the topics of Colonization, Abolition, Migrations, and the WPA.

### [Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#)

<http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>

"The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is a national research library devoted to collecting, preserving and providing access to resources documenting the experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world." In addition to providing [finding aids and descriptions](#) of the Center's collections, the website offers some online content: the [Digital Schomburg](#) includes sections on [African American Women Writers of the 19th Century](#) and [Images of African Americans from the 19th Century](#).

### [Broadside Press Publications Detroit, Michigan](#)

<http://clarke.cmich.edu/Dudley/dudley.htm>

Produced by the Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University, this website highlights the achievements of Dudley Randall, (1914-), who created the Broadside Press in 1965 in Detroit, Michigan, with the aim of publishing his own poetry, but he quickly expanded to include other African-American poets, both new and established. Despite being run out of his home and on a limited budget, Broadside Press published the major African-American poetry of the time. Randall sold Broadside Press in 1985 to Hilda and Donald Vest, who continue to run the Press.

### [Museum of African American History](#)

<http://www.afroammuseum.org/>

Housed right here on Beacon Hill, the Museum of Afro American History provides limited information on their website, but it does have a guide to the "Black Heritage Trail," a walking tour of Boston's Black history. In association with the Museum, Suffolk has a [Collection of African American Literature](#).

### [Electronic Text Center: African American](#)

<http://etext.virginia.edu/subjects/African-American.html>

The University of Virginia's Electronic Text Center provides an "on-line archive of tens of thousands of SGML and XML-encoded electronic texts and images." This particular page provides links to their extensive collection of primary materials related to African American history. A few items are restricted to the UVa community, but the great majority are freely accessible.

### [The King Center](#)

<http://www.thekingcenter.org>

The King Center was established in 1968 by Coretta Scott King. The website includes biographical information on Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, as well as bibliographies of suggested readings.

### [Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute](#)

<http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php>

There are many fine MLK websites. This is just one. Based at Stanford University, this project is "a major research effort to assemble and disseminate historical information concerning Martin Luther King, Jr. and the social movements in which he participated." At the website, you can find

chronologies, King sound clips, biographical information, an online King encyclopedia, and more.

### [The Bay State Banner Online Edition](http://www.baystatebanner.com/)

<http://www.baystatebanner.com/>

Here is the website of the Boston area's long-standing African American community newspaper. Current feature stories, editorials and the like are available online. There is also an archive of material that goes back a couple of years. Unfortunately, the site includes no search engine.

### [The Church in the Southern Black Community](http://docsouth.unc.edu/church)

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/church>

This website is a section of the University of North Carolina's Documenting the American South (DocSouth) project. "The Church in the Southern Black Community' collects autobiographies, biographies, church documents, sermons, histories, encyclopedias, and other published materials. These texts present a collected history of the way Southern African Americans experienced and transformed Protestant Christianity into the central institution of community life." "It focuses, through slave narratives and observations by other African American authors, on how the black community adapted evangelical Christianity, making it a metaphor for freedom, community, and personal survival."

### [Our Shared History: African American Heritage; The National Park Service](http://www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/)

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/>

"Our Shared History" is part of the National Park Service's "Links to the Past" website. Its purpose is to gather all of the websites available through ParkNet that are related to African American heritage. Topics include the Underground Railroad and African Americans who fought in the Civil War.

### [Moorland-Spingarn Research Center - Bibliographies](http://www.founders.howard.edu/moorland-spingarn/public.htm)

<http://www.founders.howard.edu/moorland-spingarn/public.htm>

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Library Division has compiled a set of 7 bibliographies to assist scholars and students in researching their collections. The topics are: "The Black Presence In Antiquity: A Selected Bibliography," "The Black Renaissance: A Bibliography of Selected Sources at Howard University," "Dorothy Porter Wesley: A Selected Bibliography," "Justice Thurgood Marshall: A Selected Bibliography," "Kente Cloth: A Selected Bibliography," "Louis Farrakhan: A Selected Bibliography," and "'We Served America, Too!' Blacks in the Women's Army Corps During World War II: A Selected Bibliography."

### [Resources in Black Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara](http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subj/black.html)

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subj/black.html>

A collection of links covering the "African Diaspora - People of African Descent in the United States; Africa; the Caribbean & Latin America; Europe & Australasia," produced by Sylvia Curtis of the University of California, Santa Barbara Library.

## [Howard University - African Americans](#)

<http://www.howard.edu/library/Assist/Guides/Afroam.htm>

An extensive collection of links for African American Studies, selected by the Howard University Libraries, Howard University, Washington, DC.

## [Research Guides in African American Studies - University of Pennsylvania Library](#)

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/cgi-bin/res/sr.cgi?community=2&resourcetype=25>

Includes links to University of Pennsylvania websites supporting the African American Studies program, as well as links to a wide variety of outside resources relating to African American history and culture.

## [Resources for African American and Diaspora Studies, Vanderbilt University](#)

<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/central/afam.shtml>

An outline of resources appropriate for African American Studies, (some of which are only available to Vanderbilt students). Examples include Internet directories and guides, organizations and institutions, and archives and documents.

## [College & Research Libraries News, African American Cultural Collections and Museums: Archiving and Preserving Black History](#)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2008/dec/aacollectionsmuseums.cfm>

## [College & Research Libraries News, African American culture](#)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues1999/january1/africanamerican.htm>

*College & Research Libraries News*, is a monthly publication produced by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Each month the column "Internet Resources" discusses websites devoted to a specific topic. The websites are chosen based on their quality and comprehensiveness.

## [Archives of African American Music and Culture](#)

<http://www.indiana.edu/~aaamc/>

Indiana University's Archives of African American Music and Culture (AAAMC) was founded in 1991. It is "a repository of materials covering various musical idioms and cultural expressions from the post-World War II era," and its mission is the "collection, preservation, and dissemination of materials for the purpose of research and study of African-American music and culture."

## [Amistad Research Center, Tulane University](#)

<http://www.tulane.edu/~amistad/>

The Amistad Research Center was founded in 1966 by the American Missionary Association. Its mission is to "collect, preserve, and make accessible to research scholars and other students original sources on the histories and cultures of America's ethnic minorities, particularly African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans." The Center, which is now housed on the Tulane University campus in New Orleans, contains manuscripts of importance to the study of ethnic history and race relations in the United States.

### [Exploring Amistad at Mystic Seaport](http://amistad.mysticseaport.org)

<http://amistad.mysticseaport.org>

The Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut, has created a website devoted to the study of the Amistad Revolt of 1839-1842.

### [eBlack Studies](http://www.eblackstudies.org/)

<http://www.eblackstudies.org/>

Established in 2000 by Abdul Alkalimat of the University of Toledo, "eBlack Studies is a project in cyberspace. Its purpose is to provide information for students and scholars in all academic fields that focus primarily on Africa and the African Diaspora. Our mission is one stop shopping for everyone in the field of Africana Studies, especially graduate students, faculty, librarians, departmental webmasters, and interested search engines." There are links to journal websites, organizations, conferences, and an ebook by Professor Alkalimat and associates called [Introduction to Afro-American Studies](#). The creator of this website is also behind a useful [Malcolm X: A Research Site](#).

### [African American World](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/index.html)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/index.html>

Not surprisingly, this website--created by Public Broadcasting--contains mostly content related to documentaries and series that PBS has produced and broadcast. However, some of these series and programs are impressive, and some of the material here can be quite useful. Especially handy is the [Timeline](#) that steps you through African American history, with lots of links to further information about people and events.

### [Harold Washington Archives and Collections](http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/harold-washington/p/Spcharold/)

<http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/harold-washington/p/Spcharold/>

The Chicago Public Library is home to the Harold Washington Archives and Collections which documents the political career of the late Mayor Harold Washington, Chicago's first African American mayor.

### [Voice of the Shuttle: Minority Studies: African American](http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2721#id154)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2721#id154>

The "Voice of the Shuttle: Web Page for Humanities Research" was created by Alan Liu of the University of California, Santa Barbara. The project began in 1994 as an introduction to the Web for humanists at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Users will find an extensive list of links to Web resources in African-American Studies.

## **Selected Resources on African American Literature**

**Collections which include Digitized Content:**

## [Dictionary of Literary Biography Complete Online](#) series

This is the online version of the extensive reference set, the Dictionary of Literary Biography, the main series, as well as Dictionary of Literary Biography Documentary Series and Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook Series. The purpose of the DLB series is not only to provide career biographies of important writers, but also to provide an overview of specific areas of literature and to discuss the writers within "the larger perspective of literary history and to offer appraisals of their accomplishments by qualified scholars." The volumes are organized by topic, period, or genre as appropriate, and hence each volume serves as a stand-alone reference source. Users may search or browse through the complete online set. Some of the volumes relevant to African American Studies, (also owned in print by Sawyer Library) are listed below:

### [Afro-American Fiction Writers after 1955](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A34 1984; Volume 33.

### [Afro-American Writers, 1940-1955](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A386 1988; Volume 76.

### [Afro-American Writers after 1955 : Dramatists and Prose Writers](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A39 1985; Volume 38.

### [Afro-American Writers before the Harlem Renaissance](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A393 1986; Volume 50.

### [Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940](#)

REF. PS153.N5 A396 1987; Volume 51.

## [Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library](#)

<http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>

"The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is a national research library devoted to collecting, preserving and providing access to resources documenting the experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world. The Center's collections first won international acclaim in 1926 when the personal collection of the distinguished Puerto Rican-born Black scholar and bibliophile, Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, was added to the Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints of the 135th Street Branch of The New York Public Library. Schomburg served as curator from 1932 until his death in 1938. Renamed in his honor in 1940, the collection grew steadily through the years. In 1972 it was designated as one of The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library and became the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Today, the Schomburg Center contains over 5,000,000 items and provides services and programs for constituents from the United States and abroad. " In addition to maintaining the physical collection, the Schomburg Center has created an extensive website, with digital collections and online exhibitions.

## [African-American Newspapers and Periodicals, the Wisconsin Historical Society Library](#)

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/aanp/freedom/>

This site includes digitized images of *Freedom's Journal*, the first newspaper to be owned and operated by African-Americans. *Freedom's Journal* was published weekly in New York City, from March 1827 through March 1829. All 103 issues have been digitized.

### [African American Perspectives: The Daniel A. P. Murray Pamphlet Collection \(Library of Congress\)](#)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html>

"In 1899, Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam asked Library of Congress staff member Daniel A. P. Murray 'to secure a copy of every book and pamphlet in existence, by a Negro Author, to be used in connection with the Exhibit of Negro Authorship at the Paris Exposition of 1900, and later placed in the Library of Congress.'" Part of the Library of Congress's American Memory project, the Daniel A. P. Murray Pamphlet Collection spans from the early nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries, with most items dating from 1875 to 1900. The collection includes works by Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Benjamin W. Arnett, Alexander Crummel, and Emanuel Love. The collection may be browsed or searched, and the site includes additional content such as a timeline of African American History: 1852-1925, and background on [Daniel A. P. Murray and the founding of his collection](#).

### [African American Sheet Music](#)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/rpbhtml/aasmhome.html>

This digital collection of African American Sheet Music, selected from the holdings of the John Hay Library at Brown University, has been established in cooperation with the Library of Congress. It "consists of 1,305 pieces of African-American sheet music dating from 1850 through 1920. The collection includes many songs from the heyday of antebellum black face minstrelsy in the 1850s and from the abolitionist movement of the same period. Numerous titles are associated with the novel and the play *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Civil War period music includes songs about African-American soldiers and the plight of the newly emancipated slave. Post-Civil War music reflects the problems of Reconstruction and the beginnings of urbanization and the northern migration of African Americans."

### [Chicago Public Library: The Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature](#)

<http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/woodson-regional/p/FeatHarsh/>

The Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature is located in the Chicago Public Library system's Carter G. Woodson Regional Library. Vivian Harsh, the Chicago Public Library's first African American librarian, began building the collection in 1932 when she became head of the George Cleveland Hall branch. The collection includes books, periodicals, microfilm, and manuscripts; its focus is primarily on African American literature and history in Illinois.

### [Voice of the Shuttle: Minority Literatures: African American](#)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2746#id153>

The "Voice of the Shuttle: Web Page for Humanities Research" was created by Alan Liu of the

University of California, Santa Barbara. The project began in 1994 as an introduction to the Web for humanists at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Users will find an extensive list of links to Web resources in African-American Literature.

### **Descriptions of Collections (not yet digitized):**

#### [James Weldon Johnson Collection, Yale University](#)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/ycaljwj.htm>

The James Weldon Johnson Collection is one of the special collections of American Literature held at Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. "Founded in 1941 by Carl Van Vechten, this collection stands as a memorial to Dr. James Weldon Johnson and celebrates the accomplishments of African American writers and artists, beginning with those of the Harlem Renaissance. Grace Nail Johnson contributed her husband's papers, leading the way for gifts of papers from Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Walter White and Poppy Cannon White, Dorothy Peterson, Chester Himes, and Langston Hughes. The collection also contains the papers of Richard Wright and Jean Toomer, as well as smaller groups of manuscripts or correspondence of such writers as Arna Bontemps, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, and Wallace Thurman."

#### [Moorland Spingarn Research Center, Howard University](#)

<http://wwwFOUNDERS.howard.edu/moorland-spingarn>

The Moorland Spingarn Research Center is devoted to "the documentation of the history and culture of people of African descent in Africa, the Americas, and other parts of the world." The center's collections include bound volumes, journals, periodicals, newspapers, manuscript and archival collections, artifacts, prints, photographs, maps, and audio materials. The [Library Division](#) and [Manuscript Division](#) each provide detailed descriptions of their individual collections.

#### [The Augusta Baker Collection of African-American Children's Literature & Folklore](#)

<http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/kidlit/baker.html>

The Augusta Baker Collection, part of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of South Carolina, "reflects the interests and concerns of one deeply involved in children's literature and librarianship. Included in this group of titles from her personal and working library are significant twentieth-century children's authors and illustrators," and "important works by authors like Virginia Hamilton and Tom Feelings, emphasizing the African-American experience in twentieth-century children's literature."

#### [Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection](#)

<http://library.temple.edu/collections/blockson/index.jsp?bhcp=1>

Charles L. Blockson, collector of Afro-Americana, donated his collection to Temple University in Philadelphia in 1983. The collection includes over 30,000 items in all formats related to the black experience, both in the U.S. and globally. The website provides links to the online catalogs of other libraries with African American and African collections.

## [The Givens Collection of African American Literature](#)

<http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/givens>

Located at the Special Collections and Rare Books department of the University of Minnesota Libraries, the Givens Collection is devoted to the collection, preservation, and promotion of materials that document the literary and cultural history of African Americans. Most of the 8000 items in the collection are works of African American fiction, including rare first editions. Also included are literary manuscripts, correspondence, pamphlets, photographs, playbills, and other audio and visual materials. The Givens Collection site also links to the website of [Literature & Life: The Givens Collection](#), a Twin Cities Public Television documentary.

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