

African Studies Resource Guide

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This guide provides selected information resources in African Studies including historical materials and those on current issues. Included in this guide are the Mildred F. Sawyer Library databases, web resources, and electronic and print reference resources.

For specific book and periodical titles, check the [Suffolk University Library Catalog](#). See also **Country Resource Guide** and **World History Resource Guide**.

Periodical Indexes and Full-text Databases

The Sawyer Library subscription periodical indexes and full-text resources are available both on and off campus.

[Academic Search Complete](#)

A scholarly, multidisciplinary database from EBSCO that provides access to around 4600 full-text journals from 1984 on, many peer-reviewed. Includes about 90 journals on Africa.

[Academic OneFile](#)

A general database from Gale Cengage with over 11,000 mainly full-text, peer-reviewed journals

from 1980 on. Includes about 50 journals related to Africa.

[Business Source Complete](#)

This EBSCO database provides access to articles in "virtually" all business related subjects with international coverage in over 8800 journal titles. Also includes country reports, company profiles, and industry reports, e.g. Data Monitor reports. A good place to begin a search for business articles.

[CountryWatch](#)

An international database for searching "country-specific intelligence and data," including country reviews, wires, and maps. Also contains "political intelligence briefings" and energy and macroeconomic forecasts.

[Humanities International Complete](#)

The EBSCO full-text database of 1700 titles that covers subjects in art, literature, and history. Titles relating to Africa include *African Arts*, *African Affairs*, and *Journal of Modern African Studies*.

[JSTOR](#)

A full-text multidisciplinary archival database with back runs of over 1000 scholarly journals including 34 on African Studies, with the earliest starting from 1901. Coverage is generally up to 3-5 years before the current year (depending on publishers' moving walls). Advanced searches can be limited by disciplines or journal titles.

[LEXIS/NEXIS Academic](#)

The major database of worldwide general, legal, health, and business news. Provides full-text searching of newspapers, including African newspapers and wire services, and transcripts of broadcasts. Newspaper coverage generally starts in the late eighties or early nineties. For Africa related news select: "Sources" then "More Sources" then "Filter by: Country - Africa" (or individual country). Business section includes "Country Analysis."

[Political Science complete](#)

The major EBSCO database for full-text and indexing for scholarly journals in political science. Includes "Political Risk Yearbooks," with about 20 for African countries.

[Project Muse](#)

Provides full-text for over 300 journals from about 94 academic and scholarly society publishers focusing on the humanities and social sciences, including several African Studies titles. Journal categories include economics, history, literature, and philosophy.

Selected Websites

[Afriterrra Library](http://www.afriterra.org)

<http://www.afriterra.org>

Afriterrra, the Cartographic Free Library maintained by the Afriterrra Foundation, is a collection of "5000 original rare maps, engravings, archive papers and rare book text and references" dating from 1480 to 1900 . The Library is in the process of digitizing and cataloguing its collection to create an online database of maps. Access to this database is also available through the Sawyer Library catalog.

[African Studies Internet Resources](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/about.html)

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/about.html>

The Columbia University Libraries African Studies Department site, maintained by Dr. Yuusuf Caruso, is the official African Studies site for the World Wide Web Virtual Library and one of the most comprehensive sites for this subject. It has its own search engine and includes access to library catalogs, online newspapers and journals, and many other resources. It can be searched by region or country and by categories such as biographies, bibliographies, literature, and business and economics, with many pages of links to other websites.

[Africa South of the Sahara: Selected Internet Resources](http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html)

<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html>

Another extensive site, maintained by Karen Fung of the Stanford University Libraries, this resource provides access to websites (which may include "north of the Sahara") by country and by about 50 categories including art, history, law, photographs, and news sources. There are extensive lists of links for economy, business, and development. You can search the Africa internet directory and the Stanford University Library Africa pages through Stanford's Google search engine.

[Africa Web Links: An Annotated Resource List](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Home_Page/WWW_Links.html)

http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Home_Page/WWW_Links.html

This University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center site, edited by Dr. Ali B. Ali-Dinar, includes "Country Pages" and "Africa web links," with about 29 categories covering development, business and trade, organizations, health, human rights, women's issues, etc., and a list of African Studies Programs around the world.

[An A-Z of African Studies on the Internet](http://www.lib.msu.edu/limb/a-z/az_a1.html)

http://www.lib.msu.edu/limb/a-z/az_a1.html

This regularly updated website, "A Directory of Africa & African Studies" from Michigan State University, is an extensive alphabetical listing, also searchable by Google, of topics for all types of sites including country links and discussion lists.

[African Studies Association](http://www.africanstudies.org/p/cm/ld/fid=8)

<http://www.africanstudies.org/p/cm/ld/fid=8>

The African Studies Association, hosted by Rutgers University, New Jersey, is the main North American organization promoting African Studies. This site provides links to many scholarly

organizations and researchers, as well as to general Africa related sites.

[A Guide to Africa on the Internet](#)

<http://www.nai.uu.se/library/resources/guidetoafrica>

The Nordiska Afrikainstitutet (Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden) site, maintained by the NAI Library, provides extensive links (in English and Swedish) by countries or region, by subjects such as statistics, women and gender, politics and government, economic issues, and by all types of media.

[H-Africa](#)

<http://www.h-net.org/~africa/>

H-Africa is the member of the H-Net consortium of humanities and social science discussion lists that focuses on African studies, history, and culture through group forums, reports, essays, book, film, and web reviews, and other web resources. It includes links to business journals, many of which have tables of contents available online. See also the other "Related [H] Lists" on Africa on this site.

[Index on Africa](#)

<http://www.afrika.no/index/index.html>

This "Gateway to Africa on the Web," (in English and Norwegian) produced by the Norwegian Council for Africa, a "non-profit, non-governmental" organization, has over 4000 links by countries, subjects, and news sources. It includes a free newslist, "Africa News Update."

[Center for African Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#)

<http://www.afrst.illinois.edu/>

This website contains the Center's Africana Library "Library and Resources," including the African Studies Internet Portal. Specific subjects listings cover human rights, governments, and non-governmental organizations.

[Selected Internet Resources for African Studies](#)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/african/internet.html>

The Yale University Library African Collection site provides links to online dictionaries, maps, museums, history sites, listservs, newsgroups and other resources.

[African Studies Library, Boston University](#)

<http://www.bu.edu/library/asl/index.html>

Another university library site, it is maintained by Gretchen Walsh, African Studies Librarian. Provides links to other African Studies Libraries as well as online guides relating to Africa, including useful tutorials on web resources.

[AllAfrica Global Media](#)

<http://www.allafrica.com>

AllAfrica is a "multi-media content service provider" and "largest electronic distributor of

African news." This website posts over 1000 news stories daily, in English and French, as well as a news archive of over 900,000 articles. Pull-down menus link to many news sites by topics and regions or countries.

[African and Middle Eastern Portals to the World](#)

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/amed/portalslist/portalslist.html>

This Library of Congress site includes a search engine as well as links by country to selected resources on government, organizations, society, etc. LC also maintains the online [Quarterly Index of African Periodical Literature](#) which includes over 300 periodicals from 29 African countries. LC's Business Reference Services' [African Business Guide](#) is an index of Internet business and economic sources that includes links to banks, business directories, and African and U.S. government agencies.

[WoYaa!Africa on the Internet](#)

<http://www.woyaa.com>

WoYaa!, which has both English and French versions, is one of many general commercial search engines for Africa. It includes a directory of websites that provides over a million links through many categories, e.g., country pages, arts, business, education, health, media, shopping, and tourism (in between annoying popup ads).

[SunAfrica](#)

<http://www.sunafrika.com/home/main.asp>

SunAfrica is a commercial site that contains many free links by topics and through its search engine. There are extensive links to business and finance, all types of media, organizations, arts and culture, and other categories.

[Internet African History Sourcebook](#)

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/africa/africabook.html>

Edited by Paul Halsall at Fordham University, this site is part of the International History Sourcebooks Project which offers "copy-permitted"/public domain texts of primary and secondary materials with links to web resources concerning the history of Africa.

[World Bank Africa - Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/>

[World Bank Africa - Middle East & North Africa](#)

<http://www.worldbank.org/mena/>

These World Bank sites include statistics on major issues, e.g., HIV/AIDS, taken from the World Bank's Africa Database. The Sub-Saharan Site includes the series *Africa (or African) Development Indicators*, which covers the whole continent, in the "Data & Statistics" section. Some volumes are also available on ebrary (check catalog). Sawyer Library has one print volume of the ADI: REF.HC800 .A475 2002.

Other sites specifically related to business and finance are:

[MBendi](http://www.mbendi.com/)

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

MBendi is a private Internet consulting group based in South Africa. Its "Information for Africa" is a "leading business ... website and a world travel, mining, energy and trade site" that provides business directories and country profiles including economic, financial, and industry information.

[globalEDGE Africa Country Insights](http://globaledge.msu.edu/countryInsights/region.asp?regionID=5)

<http://globaledge.msu.edu/countryInsights/region.asp?regionID=5>

GlobalEDGE, created by the International Business Center, Michigan State University, is a major portal for global business information, e.g., statistics. Its regional section on Africa provides links to business sources, financial and economic organizations, as well as World Bank and UN sites for Africa.

[Africa Business Information Services \(AfBIS\)](http://www.afbis.com/)

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

AfBIS is a private organization that provides a good "source of information and analysis on business and economics in Africa." Also includes up-to-date news reports from African sources and has its own search engine.

Selected Electronic Reference Resources

[Africa: An Encyclopedia for Students](#)

Gale Virtual Reference Library 2002

This multidisciplinary electronic resource is based on the *Encyclopedia of Africa* and covers the continent from pre-historic times to the present. Topics include geography, religion, ecology, music, and tribal groups, and there are many illustrations including photographs.

[Africa and the Americas](#)

Credo Reference 2008

Part of Credo Reference's *Transatlantic Relations Series*, this encyclopedia covers "historical, political, and cultural relationships" between these two regions.

[Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience](#) 2nd Ed. 5 vols.

Oxford University Press 2005

This comprehensive encyclopedia on Africa and the African diaspora throughout the world, especially African American history, is part of the [Oxford African American Studies Center](#) edited by Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard University. Although *Africana* is a complete work in itself, including biographies, maps, tables, timelines and articles on literature, history, geography, etc., the online *Encyclopedia* cannot be searched separately from the other titles that make up the OAASC.

[Cambridge History of Africa](#) 8 vols.

Cambridge University Press 1975-1986

A "regional history" in the *Cambridge Histories Online* series, this title covers African history from the earliest times (B.C.E.) through 1975. Contributors to each volume cover such disciplines as history, political science, and sociology.

[Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature](#) 2 vols.

Cambridge University Press 2004

This title in the *Cambridge Histories Online* series covers both the literature and "its complex relationship with African social and geopolitical history" in Africa and the Black Diaspora. Also available in Sawyer Library: REF.PN841 .I74 2004.

[Culture and Customs of Africa](#)

Greenwood Press 2000+

Each book in this series focuses on one country and covers historical background, religion, family, literature, arts, cuisine, traditional dress, and other topics. Check the series link in the catalog to see which volumes are available.

[Dictionary of African Mythology](#)

Oxford Reference Online 2000

A collection of 400 entries compiled by Harold Scheub, Professor of African Languages and Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Includes stories from all over Africa illustrating belief systems, traditions, and cultures.

[Encyclopedia of African History](#) 3 vols.

Credo Reference 2004

This extensive set covers the whole continent from pre-history to contemporary times. It contains almost 1100 essays on African countries and regions, historic periods, and topics such as the diaspora, political systems, and women. Arranged A-Z with a section of time periods divided into themes. Lists include "Modern Cities of Historical Importance." Since over one third of its contributors are African authors, this title presents more of an "African viewpoint" of the history of the continent. Also available in Sawyer Library: REF. DT20 .E53 2005.

[Encyclopedia of African Religion](#) 2 vols.

Sage eReference 2009

A comprehensive A-Z listing of about 500 entries which contains a search engine and can also be searched by lists of topics and themes. A "first" in the field as it looks at African religion from a more African point of view.

[Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa](#) 2nd Ed. 4 vols.

Gale Virtual Reference Library 2004

Edited by Philip Mattar, U.S. Institute of Peace, this comprehensive set includes genealogies, maps, and photographs; about a third of the articles are biographies. Covers history of the area

from 1800 on and includes an "outline of entries" with related concepts listed under major headings. This new edition includes more articles on women and gender.

[Food Culture in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Greenwood 2005

This Greenwood ebook in the *Food Cultures Around the World* series focuses on agriculture, food habits, cooking, "culinary tradition," trends and changes in food culture, and the "role of food in ... human culture." Covers countries in the Western, Southern, Eastern, and Central regions of Africa.

[Guide to African Cinema](#)

ebrary 1998

Part of the Greenwood Press *Reference Guides to the World's Cinema* series. Covers African cinema from its earliest days through the post-colonial period up to the 1990s, analyzing about 40 major films which convey an "African perspective." Includes bio-bibliographies of major filmmakers.

[New Encyclopedia of Africa](#) 2nd Ed. 5 vols.

Gale Virtual Reference Library 2008

This work covers African history from ancient civilizations to the current period and its recent issues. Well illustrated with many photographs.

[Peoples of Africa: an Ethnohistorical Dictionary](#)

Greenwood ebook 1996

This Dictionary, compiled by James S. Olson, History Professor, Sam Houston State University, Texas, describes over 1800 ethnic groups in Africa. Includes a chronology from 3 million B.C.E. through 1995. Also available through ebrary.

Selected Print Reference Resources

[Africa](#) 3rd Ed.

REF. HG4538 .A37 2003

A joint publication of the Corporate Council on Africa and Business Books International, this title continues *Doing Business with Africa* and covers topics such as the internet, banking, and tourism, as well as short "country profiles" in The "Nations of Africa" chapter.

[Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment](#)

REF. G2446 .G3 A37 2008

Published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this atlas shows "environmental change at more than 100 locations spread across every country in Africa" It "provides scientific evidence of the impact that natural and human activities have had on the continent's environment over the past several decades." The hundreds of satellite images, ground photos, maps, and graphics included in this volume provide a "vibrant" view of the region. Also

available online through the [UNEP website](#).

[Africa Contemporary Record, Annual Survey and Documents](#)

REF. DT1 .A2849 v.1, 1968-69+

This serial title contains essays on current issues, country reviews, and tables with demographic and economic data. Contributors are scholarly experts and other African specialists.

[Africa South of the Sahara](#)

REF. DT351 .A37 1983/84+

Part of Europa Publications' *Regional Surveys of the World*. Includes "Who Who in Africa South of the Sahara." Reviews current events and trends for each country and regional organizations in Africa. Articles are written by scholarly experts. See also the [Middle East and North Africa](#) in this series.

[African Authors; a companion to Black African Writing](#)

REF. PL8010 .H38 1973+

A bio-bibliography of African literature from 1300-1973 with articles on almost 600 authors and about 2000 works. Originally planned as a series, this volume "1" seems to be the only one published.

[An African Biographical Dictionary](#) 2nd Ed.

REF. DT18 .B76 2006

An alphabetical listing of 713 sketches of "sub-Saharan Africans from across all periods of history" with an emphasis on the post-colonial period. Includes political, cultural, and religious figures, as well as scientists.

[African Literature and Its Times](#)

REF. PL8010 .M65 2000

Volume 2 in Gale's *World Literature and Its Times* series, this title contains "profiles of notable literary works and the historical events that influenced them." Includes chronologies of historical events from B.C.E. through the 1990s and "related literary works" for various regions of the continent.

[African Writers](#) 2 vols.

REF. PL8010 .A453 1997

Another bio-bibliography and dictionary of African literature and authors. Focuses on 65 authors from the late 19th - 20th centuries and includes both English and non-English works.

[Atlas of African Affairs](#) 2nd Ed.

REF. G2445. G7 1994

Includes maps on "human geography," e.g., history, politics and government (1960-), and economic conditions.

[Cambridge Encyclopedia of Africa](#)

REF. DT3 .C35 1981

Although somewhat outdated (through 1970s), contains basic overviews of African history, government, physical environment, political economy, arts and recreation, and the Black Diaspora, which may be useful as an introduction to Africa.

[Companion to African Literatures](#)

REF. PR9340 .C65 2000

A bio-bibliography and dictionary of African authors and literature with titles in both English and African languages.

[Encyclopedia of African and African-American Religions](#)

REF. BL2462.5 E53 2001

Part of the *Routledge Encyclopedias of Religion and Society* series. Fills "a gap" as an "up-to-date and authoritative guide" to religions in sub-Saharan Africa and North, South, Central America, and the Caribbean. Contributors include anthropologists and other scholars. Covers major as well as "small religions" in Africa and the Americas with a focus on the "interaction of religion and society."

[Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century African History](#)

REF. DT29.E53 2003

A comprehensive work that covers a period of great changes in the history of the continent. Includes signed scholarly articles on such topics as religion, languages, and cities, and lengthy entries on major themes such as health, decolonization, and agriculture. Also deals with the impact of global events on developments in Africa.

[Global Etiquette Guide to Africa and the Middle East](#)

REF. HF5389 .F669 2002

Provides information on social life and customs "for business and travel success."

[Greenwood Encyclopedia of Women's Issues Worldwide. Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

REF. HQ1115. G74 S83 2003

Part of a 6 volume set that deals with "contemporary women's issues" and conditions throughout the world. Chapters cover specific countries by topics such as inequality, poverty, education, and health. See also the [Greenwood Encyclopedia of Women's Issues Worldwide. The Middle East and North Africa](#).

[Historical Dictionary of Senegal](#) 2nd Ed.

REF. DT549.5 .C57 1994

Includes an extensive chronology with tables and data, concise dictionary entries, and a comprehensive bibliography. Part of the *African Historical Dictionaries* series.

[Middle East and North Africa](#)

REF. DS49.5 .M5 1980+

Another title in the *Regional Surveys of the World* series from Europa, includes "Who's Who in the Middle East and North Africa." Covers latest developments in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. See also *Africa South of the Sahara* above.

[West African Kingdoms, 500-1590](#)

REF. DT476 .W48 2003

Volume 10 in the Gale *World Eras* series that covers "daily life and social history" and places civilizations in the context of world events. Topics include social classes, leisure, religion, family, and "significant people," and it includes a timeline and chronology. Volume 5 in the series is [Ancient Egypt, 2615-332 B.C.E.](#).

There are several African language dictionaries in the Reference collection:

[Hausa-English/English-Hausa Dictionary](#)

REF. PL8233 .A94 1996

[Igbo-English Dictionary](#)

REF. PL8261.4 .E44 1998

[Standard Swahili-English Dictionary](#)

REF. PL8703. J66 1939 (1986 printing)

[English-Yoruba, Yoruba-English Modern Practical Dictionary](#)

REF. PL8823 .F34 2003