

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 other Library guides: [Country Resource Guide](#) and [World History Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Periodical Indexes and Full-text Databases

The Sawyer Library subscription periodical indexes and full-text resources are available both on campus and [off campus](#).

[Academic Search Premier](#)

A comprehensive database from EBSCO that provides access to a wide variety of many full-text journals and periodicals, including about 90 specifically on Africa.

[Expanded Academic ASAP](#)

A general database from Thomson Gale with many full-text articles; includes about 28 "African"

journals.

[Business Source Premier](#)

The EBSCO database that provides access to "virtually" all business related subjects, including international coverage. A good place to begin a search for business related journal 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 database that covers subjects such as art, literature, and history. Titles relating to Africa include *African Arts*, *African Affairs*, and *Journal of Modern African Studies*.

[JSTOR](#)

A full-text archival database containing back runs of over 300 scholarly journals including 16 on "African Studies" with the earliest starting from 1901. Coverage is generally up to 3-5 years from the current year (depending on publishers' moving walls). Advanced searches can be limited by several fields, 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 newspaper and wire services, and transcripts of broadcasts. Newspaper coverage generally starts in the late eighties or early nineties. For Africa related news select "World News," then "Middle East/Africa Sources." Business section includes "Country Analysis."

[Project Muse](#)

Provides full-text journals from about 60 academic and scholarly society publishers including several "African Studies" titles. Journal categories include economics, history, literature, and philosophy.

Selected Websites

[Afriterrra Library](#)

<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 with materials in several languages. The Library is in the process of digitizing and cataloguing its collection to create an online database of maps. The site also includes links to several other related resources.

[African Studies Internet Resources](#)

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

The Columbia University Libraries African Studies Department site, maintained by Joseph 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 about 23 pages of links for this category.

[Africa South of the Sahara: Selected Internet Resources](#)

<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 topics including arts, history, law, photographs, and "breaking news" sources. There are extensive lists of links for "Economy and Business" and "Development." You can search the Africa internet directory and the SU Library's Africa pages through Stanford's local Google search engine.

[Africa Web Links: An Annotated Resource List](#)

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

This University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center site, edited by Ali B. Ali-Dinar, includes "Country Pages" and "Africa web links" with about 29 categories covering development, business and trade, major organizations, health, human rights, women's issues, and an extensive 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

This regularly updated website, "A Directory of Africa & African Studies," from Peter Limb, Michigan State University Libraries, and Ibra Sene, MSU Department of History, 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/index.html>

The African Studies Association, hosted by Rutgers University, is the "leading 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/links/linkseng.html>

The Nordiska Afrikainstitutet (Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden) site, compiled by Hakan Gidlof, provides extensive links (in English and Swedish) by countries or region, by subjects such as

statistics, women & gender, politics & 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 table 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 3800 links by countries, subjects, and news sources. It includes a free newsletter, "Africa News Update."

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

<http://www.afrst.uiuc.edu/univ.html>

This Center's website includes "Research Links" to specific subjects such as human rights, governments, and non-governmental organizations, and general "Web Guides and Portals."

[Selected Internet Resources for African Studies](#)

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

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

[African Studies Library, Boston University](#)

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

BU's African Studies Library site provides links to other African Studies Libraries and online guides relating to Africa, including useful tutorials on web resources. The [Electronic Resources by Subject, African Studies](#), contains some web tools like AfroBarometer and UNICEF and FAO statistical data but many resources listed can only be accessed by BU users. Both sites are maintained by Gretchen Walsh, African Studies Librarian.

[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 800 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 about 29 African countries. LC's Business Reference Services' [African Business Guide](#) is "an information resource 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 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, & tourism (in between annoying popup ads).

[SunAfrica](#)

<http://www.sun africa.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 documents and "other web resources" concerning the history of Africa "without making prejudgements about what is 'African'."

Other sites specifically related to business & finance are listed below :

[MBendi](#)

<http://www.mbendi.co.za/>

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 Regional listings for Africa](#)

<http://globaledge.msu.edu/ibrd/RegionLinks.asp?RegionID=5>

GlobalEDGE, created by the Center for International Business Education and Research, Michigan State University, is a major portal for global business information. 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/>

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.

[FinanceWise: The Africa Links](#)

<http://www.financewise.com/public/unregistered/africa.htm>

FinanceWise's Africa Links Index contains over 700 sites by country or subject with links to banks, law firms, exchanges, search engines & internet portals, and other sites, mainly for sub-Saharan Africa.

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.

[African Development Indicators](#)

February 2004

[African Development Indicators](#)

REF. HC800 .A475 2002

This series is taken from the World Bank's "Africa database" and includes "tables on HIV/AIDS, communications and transportation."

[Companion Encyclopedia of Middle Eastern and North African Film](#)

February 2001

A "catalog and biographical dictionary" organized by country or region, including Egypt, Libya, and "the Maghreb" Francophone countries of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Mauritania. Edited by Oliver Leaman with essays written by scholarly contributors that trace cinematic history in these countries from the late 19th century up to the contemporary period.

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

Gale Virtual Reference Library 2004

Edited by Philip Mattar, U.S. Institute of Peace. A comprehensive 4 volume set including maps, genealogies, and photographs. About 1/3 of the articles are biographies. Covers history of the area from 1800 on and includes "synoptic outline of entries" with related concepts listed under major headings, e.g., Arab-Israeli War. This new edition includes more articles on women and gender.

[Guide to African Cinema](#)

ebrary 1998

Part of the Greenwood Press *Reference Guides to the World's Cinema* series. Author Sharon A. Russell covers the 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 bibliographies of major filmmakers.

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

Greenwood ebook 1996

A Greenwood Press ebook by James S. Olson, Sam Houston State University, Texas, that describes over 1800 ethnic groups in Africa. Includes a chronology from 3 million B.C.E. (Before the Christian Era) through 1995. Also available as an ebrary electronic resource.

[Microsoft Encarta Africana](#)

Sawyer CD-ROM Workstation CD-ROM Disc 1993-1999

A comprehensive "interactive multimedia" encyclopedia of Africa and the African diaspora, especially African American, "history & culture" edited by Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard University. Covers African civilization from 4 million B.C.E. to contemporary times.

Selected Print Reference Resources

[Africa](#) 3rd Ed.

REF. HG4538. A37 2003

Published by the Corporate Council on Africa and Business Book 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 Contemporary Record, Annual Survey and Documents](#)

REF. DT1 .A2849

Published since 1968, this serial title contains essays on "current issues," "country-by-country reviews," and tables with demographic and economic data. More recent volumes cover 3-year periods, e.g., vol. 27, 1998-2000 (published in 2004). Contributors are scholarly experts and other African specialists mainly from the U.S.

[Africa South of the Sahara](#)

REF. DT351 .A37

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, e.g., United Nations in Africa. Articles 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

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

[African Biographical Dictionary](#)

REF. DT18 .B76 1994

Compiled by Norbert Brockman, this is an alphabetical listing of 549 "prominent sub-Saharan Africans from across all periods of history" but 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

This is Volume 2 of Gale's *World Literature and Its Times* series. Edited by Joyce Moss and Lorraine Valestuk, 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](#)

REF. PL8010 .A453 1997 v.1 and v.2

This 2-volume set is another bio-bibliography and dictionary of African literature and authors which includes both English and non-English works. Focuses on 65 authors from the late 19th-20th centuries.

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

REF. G2445. G7 1994

Compiled by Ieuan Ll. Griffiths, includes maps on "human geography," such as history, politics and government (1960-), and economic conditions.

[Cambridge Encyclopedia of Africa](#)

REF. DT3 .C35 1981

Edited by Roland Oliver and Michael Crowder. Although somewhat outdated (through 1970s) contains basic overviews of African history, government, physical environment, political economy, arts & 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 edited by Douglas Killam and Ruth Rowe. Includes English and African language titles.

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

REF. BL2462.5 E53 2001

Edited by Stephen D. Glazier. 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. Focuses on "interaction of religion and society."

[Encyclopedia of African History](#)

REF. DT20 .E53 2005

Edited by Kevin Shillington, this extensive 3 volume set covers the whole continent of Africa, unlike other works that divide Africa into "North" and "Sub-sahara." It contains almost 1100 essays on countries and thematic entries such as historic periods or topics including the diaspora, political systems, and women. Since over one third of its contributors are African authors, this title presents more of an "African viewpoint" of the history of the continent.

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

REF. DT29.E53 2003

Edited by Paul Tiyambe Zeleza and Dickson Eyoh this comprehensive reference work covers a period of great changes in the history of the whole continent. Includes signed scholarly articles on religion, languages, and cities, and lengthy entries on "major themes" such as health, decolonization, and agriculture. Also deals with impact of global events on developments in Africa.

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

REF. HF5389 .F669 2002

Author Dean Foster 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

This 6-volume set 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

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 Thomson Gale *World Eras* "cross-disciplinary reference series" that covers "daily life and social history." Includes topics such as social classes, leisure, religion, family, and "significant people," as well as a timeline and chronology. Places civilizations in the context of world events. 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