Black Studies
From the fight for liberation under slavery, to the struggles for civil and labor rights of the 20th century, to the continuing pursuit of racial equality, ProQuest provides students and researchers of Black history with culture insights and information from diverse perspectives, including firsthand accounts from those who have lived through historical tribulations and triumphs.

Our Black studies collections span award-winning content including primary source materials such as historic newspapers, archival documents, literary works, diaries, government and organizational records, images and correspondence, as well as video, monographs, reference works, journal articles and essays – much of which are only available in digital form from ProQuest.

This depth and breath of content means students and researchers can explore the broad scope of African American life and experiences or focus precisely on discovering new avenues of understanding a particular person, place or event in Black history and culture – as well as how the past informs current events and ongoing demands for racial justice.

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HISTORY VAULT: Civil Rights and the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century

This category in History Vault consists of the NAACP Papers and Federal Government Records, Organizational Records and Personal Papers regarding the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century. Taken together, these modules offer an extremely strong combination of resources on the civil rights movement with major collections of records from four of the most important civil rights organizations of the 1950s and 1960s: the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

HISTORY VAULT: NAACP Papers

The NAACP Papers collection consists of 6 modules containing internal memos, legal briefings, and detailed activity summaries from national, legal and branch offices throughout the country. With a timeline that runs from 1909 to 1972, the NAACP Papers document the realities of segregation in the early 20th century to the triumphs of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and beyond. The files provide a comprehensive view of the NAACP’s evolution, policies and achievements during this era.

“An essential acquisition for libraries serving scholars in civil and human rights American history, criminal justice, social choice and political theory, military history, and sociology. A tremendously significant historical resource.”
— Cheryl LaGuardia, Library Journal review of NAACP Papers

NAACP PAPERS: The NAACP’s Major Campaigns: Education, Voting, Housing, Employment, Armed Forces

This module documents in extensive detail the NAACP’s important campaigns in education, voting, housing, employment and the armed forces from 1909-1965. The education files document the NAACP’s systematic assault on segregated education that culminated in Brown v. Board of Education in 1954, while the 1955 to 1965 focus on the NAACP’s efforts to implement the Brown decision as well as to combat de facto segregation outside of the South. Fighting for voting rights was one of the NAACP’s earliest major campaigns. The 1916-1950 voting rights files document the NAACP’s campaign against the “white primary,” discriminatory registration practices and the “grandfather clause.” Voting rights files from 1956-1965 chronicle efforts to capitalize on the 1957 Civil Rights Act and the much stronger Voting Rights Act of 1965. NAACP’s voter registration efforts during this period are also well documented.

The NAACP exposed and confronted every aspect of employment discrimination. This module highlights fair employment practices laws, the NAACP’s relationship with labor unions, negotiations with and boycotts of major corporations.

The armed forces portion of this module is an exceptionally rich documentary source on African American military service between 1918 and the early 1950s. It includes the complete extant files of the NAACP’s Department of Veterans Affairs.

A Monster Mass Meeting

Under the auspices of the JERSEY CITY BRANCH N. A. A. C. P.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 1939
8 P.M.
AT
Y. W. C. A., House of Friendliness
43 Belmont Ave., Jersey City, N. J.
NAACP PAPERS: The NAACP’s Major Campaigns: Scottsboro, Anti-Lynching, Criminal Justice, Peonage, Labor, and Segregation and Discrimination Complaints and Responses

The focus of this module is on efforts to combat lynching, mob violence, discrimination in the criminal justice system, and white resistance to civil rights efforts. These files are supplemented by materials on discrimination complaints regarding public accommodations, recreational facilities, and employment.

A particularly rich set of records is the NAACP file on the case of the Scottsboro Boys. In 1931, nine young Black men were accused of raping two white women on a train in northern Alabama. Sixteen days after their arrest, eight of the nine teenagers were sentenced to death in the electric chair. All eight escaped execution when the Supreme Court, in the landmark Powell v. Alabama, ruled that the defendants had been inadequately represented by counsel. The files document the publicity that this case generated, as well as the competition between the NAACP and the Communist Party in representing the Scottsboro Boys.

The NAACP’s campaign against lynching and mob violence was ideally suited to accomplish the NAACP’s early goals of breaching the wall of silence regarding racial discrimination and racial violence and bringing African Americans into full civic participation. The records pertaining to this campaign shed light on the Great Migration of the early 20th century and the movement of African Americans to urban areas, and the NAACP’s efforts to respond to urban mob violence, especially during the violence of 1919 as well as later riots.

The files on discrimination in the criminal justice system primarily consist of correspondence among local and national NAACP attorneys, plus legal documents, briefs, some trial transcripts, and correspondence with prisoners and their relatives. Major topics in this module include death penalty cases, criminal cases pertaining to rape and murder, police brutality, conditions in prisons, and discrimination by juries, and in jury service.

NAACP PAPERS: The NAACP’s Major Campaigns: Legal Department Files

With over 600 cases from 34 states and the District of Columbia, this segment consists of the working case files of the NAACP’s general counsel and his Legal Department staff for the period from 1956 to 1972. The files document the NAACP’s aggressive campaign to bring about desegregation throughout the United States, particularly in the South. The Legal Department’s responsibilities included defending the NAACP against attacks and mediating internal questions about the NAACP constitution and bylaws. Many branches turned to the Legal Department for guidance, making these administrative files an intriguing mix of correspondence with local civil rights attorneys on cutting-edge legal strategies and reference materials on every aspect of civil rights law. The cases in this module pertain to school desegregation, abuses of police procedure, employment discrimination, freedom of speech, privacy, freedom of association, and housing discrimination.

NAACP PAPERS: Special Subjects

The NAACP was involved in several subjects that did not rise to the level of major campaigns but were still vital to the organization. This module contains records on those subjects, and in so doing, reveals the wide scope of NAACP activism and interest. These files cover subjects and episodes that are crucial to the NAACP’s history, such as civil rights complaints and legislation, the Klan, Birth of a Nation, the Walter White-W.E.B. Du Bois controversy of 1933-1934, communism and anticomunism during the years of the “red scare,” the congressional prosecution of Hollywood personalities, the prosecution of conscientious objectors during World War II, NAACP’s relations with African colonial liberation movements, NAACP fundraising and membership recruitment, urban riots, voting rights, school desegregation, urban riots, the War on Poverty, and the emergence of the Black Power Movement.
NAACP PAPERS: Branch Department, Branch Files, and Youth Department Files

These files chronicle the local heroes of the civil rights revolution from 1913 to 1972: attorneys, community organizers, benefactors, students, mothers, teachers and more. Some of the most widely acclaimed recent scholarships in American history has focused on local leaders and activists who transformed race relations in the United States during the 20th century, especially after World War II. This module demonstrates how effectively the NAACP used the branch network to advance its national program.

The Youth Department Files document how the NAACP tapped the energy and talent of college students and other young people at the state and local levels.

In total, the NAACP Branch Files contain detailed files on 34 states and 181 branches. In addition, the NAACP Branch Files contain branch activities reports from 571 branches in 48 states plus the District of Columbia.

HISTORY VAULT: Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century

Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century: Federal Government Records

The focus of the Federal Government Records module is on the political side of the freedom movement, the role of civil rights organizations in pushing for civil rights legislation, and the interaction between African Americans and the federal government in the 20th century.

Major collections in this unit include the FBI Files on Martin Luther King Jr.; Centers of the Southern Struggle, an exceptional collection of FBI Files covering five of the most pivotal arenas of the civil rights struggle of the 1960s: Montgomery, Albany, St. Augustine, Selma, and Memphis; and records from the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations, detailing the interaction between civil rights leaders and organizations and the highest levels of the federal government.

“ProQuest History Vault also provides material that has formed the basis of dozens of student essays and dissertations at undergraduate and postgraduate level. … Such collections offer our students an unrivaled opportunity to engage with advanced historical research, conducting the same inquiries of the same materials that professional historians continue to use.”

— Joe Street, Professor of History, Northumbria University

Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century, Organizational Records and Personal Papers, Part 1

The Organizational Records and Personal Papers bring a new perspective to the Black Freedom Struggle via the records of major civil rights organizations and personal papers of leaders and observers of the 20th-century Black freedom struggle. The three major civil rights organizations are the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. Papers of civil rights leaders included in this module are those of the civil rights and labor leader A. Philip Randolph; the long-time civil rights activist and organizer of the March on Washington, Bayard Rustin; and the papers of the pioneering educator Mary McLeod Bethune.

Through records of Claude A. Barnett’s Associated Negro Press, this module also branches out to cover other aspects of African American life in the 20th century, like religion, sports, education, fraternal organizations, and even the field of entertainment. Founded by Barnett in 1919, over the next five decades the Associated Negro Press covered an amazing variety of stories on Black life in America as well as foreign news of interest to Blacks. Finally, this module includes collections on two Black power organizations: The Revolutionary Action Movement and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

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— Joe Street, Professor of History, Northumbria University
Black Freedom Struggle of the 20th Century: Organizational Records and Personal Papers, Part 2

The second module of Black Freedom Organizational Records and Personal Papers is highlighted by the records of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), records of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Africa-related papers of Claude Barnett, and the Robert F. Williams Papers. SNCC, CORE, SCLC, and NAACP are arguably the four most important organizations that were involved in the civil rights struggle in the 1950s and 1960s. With the publication of this module, History Vault now includes major collections on all four of these organizations.

One of the most important civil rights groups of the 1960s, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was formed by student activists in response to the student sit-in movement in 1960. SNCC is seen as the “shock troops” of the civil rights movement and one of the most inspiring organizations because of the courage and bravery of SNCC activists and their strategy of cultivating leadership at the grassroots level.

“Without ProQuest History Vault, my book on the VEP would have been incomplete. In total, I drew on six collections from within the ProQuest History Vault. ... Without these sources, my book would've still been published, but it would've also lacked key information. I hope future historians will continue to discover sources through the ProQuest History Vault that will enrich their scholarship.”

— Evan Faulkenbury, Assistant Professor of History, SUNY Cortland and author of Poll Power: The Voter Education Project and the Movement for the Ballot in the American South

This module also includes the records of another major civil rights organization, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). In this collection, students will find documents on CORE’s fight for equal housing, equal employment opportunities, desegregated schools and transportation, and voting rights. CORE’s pioneering Journey of Reconciliation in the 1940s and its later involvement in the Freedom Rides in the early 1960s are also documented here, as is CORE’s relationship with other civil rights organizations such as SNCC, SCLC, NAACP, and the Urban League.

Robert F. Williams is one of the most underestimated forces in American political history. The Robert F. Williams Papers span from 1951 to 1996 and cover each of the major episodes in Williams’s career. A significant portion of the Robert F. Williams Papers consists of items in Williams’s own words, including correspondence written by Williams and writings and speeches, particularly in The Crusader newsletter and “Radio Free Dixie” broadcasts. Despite his exile, Robert Williams had a strong impact on the Black Freedom Struggle. His militant rhetorical style—vigorou, colorful, vitriolic—was emulated throughout the Black Power movement.


This module supplements the original module of Federal Government records by adding civil rights records from the Ford and Reagan presidencies. The Ford administration records in this module consist of the subject files of J. Stanley Pottinger, who was the assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, which enforced civil rights laws, and the subject files of Anne R. Clarke, who was a special assistant in the Research Unit of the Civil Rights Division’s Sex Discrimination Program. The files of Pottinger and Clarke detail the implementation of federal civil rights law from 1973 through 1977 and thus are an important complement to the other Black Freedom modules that focus on the campaigns that led to the passage of landmark legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights of 1965. In addition, a sizable percentage of the Ford era records address women’s rights and sex discrimination. Major topics in these records include the Equal Rights Amendment, the International Women's Year, abortion, and women in the military.

Records from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library consist of the White House Office of Records Management Subject File on Human Rights and seven collections released as a result of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The seven FOIA collections cover affirmative action; Bob Jones University; busing and school desegregation; civil rights; fair housing; Martin Luther King Jr. Day; and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, Grove City College and the Civil Rights Restoration Act, and the Voting Rights Act of 1982.

“The Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century’s modules, NAACP Papers modules in History Vault, as well as other ProQuest sources, do not eliminate that necessary hard work. Rather, they provide students and their instructors with abundant resources on a wide range of subjects that allows them to concentrate on learning the historian’s craft through independent research.”

— Eric Arnesen, Professor of History, George Washington University
In recent years, cases such as the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri or the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the Black Lives Matter movement have brought the issue of police brutality onto the front page of the news. Looking back through history shows that the issue of police brutality has a long and troubled history. This module documents how African American policemen in Chicago, beginning in 1968 attempted to fight against discrimination and police brutality by the Chicago Police Department and to improve relations between African Americans and the police department. On May 10, 1968, five Black Chicago policemen founded the Afro-American Patrolmen’s League (AAPL; renamed the Afro-American Police League in 1979 and later, the African American Police League). The stated purpose of the AAPL was to establish a greater degree of professionalism in law enforcement, to elevate the image of the African American police person in the African American community, and to eliminate police brutality in law enforcement.

The collection also contains items on numerous law enforcement and civil rights organizations across the country, with documentation on police-community relations in 30 cities.

Black Thought and Culture

A landmark electronic collection of approximately 100,000 pages of non-fiction writings by major American black leaders—teachers, artists, politicians, religious leaders, athletes, war veterans, entertainers, and other figures—covering 250 years of history—this module presents a great deal of previously inaccessible material. This includes letters, speeches, prefatory essays, political leaflets, interviews, periodicals, and trial transcripts. The ideas of over 1,000 authors present an evolving and complex view of what it is to be black in America.

The collection includes the words of Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey, Audre Ndiri, A. Philip Randolph, Constance Baker, Martin Luther King, Jr., Angela Davis, Jesse Jackson, Nelson George, and hundreds of other notable people.

Approximately 20 percent of the items are previously unpublished and fugitive, such as:

- The transcript of the Muhammad Ali trial
- A full run of The Black Panther newspaper, with full-color images of every page as well as searchable text
- 2,500 pages of exclusive Black Panther oral histories owned by the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation
- The full run of Artist and Influence, originally published by the Hatch-Billops Collection

“Alexander Street’s Black Studies in Video collection fills a gap in our understanding of Black cultural production by giving scholars and students access to long-lost, politically-engaged Black media productions of the 1960s and 1970s... collections like these make it possible to teach and research the long history of Black revolution and revolt through images.”

— Ellen Scott, Assistant Professor of Media History, CUNY-Queens College
African Diaspora, 1860–Present

Essential for understanding Black history and culture, African Diaspora, 1860-Present, helps scholars explore the migrations, communities and ideologies of the people of African descent who have dispersed around the world.

With a focus on communities in the United Kingdom, Caribbean, Brazil, India, and France, African Diaspora, 1860-Present, includes never-before digitized primary source documents, including personal papers, organizational papers, journals, newsletters, court documents, letters and ephemera. The curated collection primary sources, rare books, periodicals; 50 hours of video and much more.

Content highlights include:

- **National Archives**: Never-before digitized primary sources from the U.K. National Archives at Kew and the National Archives in the U.S. offer insight into Black British, and Afro-Caribbean communities.

- **Estate of George Padmore**: Digitization of out-of-print writings through a partnership with the estate of George Padmore, an influential thinker in the Pan-African movement.

- **Hansib Publications**: Rare and out-of-print books from the pioneering Caribbean publisher in Britain, started by Arif Ali in 1970. Periodicals will be added in a future release.

- **Royal Anthropological Institute**: Previously undigitized archives from the first Pan-African Cultural Festival – a cultural milestone in post-independence Africa.

- **ArtMattan Productions**: Acclaimed films on the human experience of black people in Africa, the Caribbean, North and South America, and Europe.

Historical Black Newspapers

ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers offer essential primary source content and editorial perspectives of the most distinguished African American newspapers in the U.S. Each of the ten Historical Black Newspapers provides researchers with unprecedented access to perspectives and information that was excluded or marginalized in mainstream sources. The content, including articles, obituaries, photos, editorials, and more, is easily accessible for scholars in the study of the history of race relations, journalism, local and national politics, education, African American studies, and many multidisciplinary subjects.


Each of the ten Historical Black Newspapers are cross-searchable with all other ProQuest Historical Newspapers—including The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, and Los Angeles Times—allowing researchers to evaluate history from multiple points of view from various places throughout the world.

The ProQuest platform offers powerful and easy-to-use tools, including complete cover to cover full-page and article images in easily downloadable PDF format, and the ability to search many different article types.

**Titles Included**

- **Atlanta Daily World (1931-2003)**: The Atlanta Daily World had the first black White House correspondent and was the first black daily in the nation in the 20th century.

- **The Baltimore Afro-American (1893-1988)**: The most widely circulated black newspaper on the Atlantic coast. It was the first black newspaper to have correspondents reporting on World War II, foreign correspondents, and female sports correspondents.

- **Chicago Defender (1910-1975)**: A leading African American newspaper, with more than two-thirds of its readership outside Chicago.

- **Cleveland Call and Post (1934-1991)**: Founded by Garrett Morgan, inventor of the gas mask and traffic light. Contributors included noted journalists Charles H. Loeb and John Fuster. The newspaper is well known for its support of the Scottsboro trial defendants with letters, clothing, stamps, and donations to the defense fund.
• **Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-2005):** The oldest and largest black newspaper in the western United States and the largest African American owned newspaper in the U.S.

• **Michigan Chronicle (1936-2010):** The *Michigan Chronicle* was founded in 1936 has continued to be a leading voice for Blacks in Detroit and beyond. It’s longtime editor, Longworth Quinn became a leader in Detroit’s African American community, business and church groups in the 1940’s solidifying the *Chronicle’s* position in the community. *Michigan Chronicle* played a pivotal role in civil rights of the 20th century including its involvement in negotiations at the Attica Prison Riots in 1971.

• **New York Amsterdam News (1922-1993):** The leading Black newspaper of the 20th century reached its peak in the 1940s. The *Amsterdam News* was a strong advocate for the desegregation of the U.S. military during World War II, and also covered the historically important Harlem Renaissance.

• **The Norfolk Journal and Guide (1916-2003):** The only black newspaper to provide on-the-scene, day-to-day coverage of the Scottsboro trial, and was one of the best researched and well written black newspapers of its time.

• **The Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001):** The oldest continuously published black newspaper, is dedicated to the needs and concerns of the fourth largest black community in the U.S. During the 1930s the paper supported the growth of the United Way, rallied against the riots in Chester, PA, and continuously fought against segregation.

• **Pittsburgh Courier (1911-2002):** One of the most nationally circulated Black newspapers, the *Pittsburgh Courier* reached its peak in the 1930s. A conservative voice in the African American community, the Pittsburgh Courier challenged the misrepresentation of African Americans in the national media and advocated social reforms to advance the cause of civil rights.

**HISTORY VAULT: Southern Life, Slavery and the Civil War**

**HISTORY VAULT: Slavery and the Law**

Slavery and the Law features petitions that vividly portray the contrasts, contradictions, ironies and ambiguities of Southern history. Testimonies by a wide range of Southerners – black and white, slave and free, male and female – reveal not just what people were saying, but what they were doing.

• **Series I:** Petitions to State Legislatures presents important but virtually unused primary source materials that were scattered in state archives of Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The collection includes virtually all extant legislative petitions on race and slavery.

• **Series II:** Petitions to Southern County Courts were collected from local courthouses and candidly document the realities of slavery at the grassroots level. It was at county courthouses where most disputes over the institution of slavery were referred. The petitions provide revealing documentation on the functioning of the slave system. The divorce petitions provide a unique picture of slaveholding white women.

Slavery and the Law also includes State Slavery Statutes, a master record of laws from 1789 to 1865 that cover virtually every aspect of the regulation of Blacks of the period. With the slavery statutes available digitally, historians will have convenient access to revealing legislation on African American and Southern history and culture.

Documenting the impact of plantations on the American South and the nation, the Southern Plantation Records illuminate business operations and labor routines, relations between masters and slaves, family affairs, roles of women, racial attitudes, and social and cultural life.

Part 1 includes the extensive papers of James Henry Hammond and his family members. Sourced from the holdings of the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina, the Hammond Papers document the life of the firebrand proslavery senator from South Carolina. Hammond’s meticulous business records and sizable correspondence constitute one of the most comprehensive plantation collections in existence.

- The Hollyday Family Papers offers material from the Revolutionary War era. Other collections from the Maryland Historical Society include the Susanna Warfield Diaries and the Martha Forman Diaries.

- Substantial collections from the holdings of the Louisiana State University Libraries document cotton and sugar plantations in Louisiana and the lower Mississippi Valley. One highlight is the David Weeks and Family Collection, which documents the daily rhythms of a sugar plantation.

- The Virginia Historical Society provides important collections. The Tayloe Family collection documents vast land and slave holdings. Many prominent Virginia families are documented in the Northern Neck collections. The Tidewater collections come from families in circumstances ranging from vast wealth and influence to a more hardscrabble existence.

- Rounding out Part 1 are collections from the Louisiana State Museum and Tulane University, such as the Valcour Aime Slave Records, the John McDonogh Papers, and records of the Jones and Colcock families.

Part 2 presents the records from the holdings of the University of Virginia and Duke University. Researchers will find many major collections presented in this module from the holdings of the University of Virginia.

- The papers of General John Hartwell Cocke, a protégé of Thomas Jefferson, illuminates the paradox of Enlightenment intellectual energies and slaveholding economic interests.

- The papers of the Berkeley family are exceptional on land and crop sales, slave and medical accounts, and family and overseers’ correspondence. The diary and letterbooks of Robert “King” Carter, one of the richest Virginians of the early 18th century, enable the study of plantation practices prior to the closing of the transatlantic slave trade.

- The John Ambler Papers include correspondence from overseers as well as documents on slave sales, runaway slaves, diet, health, and the workloads of adults and children. The papers of John Jacquelin Ambler and his father-in-law, Philip Pendleton Barbour, reveal details on slave discipline, and the punishment of runaways.

- The Watson collection provides insight into the responsiveness of planters to the cotton market following the Civil War. The Clay papers reveal the experience of women on postbellum plantations.

- Another of the major collections from the Duke holdings is the William Patterson Smith Collection, which documents the grain trade in the Chesapeake region and includes data on prices of slaves, staple crops, farm implements, and consumer products.

- The South Carolina and Georgia plantation records document the low-country plantations of absentee “rice barons” and upland cotton estates. Topics in the collections on North Carolina and Virginia include the culture and marketing of tobacco over the course of many decades, slave life and labor in the Upper South, and the social life and travel of the planter class.

“The virtually exhaustive content of plantation records and court documents available here is astonishing, bringing to the scholar’s desktop a treasure trove of historical material on the Southern economy from 1789 to 1865, interwoven with the personal and legal realities of the slave trade and system. The accessibility of the content is excellent, and the digitized images are surprisingly clear and readable, given their age.”

— Library Journal review of Slavery and the Law; Southern Life and African American History, 1775-1915
More than 150 years after the end of the Civil War, research interest continues to thrive. The collections in this module are being published digitally for the first time in ProQuest History Vault to deliver one-of-a-kind coverage.

The Confederate Army records consist of Confederate Military Manuscripts sourced by ProQuest from the holdings of Virginia Historical Society; the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University; the Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin; and the University of Virginia. The collections in the Confederate Military Manuscripts cover the perspective of an army commander or an administrative department down to the level of the private soldier, covering all aspects of their military service and experience, while also offering glimpses of life on the home front.

Unique and several previously unpublished collections of records of the Union Army are also integral to this module. Highlights include papers of spies, scouts, guides and detectives, including a series on Allan Pinkerton; records on military discipline from courts-martial, courts of inquiry and investigations by military commissions; and records of the U.S. Colored Troops.

HISTORY VAULT: Reconstruction and Military Government after the Civil War

On August 8, 1867, Henry Collum and other Black citizens of Bainbridge, Georgia, wrote to U.S. Army General John Pope requesting information on how to “run a colored man for the pending convention.” Three weeks later, Jacob R. Davis of Augusta, Georgia wrote to General Pope asking him to issue an order prohibiting the requirement of a poll tax for freedmen because it prevented them from voting. During the 1868 elections in Covington County, Mississippi, Lieutenant William Atwood reported that black voters had been beaten after leaving the polls because they had voted the “Radical Ticket.” In Holly Springs, Mississippi, in May 1868, Benjamin Ford and his wife Matilda reported on an encounter with the KKK at their home during which Benjamin was beaten with a stick. As these anecdotes indicate, this module offers remarkable insight into the early Reconstruction period in the American South. The largest portion of the documents in this module consist of Records of the U.S. Army’s Office of Civil Affairs. Attempts to replace any civil officers who had served the Confederacy with loyal Union men are at the heart of the materials in this module. In addition, this module contains letters from citizens to the military government on topics such as intimidation and violence, crime, voter registration, law enforcement, corruption, and fair administration of the election process. Also included in this segment are Letters Received by the Attorney General pertaining to law and order in southern states from 1871-1884 and records of the Freedmen’s Hospital and the Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company.
HISTORY VAULT: Slavery in Antebellum Southern Industries

Industry never rivaled agriculture as an employer of slave labor in the Old South, but because of the kinds of records industrial enterprises kept, and because of the survival of superb collections in depositories like the Duke University Library, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, and Virginia Historical Society, a window is opened on the slave's world that no other type of primary documentary evidence affords. Slavery in Antebellum Southern Industries presents some of the richest, most valuable, and most complete collections in the entire documentary record of American slavery, focusing on the industrial uses of slave labor. The materials selected include company records; business and personal correspondence; documents pertaining to the purchase, hire, medical care, and provisioning of slave laborers; descriptions of production processes; and journals recounting costs and income. The work ledgers in these collections record slave earnings and expenditures and provide extraordinary insight into slave life. The collections document slavery in such enterprises as gold, silver, copper, and lead mining; iron manufacturing, machine shop work, lumbering, quarrying, brickmaking, tobacco manufacturing, shipbuilding, and heavy construction; and building of railroads and canals.

HISTORY VAULT: Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Law and Order in 19th Century America

This module documents the international and domestic traffic in slaves in Britain’s New World colonies and the United States, providing important primary source material on the business aspect of the slave trade. Collections in this module on the slave trade are sourced by ProQuest from the Rhode Island Historical Society, Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the U.S. National Archives. In addition to records on the slave trade, this unit also includes a series of letters received by the Attorney General on law and order in nineteenth century America. These letters cover the slave trade, general slavery matters including runaway slaves and rights of slaves, and other legal issues. This module will be of value to students of the slavery and the slave trade, the Early Republic, and the road to the Civil War.

“Searching [History Vault] helped me to turn up materials I would never have found otherwise. ... History Vault also helped me to look at more records more quickly and thus to get a sense of what was typical and what was exceptional. Surveying many account books also helped me to find collections covering long periods of time. As I read from year-to-year, I could see how practices changed and also trace how they shaped the lives of individual enslaved people.”

— Caitlin Rosenthal, Assistant Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley and author of Accounting for Slavery: Masters and Management

Black Abolitionist Papers, 1830–1865

This extraordinary, primary source collection is the first to comprehensively detail the extensive work of African Americans to abolish slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War. Covering the period 1830-1865, the collection presents the massive, international impact of African American activism against slavery, in the writings and publications of the activists themselves. The approximately 15,000 articles, documents, correspondence, proceedings, manuscripts, and literary works of almost 300 Black abolitionists show the full range of their activities in the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, France, and Germany. This collection, when first published in microfilm, literally transformed scholarly understanding of Black activism during this period. Now it is available in a searchable, easily accessible format for research, teaching, and study.

Black Abolitionist Papers represents a huge effort by a scholarly team, headed by C. Peter Ripley and George E. Carter, who recognized that African Americans were a pivotal and persuasive force in the 19th-century anti-slavery movement but that their work had been virtually ignored in scholarship prior to this collection. The team painstakingly identified African American activists through countless hours of research and scrutiny, bringing to light many names previously lost to history. Primary documents were gathered from more than 100 libraries and archives across the world. The set was microfilmed and published in 1981 and quickly established a significant shift in historical scholarship regarding Black leadership, activism, and community life during this period. The collection remains an unequalled, “pristine record of Black abolitionism.”

The primary source material in this collection will provide easily accessible and vital content for researchers, teachers, and students in many disciplines, including those that focus on such topics as, individual and community activism, the political power of minority groups, international social movements, black political action, black colonization and emigration, and many more.
Black Studies Center

A digital core collection of primary and secondary sources that record and illuminate the Black experience, from ancient Africa through modern times, this collection supports research, teaching, and learning in Black Studies and other disciplines that benefit from a more detailed coverage of the black experience. This includes in the fields of history, literature, political science, sociology, philosophy, and religion.

At the core of Black Studies Center is Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience™, a series of topical studies help define the development of Black Studies as an academic field. The Black Studies Center gateway makes it cross-searchable with the historical backfiles of the Chicago Defender, as well as current scholarly works from International Index to Black Periodicals—Full Text™, the Marshall Index, and the Black Literature Index.

ProQuest® African American Heritage

A groundbreaking digital resource exclusively devoted to African American family history research, this collection was created in partnership with leading African American genealogists and recognized leaders in genealogical information in order to develop a comprehensive mix of resources, records, and tools specifically pertaining to African Americans.

As a consequence of slavery and the changing legal status of African Americans, research in this area can be more challenging than other genealogical inquiries. ProQuest® African American Heritage helps individuals address these unique issues by not only bringing together records critical to African American family research, but also by connecting them to a community of research experts, whose mentoring and assistance can frequently be the difference between research success and futility.

Highlights of ProQuest® African American Heritage include:

- Primary sources devoted specifically to African American family history, including census records, vital records, freedman and slave records, church records, legal records, and more.
- The newest primary source collections include North Carolina cohabitation records, North Carolina and West Virginia marriage records, U.S. Colored Troops Records (1861-1865), and registers of slaves and free persons of color from select states and counties.
- Unique access to family history books related to African Americans, including titles from Genealogical Publishing Company made available in digital format for the first time ever.
- Exclusive access to an updated, online edition of Black Genesis—an exhaustive guide that makes locating resources pertaining to slaves and free blacks easier.
- Exclusive partnership with AfriGeneas—recognized as a leading social networking site devoted to African American genealogy—that provides direct access to expert advice, moderated forums, chats, mailing lists, surname registry, and much more.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ethnic NewsWatch

Ethnic NewsWatch is a current resource of full-text newspapers, magazines, and journals of the ethnic and minority press, providing researchers access to essential, often overlooked perspectives. The database also contains Ethnic NewsWatch: A History, which provides historical coverage of Native American, African American, and Hispanic American periodicals from 1959-1989. Together these resources present an unmatched, comprehensive, collection of more than 4.3 million full text articles from over 450 publications.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the resource is the inclusion of unique community publications not found in any other database, as well as dissertations and top scholarly journals on ethnicities and ethnic studies. Only Ethnic NewsWatch offers content directly from multicultural and multiethnic presses. No other resource so completely and comprehensively allows researchers and users to gain valuable perspectives from a wide array of voices and peoples. While the content may mirror mainstream media coverage, the viewpoints are decidedly unique.

**LITERATURE**

**African American Poetry**

This database is an invaluable resource for not only literary scholars but also researchers in black studies, linguistics, women's studies, the black literary heritage, and comparative studies.

African American Poetry contains nearly 3,000 poems by African American poets of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It provides a comprehensive survey of the early history of African American poetry, from the earliest published African American poems to the works of Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first African American poet to achieve national success, and recognition.

The authors and works included in the collection show the huge variety of this relatively unexplored area of American literary history: coverage includes writers from both North and South, from rural and urban backgrounds, and ranges from University-educated professionals to those for whom the very acts of reading and writing constituted a defiance of Southern slave laws. Generically, poems range from ballads, broadsides and humorous verse to Romantic odes, sonnets, and historical epics.

**Black Drama: Third Edition**

Black Drama: Third Edition contains the full text of more than 1,700 plays written from the mid-1800s to the present by more than 250 playwrights from North America, English-speaking Africa, the Caribbean, and other African diaspora countries. Many of the works are rare, hard to find, or out of print. James Vernon Hatch, the playwright, historian, and curator of the landmark Hatch-Billops Collection, was the project's editorial advisor. Over 40% of the collection consists of previously unpublished plays by writers such as Langston Hughes, Ed Bullins, Willis Richardson, Amiri Baraka, Randolph Edmonds, Zora Neale Hurston, and many other influential writers.

Each play is extensively and deeply indexed, allowing both keyword and multi-fielded searching. The plays are accompanied by reference materials, significant ancillary information, a rich performance database, and images. The result is an exceptionally deep and unified collection that illustrates the many purposes that black theater has served: to give testimony to the ancient foundations of black culture; to protest injustices; to project emerging images of the New Black; and to give voice to the many and varied expressions of black creativity.

The works from early twentieth-century America include key writings of the Harlem Renaissance, works performed for the Federal Theatre Project, and plays by critically acclaimed dramatists through the 1940s. American works from the later twentieth century cover the Black Arts movement of the sixties and seventies, works performed by the Black Arts Repertory Theatre/School (BARTS), The Negro Ensemble Company, and other companies. African and Caribbean drama is represented by a wide collection of plays from Ghana, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, the West Indies, the United Kingdom, and other parts of the world. It includes works by writers such as David Edgecombe, Bode Sewande, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Femi Osofisan, Zakes Mda, John Ruganda, Dennis Scott, and more.

**Black Short Fiction and Folklore**

With over 82,000 pages and more than 11,000 works of short fiction produced by writers from Africa and the African Diaspora from the earliest times to the present, the materials in this section have been compiled from early literary magazines, archives, and the personal collections of the authors. Some 30 percent of the collection is fugitive or ephemeral or has never been published before.

The project unifies an astounding variety of traditions ranging from early African oral traditions to today’s hip-hop. It covers fables, parables, ballads, folk-tales, short story cycles, and novellas—all the writings included have fewer
than 10,000 words. The presentation of this material in a single, cohesive, searchable form—together with extensive indexing—enables scholars to study the writings in a wholly new way.

The collection provides unparalleled avenues of research for students and scholars of literature at all levels. Users can trace the evolution of the genre from its beginnings through to the present, with a comprehensive resource. For instance, with one search, users can find numerous examples of literary devices that are native to black short fiction, such as trickster tales—a type of folktale in which animals exhibit human speech and behaviors.

The relevance of the collection extends well beyond literature:

- Fables and folktales provide unique insights into a culture's history and memories. Social anthropologists and psychologists will find this collection to be rich in myth and societal customs. The extensive indexing even makes it possible to see how certain parables evolve over time and to compare New World fables with those told in Africa today.
- Ideas expressed here often are not found in mainstream publications; getting novels published through traditional publishing channels was often impossible for blacks. But through short stories, these writers could express themselves quickly and distribute their works effectively through literary journals and other alternative forms.
- Historians will find the collection to be rich in political discourse, social commentary, and polemic.

Black Women Writers

Around 100,000 pages of literature and essays on feminist issues, written by authors from Africa and the African diaspora, are presented in this collection. Facing both sexism and racism, black women needed to create their own identities and movements. The module documents that effort, presenting the woman's perspective on the diversity and development of black people generally, and in particular the works document the evolution of black feminism. Many of the writings have been hidden in rare and hard to find texts, obscure typewritten documents, photocopied journals, and other fugitive sources.

Coverage of African American women begins in the 18th century with narratives depicting slavery, moves through and beyond the Harlem Renaissance, and includes writers from the movements of the 1960s, covering womanism, black feminism, and related topics. The explosion of works by women in the Caribbean that started in the second part of the 20th century is also covered. African women came into their own as writers during the late 1950s and 1960s, following the winds of independence that swept across Africa, and Black Women Writers includes works by a wide range of authors from that period.

Writers include Phillis Wheatley, Sonia Sanchez, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Guy, Marita Bonner, Flora Nwapa (Nigeria), Maryse Conde (Guadeloupe), Bessie Head (South Africa), Grace Ogot (Kenya), Maya Angelou, and many more.

Twentieth-Century African American Poetry

This database documents the unique voices of the 20th century's critically acclaimed African American poets. The collection opens the door to literary scholarship by providing access to the full text of thousands of works.

Twentieth-Century African American Poetry is an unparalleled collection of poetry written by the most important and influential African American poets of the twentieth century. Coverage begins with the key writers of the early decades (James Weldon Johnson, Georgia Douglas Camp Johnson, Claude McKay), continues with major figures of the Harlem Renaissance (Langston Hughes, Jean Toomer, Arna Bontemps and Sterling Brown) and the Black Arts movement of the 1960s (Imamu Amiri Baraka, Etheridge Knight, Audre Lorde, Sonia Sanchez), and concludes with a considerable body of writing of the 1980s and 1990s, including major figures such as Ai, Rita Dove and Yusef Komunyakaa alongside young writers who have gained recognition through national poetry awards or inclusion within leading print anthologies.

In selecting poets for inclusion, the aim has been to include a broad representative collection that reflects the diversity of modern African American literary traditions, including, subject to the granting of electronic rights by the print publishers, major figures alongside historically important writers and younger emergent poets.

The complete text of each poem has been included, and any integral textual images and illustrations have been scanned. Additional information relating directly to the poetry, such as prefaces or introductions, has been keyed. Any prose sections of the volumes that are significant to the works have also been included.
Take a deeper dive into our Black Studies Collections!

### Case Studies & Whitepapers
- ProQuest History Vault, Voter Education Project, Professor Evan Faulkenbury
- ProQuest History Vault, Black Freedom Struggle, Professor Joe Street
- ProQuest History Vault, Black Freedom Struggle, Organizational Records, Document Sampler
- ProQuest History Vault, A. Philip Randolph, Professor Eric Arnesen
- ProQuest History Vault, African American Police League Founding Member Howard Saffold
- ProQuest History Vault, Slavery on Southern Plantations, Professor Caitlin Rosenthal
- Best Reference Pick 2013, Plantations, Slavery, and Law
- Best Reference Pick 2014, NAACP Papers
- The Value of Newspapers in Research

### Videos
- ProQuest History Vault, Black Freedom and NAACP Research Topics
- ProQuest History Vault, 20th Century Social Movements Overview
- ProQuest History Vault, Black Freedom Struggle, Document Types on the Civil Rights Movement
- ProQuest History Vault, Researching Women in the NAACP
- ProQuest History Vault, Slavery on Southern Plantations
- The Value of Newspapers in Research

### More Product Literature
- Historical Collections Catalog
- Historical Black Newspapers Brochure
- History Vault Brochure
- History Vault NAACP Papers Brochure
- Black Thought and Culture Brochure

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