A Research Guide for

African American History

A research guide is an introduction to researching a topic. It lists the best introductory sources to help you start your research, but it is not a comprehensive bibliography of the topic. Please ask a reference worker for further help.

Scope

This guide offers help in researching African American history. The reference works provide introductory articles about people, events, and themes important to African American history. Begin with the reference works to become aware of the issues in your topic. Then, use library catalog and the suggested subject headings to find books on your topic. You can also use the electronic resources to find articles in scholar journals. You can find primary sources by checking the websites suggested, or by using Early American Imprints in the periodicals room.

Reference Works

Reference works include encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and almanacs. They are available in the reference section.


Articles on black denominations, religious movements, and religious leaders.


These complementary encyclopedias detail the civil rights movement in America. Though their titles are similar, the topics covered in each do not overlap.


Covers the history of the black cultural movement in the early twentieth century. Includes articles about noted people, as well as articles about plays, books, music, sports, places, groups, and movements.


The comprehensive, authoritative source for essay-length biographies of notable African Americans. Each article includes a bibliography. Compare this source to American National Biography.


Covers the dispersion of African peoples and culture around the world. Though it is world-wide in scope, it includes many articles that touch on African American history.


This encyclopedia covers the social and cultural history of African Americans, with many biographical entries. The first five volumes contain the encyclopedia
proper; the sixth volume contains a list of the entries by theme, as well as primary sources and statistics.


The best and most detailed encyclopedia about African American history. This is part-one of a two-part series.

**Books in Circulation**

Books in circulation available in the stacks to be checked out. Browse near the suggested books for other books on the same topic.

The library contains many monographs and surveys about African American history. To find them, search the library catalog using the suggested subject headings in the next section.


If any of the books you need is not owned by the library, then ask a library worker how to request it through PASCAL Delivers or Inter-Library Loan.

**Subject Headings**

*Subject headings* are suggested terms to use when searching the library catalog. Search for them by “subject,” not by “keyword.”

- African American Abolitionists
- African American Actors
- African American Agricultural Laborers
- African American Agriculturalists
- African American Art
- African American Artists
- African American Arts
- African American Athletes
- African American Authors
- African American Baptists
- African American Churches
- African American Clergy
- African American Congregationalists
- African American Educators
- African American Episcopalians
- African American Evangelists
- African American Historians
- African American Influences
- African American Intellectuals
- African American Interpretations
- African American Lawyers
- African American Legislators
- African American Methodists
- African American Missionaries
- African American Pentecostals
- African American Scientists

- African American Soldiers
- African American Songs
- African American Women
- African Americans
- African Americans—Biography
- African Americans—Bibliography
- African Americans—Civil Rights
- African Americans—Colonization
- African Americans—Education—History
- African Americans—Historiography
- African Americans—History
- African Americans—Intellectual life
- African Americans—Migrations
- African Americans—Missions
- African Americans—Music
- African Americans—Race identity
- African Americans—Religion
- African Americans—Segregation
- Back to Africa Movement
- Civil rights
- Civil rights—African Americans—History
- Civil rights—Movements
- Civil rights—United States
- Civil rights—Workers
- Slave insurrection
Periodicals
Periodicals are published regularly, and they are usually indexed. They can be found in the periodicals room on first floor.

Many periodicals that cover American history will also have articles about African American history. The following are well-known journals that publish about American history:

- William and Mary Quarterly
- American History Review
- Journal of American History
- New England Quarterly
- Church History

Electronic Resources
Electronic resources are subscription databases available from a link on the library’s website. Visit http://www.bju.edu/library/resources/alphabetical.html.


Gives biographical information on more than one million people throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines. Combines 250,000 biographies from Gale Group sources with nearly one million biographies from The Complete Marquis Who’s Who. This source is also useful for searching Contemporary Authors to find profiles of historians.


The American National Biography Online is the premiere biographical resource on over 18,000 people from all eras who have influenced and shaped American history and culture. Also included are nine hundred articles from The Oxford Companion to United States History for context.

America: History and Life. ABC-CLIO/EBSCO.

This database is an index of the historiography of the Americas from the earliest times to the present. It abstracts articles from about 1,700 journals from 1964 to present, and it includes citations for dissertations and book reviews as well. Full text articles are linked to, where available. It is the single best source for finding articles about American history.

A to Z Electronic Journals. EBSCO.

A to Z lists all the journals either indexed in the library’s electronic databases or available in its print collection. You can search for a journal by title and find what issues are available in print and which are available in the different databases. You can also search or browse by subject to find a list of all the journals that treat a given topic.

Academic Search Premier. EBSCO.

This multi-disciplinary database provides full text for more than 4,500 journals, including full text for more than 3,700 peer-reviewed titles. It includes many
history journals, such as *Church History*, the *Journal of American History*, the *New England Quarterly*, and the *American Historical Review*.

**Other Resources in the Mack Library**

*Early American Imprints*. Readex Microprint.

This collection contains microfilm of all the extant works printed in North America till 1800. Ask for the microfilm and the index to the collection at the periodicals desk.

**Websites**

Websites are recommended sources available free online.

  A guide to websites about African American history.

  Several collections of primary sources from the Library of Congress, include the Federal Writers’ Project slave narratives, court records, maps, music, pamphlets, and books.

  Lists archival resources available. Organized by location, so that you can find archives near you.s

- **Documenting the American South**. University of North Carolina Library. http://docsouth.unc.edu/
  A collection of texts and images about the history of the South.

  An online exhibit of the Emancipation Proclamation, including photographs of the original document.

  An academic discussion listserv for African American history and African American studies.

  A narrative of the many migrations of African Americans, for example, from Africa to America and from the rural South to the urban North. Besides the narrative, the website includes many texts, maps, and images.

- **Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database**. Emory University. http://www.slavevoyages.org/
  A database of slave-trading voyages, including information about crew and slaves. Also includes summary statistics and secondary sources about the slave trade. Another database includes names of some 67,000 slaves transported in the Middle Passage.