



# RESEARCH GUIDE

## African-American History

Compiled by Richard Bleiler  
Richard.Bleiler@uconn.edu  
Revised January 2009

✦ For access to UConn Libraries Online Reference Books (eBooks) in *History* connect to:  
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/research/collections/refshelf.htm>

The following sources are intended to enable researchers to locate information on African-American history. This is a selective list; many additional sources also contain significant information and should also be used.

### Networked Electronic Resources

#### *HOMER*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → **HOMER – Library Catalog**

*HOMER*, the Libraries' Catalog, searches for books and separately catalogued materials held in the University of Connecticut Libraries; it does not locate articles. *HOMER* uses the subject terms *African American* or *African Americans* to locate material by and about African-Americans. *Blacks* is used in reference to people of African descent anywhere in the world.

**Keyword Boolean** searches are the most efficient way to locate information on aspects of African American history; the following examples may be useful:

“african american?” and biography	racism and “united states” and history
“african american?” and “civil rights” and history	slavery and “united states”
“african american?” and history	slaves and “united states”
“african american?” and history and sources	“race discrimination” and “united states”
“civil rights movements” and history	
minorities and history	

#### **Academic OneFile** (1980+)

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> (UConn Libraries homepage) → *under Find Articles* → *by Database* → **Academic OneFile**

*Academic OneFile* indexes many of the same journals indexed through *Academic Search Premier*. Many of the journals indexed through *Academic OneFile* are full text, and some of these are not otherwise held in the University of Connecticut Libraries.

*Academic OneFile* is most easily searched through keywords, and the following keywords may be useful:

african american leadership and history	discrimination and history
african american men and history	minorities and history
african american soldiers and history	racism and history
african american women and history	slavery and history
african americans and history	slaves and history
civil rights movements and history	

#### *Academic Search Premier* (1980+)

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → *under Find Articles* → *by Database* → **Academic Search Premier**

*Academic Search Premier* indexes many of the same journals indexed through *Academic OneFile* (formerly *InfoTrac One File*). Many of the journals indexed through *Academic Search Premier* are full text and are not otherwise held in the UConn Libraries.

*Academic Search Premier* generally uses the subject heading *African American*; the following search examples may be useful:

African American abolitionists	African American leadership
African American historians	African American soldiers

*America: History and Life* (1964+)

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → under Find Articles → by Database → America: History and Life

*America: History and Life* indexes and abstracts more than 2,000 journals published worldwide. In addition to covering all key English-language historical journals, *America: History and Life* includes selected historical journals from major countries, state and local history journals, and a targeted selection of hundreds of journals in the social sciences and humanities. Over 90% of the articles included are published in English-language journals.

*America: History and Life* uses the subject term **blacks** to refer to African-Americans. It is best searched by using **blacks** in conjunction with another keyword(s).

african american history	blacks and civil rights	blacks and stereotypes	slaves
blacks and <term>	blacks and slavery	slavery	stereotypes

### Evans Digital Edition

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → under Find Articles → by Database → Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans 1639-1800

When it is completed, the **Evans Digital Edition** contains the searchable full text of everything listed in Charles Evans's *American Bibliography: A Chronological Dictionary of All Books, Pamphlets and Periodical Publications Printed in the United States of America from the Genesis of Printing in 1639 down to and Including the Year 1800*. Individual words and names may be searched, and under the heading "peoples" (under subjects) is a link to "African Americans."

### Oxford African American Studies Center

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → under Find Articles → by Database → African American Studies Center

The most comprehensive and authoritative online reference in the field includes five major encyclopedias, primary source documents, and biographies.

### New York Times Historical (1851 – 2006)

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → under Find Articles → by Database → New York Times Historical

Searchable full text and full image database of everything published in the Late Eastern Edition of the *New York Times* from 1851 to 2004. It may be searched by author, article title, article type and text, and responses may be limited by date.

### PsycINFO (1872+)

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → under Find Articles → by Database → PsycINFO

*PsycINFO* indexes and abstracts journal articles, book chapters, books, and technical reports, as well as citations to dissertations, all in the field of psychology and psychological aspects of related disciplines, such as medicine, psychiatry, nursing, sociology, education, pharmacology, physiology, linguistics, anthropology, business, and law. Journal coverage starts in 1887; book chapter coverage starts in 1987.

*PsycINFO* uses the term **blacks** to refer to all populations of black African descent.

### Readers' Guide Retrospective (1890 – 1982)

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → under Find Articles → by Database → Readers' Guide Retrospective

*Reader's Guide Retrospective* contains comprehensive indexing of the most popular general-interest periodicals published in the United States and reflects the history of 20th century America. *Reader's Guide Retrospective* uses the term **blacks** in reference to all people of African descent, including African Americans.

**NOTE:** *Readers' Guide Retrospective* searches done by subject must have the words connected with dashes; i.e., **blacks-in-literature**.

*Reader's Guide Retrospective* is most easily searched through keywords; the following subject search examples may be useful:

blacks and history	slavery
civil rights	slaves
racism	

### Sociological Abstracts (1963+)

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> (UConn Libraries homepage) → under Find Articles → by Database → Sociological Abstracts

*Sociological Abstracts* indexes and abstracts journal articles, abstracts of conference papers, dissertations, book reviews, and abstracts of selected sociology books from approximately 2500 journals. Coverage starts in 1963.

*Sociological Abstracts* uses the term **black americans** to refer to all American populations of black African descent.

## CD-ROM Resources

### *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade*

Level 2/HT 1322 T74 1999

*Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade* contains the records of 27,333 trans-Atlantic slave ship voyages made between 1527 and 1866. The data are searchable by various fields.

## Microform Research Collections on Level 3

This list also occurs in the research guide for *African-American Literature*.

### *Anti-Slavery Propaganda in the Oberlin College Library*

2,500 pamphlets of anti-slavery propaganda published between 1619-1862 / 7,500 microprint.

*Printed index: Anti-slavery Propaganda in the Oberlin College Library / Copy 1 - Level 1 / E 441 L6 and Copy 2 -Babbidge*

**Microform Research Guides Table, Level 3**

*Location:* Microprint cabinet, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* Alphabetical by author

### *Collected Correspondence of Lydia Maria Child*

2,228 letters primarily addressing the anti-slavery movement and its surrounding political controversies, 1817-1880.

*Printed index: Collected Correspondence of Lydia Maria Child, 1817-1880: Guide and Index to the Microfiche Edition.*

**Babbidge Microform Research Guides Table, Level 3**

*Location:* Microfiche shelves, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* chronological

### *Cornell University Special Collection on Slavery*

Catalog and annotated bibliography of the slavery-related titles in Cornell University's Special Collection published in the United States, 1619-1840

*Printed index:* none

*Location:* Microfilm shelves, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* subject

### *Lewis Tappan Papers*

9 microfilm reels of correspondence, letterbooks, journals, notebooks, clippings, and miscellaneous items, 1812-1872, with a highlight being his anti-slavery activities.

*Printed index: Lewis Tappan Papers / Babbidge Research Microform Guides Table, Level 3*

*Location:* Microfilm shelves, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* by material type, then chronologically

### *Negro Periodicals in the United States, 1840-1960*

238 microfiche of periodicals (*Alexander's Magazine, Colored American Magazine, Competitor, Douglass's Monthly, Events and Trends in Race Relations, Quarterly Review of Higher Education, Race Relations, Radical Abolitionists, and Southern Frontier*) portraying the black experience in America, 1840-1960.

*Printed index:* none

*Location:* Microfiche cabinet, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* alphabetical by periodical title

### *Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Series II: South Atlantic and the Caribbean*

10 reels of microfilm with information about the British and former Spanish and French colonies lying to the east and southeast of North America. Rare documents on slavery are presented in *Miscellany*, Section 8, 1666-1852.

*Printed index: Reel Guide: Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Series II / Babbidge Research Microform*

**Guides Table, Level 3**

*Location:* Microfilm shelves, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* alphabetically by author or title

### *Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Series V: West Indian (Haiti)*

1 reel of microfilm with primarily governmental and military documents relating to Toussaint L'Ouverture, Henri Christophe, and Napoleon Bonaparte.

*Printed index: Manuscript Collections from the Schumburg Center for Research in Black Culture, West Indian (Haiti)*

**Collection / Babbidge Research Microform Guides Table, Level 3**

*Location:* Microfilm shelves, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* chronological

### *Slave Narratives*

2000 microfiche interviews with former slaves from 17 states, 1936-1938

*Printed index:* none

*Location:* Microfiche cabinet, alphabetically by collection title

*Arrangement:* alphabetical by state and by interview subject within each state

***United States Department of the Interior, Records Relating to the Suppression of the African Slave Trade and Negro Colonization***

10 microfilm reels of letters, communications, and documents relating to the U.S. efforts to suppress the African Slave Trade.  
*Printed index: Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior Relating to the Suppression of the African Slave Trade and Negro Colonization, 1854-1872 / Babbidge Research Microform Guides Table, Level 3*  
*Location:* Microfilm shelves, alphabetically by collection title      *Arrangement:* largely chronological

## **Selected WWW Resources**

**African-American Mosaic**      <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>  
**Afro-American History**      <http://www.aawc.com/aah.html>

## **Paper Resources**

### **Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, and Bibliographies**

***Black American Reference Book***

**Level 4 / E 185 D25 1976**

The *Black American Reference Book* contains 30 chapters intended to provide “a reliable summary of current information on the main aspects of Negro life in America, and to present this information in sufficient historical depth to provide the reader with a true perspective.” Contains bibliographies and tables. Data are current as of 1972.

***Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives***

**Level A / Z 1361 N39 N576 1984**

*Black History* lists the records in the National Archives of Washington, D.C. that can be used for studying the civilian agencies that have been concerned with the black population. The volume is arranged by the agency responsible for the creation of the records; there is an index by name and subject. Data cover from the Civil War era until the 1970s.

***Blacks in America: Bibliographical Essays***

**Level A / Z 1361 N39 B56**

Though now becoming somewhat dated (1971), *Blacks in America* is an attempt at combining narrative, interpretation, and bibliography in a chronological and topical framework. The volume is arranged by 100 topical subject headings and contains a name and subject index.

***Encyclopedia of Black America***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185 E55**

Published in 1981, the *Encyclopedia of Black America* is intended as “a reliable and readable reference that represents in large measure the totality of the past and present life and culture of Afro-Americans.” It contains about 325 articles and 1,400 biographies written by approximately 100 scholars. Most articles are up to a page in length, though eleven “clusters” contain 61 major, related articles. Data are current as of 1976-77.

***Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185 E54 1996**

The five volumes of the *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History* contain more than 2,200 entries on African American history and culture. About 2/3 of the entries are biographical, the remainder deal with events, historical eras, legal cases, professions, sports, places, and areas of cultural achievement (music, architecture, the visual arts). There are entries for all fifty states as well as separate articles for cities with special significance.

***Encyclopedia of Race and Ethnic Studies***

**Level 1 / Ref. GN 495.6 C37 2003**

Articles ranging from 400 – 2000 words that offer definitions of key terms and current concepts; explanations of significant debates, cases, and events; and biographical data on historical and contemporary figures.

***Negro Almanac: A Reference Work On the African American***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185 N385**

The *Negro Almanac* is a combination of historical narrative, biographical sketches, and statistical tables and graphs that survey nearly 500 years of history, from the fifteenth-century voyages of discovery to the present. The volume contains 33 chapters on subjects including an historical chronology of major events in black history, the black voter and elected office holder, the black worker in the labor movement, black servicemen and the military establishment, the black artist, inventors and scientists, black classical musicians, and blacks in the western hemisphere.

## Biographical

### ***Black Americans in Autobiography: Revised and Expanded Edition***

**Level A / Z 1361 N39 B67 1984**

*Black Americans in Autobiography* is an annotated bibliography of autobiographies and autobiographical books written by African Americans since the Civil War. Data are current as of the 1980s.

### ***Black Americans in Congress, 1870-1989***

**Level B – Federal Documents / Y 1: 1/7: 101-117**

*Black Americans in Congress* recognizes the achievements of the 45 black men and women who served in Congress between 1870 and 1989. A picture and a biographical entry are provided for each.

### ***Black Defenders of America, 1775-1973***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185.63 G73**

*Black Defenders of America* profiles the African-American soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who served as military personnel in the armed forces from 1775-1973. The volume contains ten chronological chapters, the first being the American Revolution (1775-1783), the last being the Vietnam War (1959-1973). Entries are alphabetical within each chapter. There are also appendixes listing black commissioned and non-commissioned officers and black military milestones.

### ***Black Women in America***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185.86 B542 1993**

The two volumes of *Black Women in America* contain 804 entries, 641 of which are biographies of individual black women and 163 of which deal with general topics and organizations. Biographies of individuals were included when the person “played a role on the national stage or . . . made national news.”

### ***Dictionary of American Negro Biography***

**Level 4 / E 185.96 D53 1982**

The *Dictionary of American Negro Biography* profiles only those African-Americans who died prior to 1 January 1970. Subjects were chosen on the basis of “historical significance” rather than on eminence or achievement per se; numerous figures of regional or local importance are also included.

### ***Notable Black American Women***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185.96 N68 1992**

The two volumes of *Notable Black American Women* chronicle the lives of 500 African-American women, living and dead. The earliest birth is 1730 (Lucy Terry Prince); the most recent is 1956 (Mae Jemison). Contains indexes by field of endeavor. Continued and supplemented by *Notable Black American Women: Book II (Level 1 / Ref. E 185.96 N68 1996)* which profiles an additional 300 notable black African-American women. The earliest in this volume is Alice of Dunk’s Ferry (born c. 1686); the most recent is 1970 (Queen Latifah).

## Civil Rights

### ***Civil Rights Movement: References and Resources***

**Level 4 / E 185.61 M87 1993**

The *Civil Rights Movement* provides an annotated list of nearly 1400 articles, books, and book chapters that study the American Civil Rights Movement. Coverage begins with the arrest of Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama, on 1 December 1955 and concludes with the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, 4 April 1968.

### ***Encyclopedia of African-American Civil Rights: From Emancipation to the Present***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185.61 E54 1992**

With more than 800 signed articles on individuals, organizations, events, and court cases, the *Encyclopedia of African-American Civil Rights* provides an encyclopedic examination of the status of African-American Civil Rights during the period from 1863 to 1992.

### ***Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185.61 E544 1998**

The three volumes of the *Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America* survey the history, meaning, and application of civil rights issues in the United States. There are 683 articles, with nearly 100 entries on broad issues, 72 entries on places, events, and historical eras; 25 entries on legal and political issues; 64 entries on laws and government politics; 22 entries on government bodies and agencies; 38 entries on politicians, judicial figures, and government officers; and 111 entries on court cases that played key roles in defining modern civil rights.

### ***Historical Dictionary of the Civil Rights Movement***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185.61 L84 1997**

The *Historical Dictionary of the Civil Rights Movement* provides encyclopedic information on the people, organizations, events, and legal decisions that played significant roles in the rise of Civil Rights in America. Approximately 4 generations of people are profiled, with coverage beginning with the generation born between 1800 and 1900. A chronology of the Civil Rights movement begins coverage in 1941 and concludes with events from 1995.

## **Indexes**

### ***Blacks in Selected Newspapers, Censuses and Other Sources: An Index to Names and Subjects***

**Level A Oversize / Z 1361 N39 A28**

This index to personal names and activities provides primary source information about 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century black family life and history in the United States. 43 newspapers and 13 periodicals published between 1835 and 1968 are indexed.

### ***Dictionary Catalog of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and History***

**Level A Oversize / Z 881 N592 S35**

The *Dictionary Catalog* lists the holdings of the Schomburg Collection of the New York Public Library, the world's finest collection of materials by and about African Americans. The first volumes were published in 1962; the third and most recent supplement appeared in 1974. Arrangement is alphabetical, interfiling authors and subjects.

### ***Index to Black Periodicals***

**Level A / Z 1361 N39 I48 1960+**

The *Index to Black Periodicals* indexes 34 journals by author and subject. Many of these journals are not indexed elsewhere. **Note:** this has changed its name several times. It was formerly called *Index to Periodical Articles By and About Negroes*.

### ***Kaiser Index to Black Resources, 1948-1986***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185 K34 1992**

Compiled with the assistance of the Schomburg Center, the five volumes of the *Kaiser Index to Black Resources, 1948-1986* consists of 174,000 records to articles in periodicals and newspapers published between 1948 and 1986, alphabetically arranged by subject. Many of these periodicals and newspapers are not indexed by any other source. The introduction to the first volume describes it as "idiosyncratic," explaining that it was created as a finding aid for librarians to answer readers' questions and that users should check under all possible subject headings to find material about their subjects.

## **Pioneers and Achievements**

### ***Black Firsts: 2000 Years of Extraordinary Achievement***

**Level 4 / E 185 B574 1994**

*Black Firsts* lists the "most significant firsts achieved by blacks, with an emphasis on African-American efforts" and contains nearly 3000 instances of firsts in subjects ranging from science to education to sports and entertainment. Tables, illustrations, and photographs are included. Arrangement is by broad subject, then chronologically within. There is also a chronological by year index and a keyword index. Data are current as of 1993.

## **Statistics**

### ***Black Americans: A Statistical Sourcebook***

**Level 4 / E 185.5 B512 2001**

The 2001 edition of *Black Americans* provides an extensive collection of tables which display information on a wide variety of topics. There are eight chapters: demographics and characteristics of the population; vital statistics and health; education; government and elections; crime, law enforcement and corrections; the labor force – employment and unemployment; earnings, income, poverty, and wealth; and special topics. All data are derived from U. S. Government sources.

***Historical Statistics of Black America***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185 H543 1995**

The two volumes of the *Historical Statistics of Black America* are intended to serve as “a practical resources for those who seek a chronology of the condition, status, and experiences of African Americans,” with more than 2300 tables presenting the statistical data. The volumes contain 19 subject-arranged chapters offering statistics on: business and economics; crime, law enforcement, and legal justice; education; the family; health, disabilities, and health care; housing; income, spending, and wealth; labor and employment; media; military and military affairs; miscellany; politics and elections; population; religion; slavery and the slave trade; sports and leisure; and vital statistics. Data begin with the earliest known and conclude as of 1975.

***Statistical Record of Black America***

**Level 1 / Ref. E 185.5 S7 1990**

The *Statistical Record of Black America* contains 967 tables of statistical data and is arranged by broad subjects: attitudes, values, and behavior; business and economics; crime, law enforcement, and legal justice; education; the family; government service; health and medical care; housing; income, spending, and wealth; labor and employment; military affairs; miscellany; politics and elections; population; the professions; religion; social services; sports and leisure; and vital statistics. Unless they are historical, data tend to be from 1985-1990 range.