ProQuest Black Studies

Bringing together essential newspaper and archival content that allows researchers to conduct unique research on a wide range of topics in Black Studies all on the newly-enhanced ProQuest Platform.

DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH FACULTY, SCHOLARS, AND LIBRARIANS, ProQuest Black Studies brings together ProQuest’s award-winning Black Studies content into one destination for research, teaching, and learning purposes. This database combines primary and secondary sources, including leading historical Black newspapers, archival documents and collections, key government materials, videos, writings by major Black intellectuals and leaders, scholarly journals, and essays by top scholars in Black Studies. Alongside the outstanding content in ProQuest Black Studies, the database will include easy to use functionality such as timelines, topic pages, and collection pages that will allow researchers to easily navigate the database in order to find the sources they need.
**PROQUEST’S BLACK STUDIES COLLECTION** provides a major research database on the all-important topic of Black Studies while also providing helpful context and functionality that allows the database to be accessed by all levels of researchers. The easy-to-use interface enables students to find the resources they need by topic pages, timelines, collection pages, and more. Professors and teachers can access the content in ProQuest Black Studies to create writing assignments or for class discussions, and students who are expected to write a research papers can use ProQuest Black Studies as a key source for their papers. Graduate students can also use ProQuest Black Studies to complete articles, research seminar papers, theses, and dissertations.

**WHAT’S INCLUDED:**

- The new ProQuest Black Studies collection has as its foundation the component parts of Black Studies Center. These are the Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience and Black Studies Periodicals. The Schomburg Studies are a collection of 32 essays by leading scholars providing a basic introduction to major topics in the field of Black Studies. The Black Studies Periodicals consist of articles from over 160 periodicals including scholarly journals, magazines, and current issues periodicals. Starting from these two components, ProQuest Black Studies will greatly expand on these sources with an amazing array of primary source material from other ProQuest and Alexander Street databases, brought together, from disparate platforms, into one location, offering a research experience second to none.

- The centerpiece of ProQuest Black Studies is ten historical newspapers and over 120 archival collections and 160 full text journals that focus on Black Studies. These collections will cover the period from the colonial era through to the 21st Century.

- The ten newspapers included in ProQuest Black Studies are among the most distinguished African American newspapers in the U.S. The newspapers are:
  - *Chicago Defender* (1910–2010)
  - *Cleveland Call and Post* (1934–1991)
  - *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912–2001)
  - *Pittsburgh Courier* (1911–2010)

- The archival collections in ProQuest Black Studies are highlighted by the NAACP Papers. The NAACP Papers have been called the most important collection for research on the Black Freedom Movement in the 20th Century.

- Alongside the NAACP Papers, ProQuest Black Studies will also include the records of three of the most important civil rights organizations of the 1950s and 1960s: Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

- Other important collections of organizational records in ProQuest Black Studies are the records of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which was the first national union of Black workers officially affiliated with the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and later with the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), and the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs. The National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs is the oldest African American women’s organization in the United States.

- This collection also includes records of the Revolutionary Action Movement, League of Revolutionary Black Workers, F.B.I. Files on Black Panther leaders Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver, and the papers of Black Power pioneer, Robert F. Williams.

- Key primary source collections focusing on Slavery and the Abolitionist Movement include the Race, Slavery and Free Blacks project, edited by Loren Schweninger, and the Black Abolitionist Papers, edited by C. Peter Ripley and George E. Carter.

- ProQuest Black Studies will also include content from Alexander Street’s Black Thought and Culture, featuring works by over 500 Black writers and intellectuals such as W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells Barnett, Amiri Baraka, Carter G. Woodson, Malcolm X, and many others.

**COMING IN 2022!**

ProQuest Black Studies will continue to grow with both existing ProQuest and Alexander Street multimedia collections, as well as new products that will launch in 2022 and beyond.
ProQuest Black Studies will be available on the newly-enhanced ProQuest Platform and will include features that will make discovering content much easier for students.

- Topic pages on people, organizations, and events will help students to get important background information as well as find key primary sources. A common assignment in introductory classes is to have students write papers focusing on an important person or event in African American History. Topic pages will help students decide on potential paper topics and guide them to useful sources for their research.

- A timeline organized by timeline categories such as “Jim Crow Era,” or “Civil Rights and Black Power Movement,” or “Contemporary Era” will allow students to easily find documents on important historical events.

- Each archival collection will have a dedicated collection page. The collection page will include a description of the collection, similar to a scope and content note, and it will also include the key bibliographic data about the collection. Each collection page will also display the archival arrangement of the collection, allowing researchers to understand the organization of the collection and to page through the collections in the same order that they would if they were visiting the physical archive. This feature will allow professors and librarians to introduce students to important aspects of archival research, in an online environment.

- ProQuest Black Studies will also have segmented search results by content type, allowing users of the database to easily distinguish between archival materials, newspapers, periodicals, and other sources.

- Researchers will be able to use multi-faceted results filtering, browse lists of content and download PDFs faster, and use enhanced post-processing tasks, such as citing, saving, and sharing materials into workflow tools.

EASY TO USE FUNCTIONALITY MAKES DISCOVERING CONTENT EASIER

A common assignment in African American history classes is to ask students to write a biographical paper or a paper focused on an important historical event. The topic pages and the timeline in ProQuest Black Studies will allow students to examine newspaper articles, archival collections, and journals articles focused on individual people and events, giving them the raw materials they would need to complete a wide range of assignments, from short reaction papers to longer research projects.

PROQUEST BLACK STUDIES

A FEW EXAMPLES OF HOW THE CONTENT WILL WORK TOGETHER

W.E.B. Du Bois
A topic page on Du Bois will be created. From the topic page, students will be able to retrieve results from NAACP Papers and other archival collections, from historical newspapers, from his writings in Alexander Street’s Black Thought and Culture, and from the journals and essays that are part of Black Studies Center.

March on Washington, 1963
A timeline entry on March on Washington, 1963, will allow students to search across historical newspapers and archival collections to retrieve first-person accounts of the event, correspondence pertaining to the planning of the event. Journal articles allow students to get background information on the event and understand how scholars have analyzed the March on Washington.

Voting rights
A search on voting rights will retrieve results from numerous archival collections, historical newspapers, and journal articles. In addition, the timeline will include several entries pertaining to voting rights allowing students to focus on a specific event such as a Supreme Court case on voting rights or the Selma voting rights campaign.
Use Cases

Unearthing the Hidden History of the Voter Education Project (VEP)
Evan Faulkenbury, Associate Professor of History, SUNY Cortland
Learn how Evan Faulkenbury used primary source materials from History Vault to research his book “Poll Power: The Voter Education Project and the Movement for the Ballot in the American South.”

African American Women and the Women’s Army Corps during World War II
Morgan Carlton, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of Michigan
Explore a sampling of the stories of African American women in the Women’s Army Corps during World War II.

Using ProQuest History Vault in the Undergraduate Research Seminar
Kenneth Janken, professor of African American and Diaspora Studies, University of North Carolina
Professor Janken recently assigned the civil rights content in ProQuest History Vault to his undergraduate research seminar course in African American Studies. We asked him several questions about his experience using History Vault in this course.

Resource Guides

Researching the Civil Rights Movement
Compiled by Daniel Lewis, ProQuest Senior Product Manager, Historical Collections
The format for this resource guide is to introduce books that a student might use for background information and to get an understanding of the historiography for the topic. Following the books, there are descriptions and suggestions of primary source content that can be found in ProQuest databases relevant to each topic.

Black Women and Civic Engagement from Reconstruction through the Jim Crow Era
Compiled by Gabrielle Peterson, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, University of Michigan
The purpose of this resource guide is to explore different manifestations of Black women’s civic involvement during the period from Reconstruction through the Jim Crow Era.

Essays

The African American Police League
Howard Saffold, one of the founding members of the Afro American Patrolman’s League (AAPL)
Howard Saffold speaks about how Black law enforcement officers took on racial abuse and discrimination in the Chicago Police Department.

A. Philip Randolph and the Writing of Civil Rights and Labor History
Eric Arnesen, Vice Dean for Faculty and Administration at the Columbian College of Arts & Sciences at the George Washington University
Eric Arnesen explains how ProQuest History Vault provides students and scholars with invaluable primary source information for deeper, more robust research and learning experiences. He has relied on History Vault in writing a full-length biography of black labor leader A. Philip Randolph.

FBI Files Enable Balanced Research on the Black Panther Party
Joe Street, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, Northumbria University
Joe Street explains how ProQuest History Vault provides new perspectives and deeper insights for the full-length history he is currently writing about the Black Panther Party, the radical African American organization formed in Oakland, California, in 1966.

Uncover Diverse Voices for Research and Teaching: Strategies with Primary Source Archives
Marcia Chatelain, Professor of History and African American Studies, Georgetown University
Marcia Chatelain provides examples as to how to conduct research on marginalized communities using Primary Source archives.

For additional ways ProQuest can help you build diverse, equitable and inclusive collections affordably, explore our Every Voice initiative.