ProQuest Black Studies

Bringing together essential newspaper and archival content for research and teaching on a wide range of topics in Black Studies

DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH FACULTY, SCHOLARS, AND LIBRARIANS, ProQuest Black Studies brings together ProQuest’s award-winning Black Studies multi-format content into one destination to facilitate research, teaching, and learning. This database combines primary and secondary sources, including leading Black Historical 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 includes user-friendly features such as timelines, topic pages, and collection pages for easy navigation and discovery.

**AN INNOVATION IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH**, ProQuest Black Studies combines for the first time the archival research experience alongside Black Historical Newspapers and curated secondary sources. The combination of first-hand accounts through primary sources combined with secondary sources of videos, journals and essays equips students to think critically and analyze the people, organizations, and events of Black Studies from multiple perspectives. This exemplary resource is offered on an intuitive platform with user-friendly features such as segmented search results, topic pages on people and organizations, and collection pages that offer a framework for common assignments and facilitate deep discovery. ProQuest Black Studies is an asset for professors who can use the unique content to create engaging assignments and class discussions. Accessible for all levels of researchers, undergraduate students can easily find the key sources they need to complete their research papers and graduate students can use this resource to complete in-depth articles, research seminar papers, theses, and dissertations.

**CONTENT AND COLLECTIONS**

**Black Studies Center**

ProQuest Black Studies is built on the foundation of the Black Studies Center and includes its key components: The Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience, Black Studies Periodicals and the Black Literature Index.

- **The Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience** – This is an essential resource created by collaboration between the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and ProQuest. Major topics on the African diaspora experience throughout the Americas are examined with a set of 32 in-depth, scholarly essays accompanied by timelines and selected bibliographies with links to full-text articles, and images.

- **Black Studies Periodicals** – Includes the full text of over 150 journals and magazines from the United States, African nations, and the Caribbean. Coverage is international in scope and multidisciplinary, spanning cultural, economic, historical, religious, social, and political issues of vital importance to the Black Studies discipline.

- **Black Literature Index** – A seminal collection originally released on microfilm, this index allows users to search over 70,000 bibliographic citations for fiction, poetry and literary reviews published in 110 Black periodicals and newspapers between 1827–1940.

**Historical Black Newspapers**

Historical Black Newspapers are an essential primary source collection and a centerpiece of ProQuest Black Studies. The eleven Historical Black Newspapers provide researchers with unprecedented access to perspectives and information of people, organizations, and events as they occurred.

The eleven newspapers included in ProQuest Black Studies are among the most distinguished Black Historical Newspapers in the U.S. The newspapers are:

- Atlanta Daily World (1931–2010)
- Baltimore Afro-American (1893–2010)
- Chicago Defender (1910–2010)
- Cleveland Call and Post (1934–2010)
- Los Angeles Sentinel (1934–2010)
- New York Amsterdam News (1922–2010)
- Philadelphia Tribune (1912–2010)
- Pittsburgh Courier (1911–2010)
- Louisville Defender (1951–2010)
Archival Collections

Archival collections offer digital access to unique historical documents. Each of the 120 archival collections available within ProQuest Black Studies is presented in its original order to retain the organization of the collection and closely mimic the archival research experience.

Highlights of the collections:

• **20th Century Black Freedom Movement** — Collections offer the opportunity to study the most well-known and unheralded events of the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century from the perspectives of those who waged one of the most inspiring social movements in American history. Collections include:
  - **Organization Records** — Features NAACP Papers which have been called the most important collection for research on the Black Freedom Movement in the 20th Century. Archival documents also include records from Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), African American Police League, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, American Committee on Africa, Revolutionary Action Movement, and League of Revolutionary Black Workers.
  - **Personal Papers** — Includes the papers of key figures such as Robert F. Williams, Mary McLeod Bethune, Arthur Mitchell, A. Philip Randolph, and Bayard Rustin.
  - **Federal Government Records** — Features Peonage Files of the Department of Justice, Centers of the Southern Struggle FBI Files, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights documents plus other government records.

• **18th and 19th Century Collections** — Collections contain documents relating to slavery, abolitionist movements and the Reconstruction Era. Archival collections include Black Abolitionist Papers, Records of Antebellum Southern Plantations, Slave Trade Records, Reconstruction Military Government Records, and Freedman’s Savings Bank Records.

Secondary Sources

ProQuest Black Studies features secondary sources that complement the historical newspaper and archival content by adding background and context for a fuller research experience.


**Video & Images** — Over 850 video titles bring context and connections to the events, organizations and people featured throughout the database. Video content can be paired with archival collections such as *The SNCC Legacy Video Series* with the SNCC Papers, *Negroes with Guns: Rob Williams* and *Black Power* with the Robert F. Williams Papers, and *Black Panther 101* and related titles with Black Panther FBI files.

PROQUEST BLACK STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD

ProQuest Black Studies is developed with consultation from faculty advisors who offer key input on the content and layout of the product to support teaching and learning in Black Studies. Advisory board members are:

- **Ashley D. Farmer**
  - Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies & History
  - University of Texas-Austin

- **Chad Williams**
  - Samuel J. and Augusta Spector Chair in History and Professor of African and African American Studies
  - Brandeis University

- **Crystal Eddins**
  - Assistant Professor of Africana Studies
  - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

- **Hasan Kwame Jeffries**
  - Associate Professor of History
  - The Ohio State University
EASY TO USE FUNCTIONALITY MAKES DISCOVERING CONTENT EASIER

ProQuest Black Studies is available on the award-winning ProQuest Platform designed with features and functionality to help make discovering content easier for students. Features include:

Archival Collection Pages
Each archival collection page includes a description and key bibliographic data about the collection. Each page also displays the archival arrangement of the collection, allowing researchers to understand the organization of the collection and page through the collections in the same order that they would if they were visiting the physical archive. This feature allows professors and librarians to introduce students to important aspects of archival research, in an online environment.

Segmented Search Results
ProQuest Black Studies has segmented search results by content type, allowing users of the database to easily distinguish between archival materials, newspapers, periodicals, and other sources. Researchers can also use multi-faceted results filtering, browse lists of content, download PDFs faster, and use enhanced post-processing tasks, such as citing, saving, and sharing materials into workflow tools.

“These are the sources I would come back to again and again, and where I would send my students, to find what’s not available anywhere else: the primary source collections and the newspapers.”
– Hasan Kwame Jeffries
Assistant Professor of History,
The Ohio State University
ProQuest Black Studies is designed with curated topic pages and timelines that help students understand key people, organizations, and events in historical context. Each page offers a framework for research assignments and easily connects to related topics. Pages include:

**Topic Pages – Featured People and Organizations**

Topic pages on over 120 featured people and 19 featured organizations include an image, background information, relevant primary source and secondary documents and links to related people, events, and organizations. 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 help students decide on potential paper topics and guide them to useful sources for their research. As ProQuest Black Studies continues to grow, additional topic pages will be added.

**Timelines**

Curated timelines on significant themes in Black History are a way for students to discover key events and easily find related documents. The timeline is organized into chronological eras such as Colonial America and Atlantic Slave Trade (1607–1775), Jim Crow Era to World War I (1878–1918), and the Contemporary Era (1976–2000s).
BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER: RESEARCH PATHWAYS

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 allows students to examine newspaper articles, archival collections, and journal 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.

W. E. B. Du Bois Topic Page

For a biographical paper, a topic page is an ideal place to start. An example of several of the results that are available from the topic page on W. E. Du Bois:

- **Historical Newspapers:** "By Dr. W. E. B. DU BOIS: Muddle." The New York Amsterdam News, Nov 25, 1931
- **Essays:** "African American Labor History: A Survey of the Scholarship from Jim Crow to the New Millennium." Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience, 2005
- **Topic Pages:** W. E. B. DuBois; Niagara Movement
- **Magazines and Historical Periodicals:** "Remembering W. E. B. Du Bois ... the father of modern Pan-Africanism." New African, Iss. 534, Dec 2013
- **Timelines:** Jim Crow Era to World War I (1878–1918); Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age (1918–1945)

Non-Violent Protests

Students may search on a topic or concept they are learning about in a class. An example of results for a search on non-violent protests:

- **Historical Newspapers:** "Dr. King Was a Symbol of Non-Violent Protest Marches." Louisville Defender, April 11, 1968
- **Primary Source Collections:** "Printed materials during the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage non-violent demonstration, 1957." A. Philip Randolph Papers
- **Video & Images:** "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin," California Newsreel, Jan. 1, 2002
- **Essays:** "Social Movements: A Survey of Selected Writings." Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience, 2005
- **Topic Pages:** James L. Farmer; Philip A. Randolph; Martin Luther King Jr.; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- **Magazines and Historical Periodicals:** "History: James M. Lawson, Jr., and the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike," The A.M.E. Church Review, July–September 2002
- **Timelines:** Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age (1918–1945); Civil Rights and Black Power Movements (1946–1975)
Voting Rights Act of 1965 – Timeline Entry

Professors sometimes asks students to find primary sources or write a paper on an event or several events. Timelines in ProQuest Black Studies can be helpful for completing this type of assignment. An example of the documents that will be retrieved by using the entry on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 on the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements (1946–1975) Timeline:

**Historical Newspapers:** “VOTING RIGHTS BILL PASSED: Congress OKs Civil Rights Voting Bill.” Chicago Defender, Aug 5, 1965


**Video & Images:** “Lyndon B. Johnson: Civil Rights Address.” Educational Video Group, March 15, 1965

**Essays:** “American Political Systems and the Response of the Black Community.” Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience, 2007

**Topic Pages:** Althea T.L. Simmons; Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Magazines and Historical Periodicals:** “Assault on Voting Rights.” The Crisis, Vol. 110, Iss. 5 (Sep/Oct 2003)

**Timelines:** Civil Rights and Black Power Movements (1946–1975); Contemporary Era (1976–2000s)

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**WHAT’S NEW IN PROQUEST BLACK STUDIES**

This essential resource continues to grow with new content and features. Recent additions include:

- **Organizations Topic Pages:** The topic page collection contains additions of 19 featured organizations such as African American Police League (AAPL), Black Lives Matter (BLM), Black Panther Party, NAACP, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

- **Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement:** Over 500 articles selected from The New York Times on the Black Lives Matter movement were added to support research of this current movement.

- **Black Studies in Video:** 850 videos from Alexander Street Black Studies in Video were added covering African American history, politics, art and culture, family structure, gender relationships, and social and economic issues.


- **Selected items from Alexander Street’s Black Thought and Culture:** Content added includes writings, speeches, or oral histories of Carter G. Woodson, Booker T. Washington, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Mary Church Terrell, Dorothy Height, Amiri Baraka, Kathleen Cleaver, Bayard Rustin, and others.
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 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.

Hands-On Research Makes History Incredibly Interesting for Students

Brandy Thomas Wells, Assistant Professor of History, Oklahoma State University
Professor Brandy Thomas Wells uses historical newspapers to promote hands-on learning and critical thinking at Oklahoma State University.

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 on how to conduct research on marginalized communities using Primary Source archives.

Learn more about ProQuest Black Studies with a demo.

Sign up for an upcoming webinar session.