

African American Culture and History



*A Guide to
Electronic Resources*

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GATES foundation

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Introduction

African American Culture and History: A Guide to Electronic Resources is a reference resource for library patrons, librarians, and educators who have some experience using a computer and basic knowledge of the Internet and Encarta Encyclopedia. This guide provides resources to help integrate black history information into libraries and classrooms. Examples are provided of the kinds of information that can be found in these resources along with some strategies for using these reference tools.

The black history Web sites listed cover only a small sampling of the available information. The amount of information on the Internet increases every day, so we encourage you to continue to explore these resources on your own.

Selection Criteria

As you examine black history resources on the Web, it is important to know your information sources are reliable, accurate, and timely. Since links to information and Web resources change frequently, it is also worth ensuring you are looking at the most current materials.

<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afirst/outreach/k-12.html>

Martin L. King Jr. Electronic Classroom

Contains archive "Classes in Conversation," a dialogue between students in Alabama and Washington State about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an interactive quiz on Dr. King, a study guide for students and teachers, and other links.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/mlk/classroom/index.html>

Primary Resources

American Slave Narratives: An Online Anthology

From 1936 to 1938, over 2,300 former slaves from across the American South were interviewed. These former slaves provided first-hand accounts of their experiences on plantations, in cities, and on small farms.

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/wpa/wpahome.html>

African Folktales and Mayan Myths

Includes curriculum units for teaching African and Mayan myths, legends, and folktales.

<http://www.cis.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1996/1/96.01.03.x.html>

African Odyssey Interactive

The African Odyssey Interactive (AOI) site promotes the exchange of ideas, information, and resources between artists, teachers, and students of African art and culture.

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/odyssey.html>

African Studies Center

Large resource for African studies information on the Internet, sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania. It also includes special sections on K-12 resources and African American studies.

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html

K-12 Educational Resources

These resources include Internet links that are geared toward K-12 students and teachers interested in bringing Africa into their classes.

The sites included in this guide were chosen using the following criteria:

- The Web site publisher is clearly identified and can be contacted from the site.
- The Web site's purpose is stated in writing and is obvious when looking at the content.
- The information provided is comprehensive or uniquely important to black history.
- The Web site is well known in black history research. It is cited in multiple subject resources, both print and online.
- The information provided is current and regularly updated. Revision dates are posted on the site.
- The Web site is well organized and easy to use. Multimedia features enhance, rather than distract from, the content offerings.
- The Web site includes a search or index function for easier navigation.
- The Web site adheres to accessibility conventions widely accepted in the Internet community.

Encyclopedia Africana

Encarta Africana is a reference program included on the Gates Library Computer. It examines the legacy of the African diaspora, focusing on the histories, cultures, and geography of Africa and peoples of African descent. Using Encarta Africana is similar to navigating the Web. You can link to other articles on related topics and find pictures, sounds, maps, videos, virtual tours, Web links, charts, and tables by clicking with your mouse.

Most encyclopedias provide general coverage of a wide variety of topics, making them ideal for general reference questions. While Encarta Africana covers topics relating to the African diaspora in much greater depth than Encyclopedia Africana, it is still not the most specific or exhaustive resource.

To begin using Encarta Africana, refer to the Encarta Africana Encyclopedia Quick Guide for information about the encyclopedia's organization, searching strategies, and other useful hints for finding information in this multimedia reference resource.

Harper Collins Kids Celebrate Black History Month

Includes a children's reading list and sample chapters from children's books that chronicle black history.
<http://www.harperchildrens.com/features/bhm99.htm>

The Internet African American History Challenge

Interactive quiz helps students sharpen their knowledge of African American history.
<http://www.brightmoments.com/blackhistory/>

Family Education Network

Black History Month resources, including articles, quizzes, a poll, and a reading list for kids.
<http://www.familyeducation.com/topic/front/0,1156,1-4818,00.html?yah>

Resources for Teachers and Librarians

African and African American Studies
Information on teaching African and African American history.
<http://www.philsch.k12.pa.us/offices/african&american/afr-lessons.html>

Black Baseball's Negro Baseball Leagues

A comprehensive source of information about the Negro Baseball Leagues, including their history, teams, and players, with links to additional resources.

<http://www.blackbaseball.com/>

Yahoo Subject Guide to African American Resources

Index to a wide variety of resources relating to African American history, health, education, and culture.

http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Cultures_and_Groups/Cultures/African/African_American/

Resources for Children and Young Adults**African American Mosaic**

A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture. Surveys the full range of the Library's African American collections, including books, periodicals, prints, photographs, music, films, and recorded sound.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>

Black History Month**African American History**

Comprehensive listing of Internet resources on all aspects of the African American experience.

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/9061/afro/afro.html>

BlackHistory Month Web Site

Using resources for Black History Month, this Web site includes methods to integrate the World Wide Web and videoconferencing into the classroom.

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/AfroAm.html>

Dalhousie University African Heritage Month

A large body of information, including links to black history and African studies materials.

<http://www.dal.ca/~acswww/dalbh.html>

Archives and Centers**History Museum of Slavery in the Atlantic**

Virtual museum dedicated to the history of slavery and the slave trade in the Atlantic.

<http://jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu/~plarson/smuseum/welcome.htm>

The Library of Congress Collection:**Abolition Documents**

An overview of slavery in the United States and important American antislavery publications. See actual images of broadsides, sermons, handbills, newspapers, and more.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/abol.html>

Museum of Afro American History

Dedicated to preserving and accurately interpreting the contributions of African Americans during the colonial period in New England. Includes a virtual tour of Boston's Black Heritage Trail.

<http://www.afroammuseum.org/>

National Civil Rights Museum

A collection of Civil Rights artifacts, including Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches and replicas of civil rights monuments.

<http://www.civilrightsmuseum.org>

General Resources**African American Odyssey**

Showcases the African American collections of the Library of Congress. Displays more than 240 items, including books, government documents, manuscripts, maps, musical scores, and plays.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/exhibit/aointro.html>

African American Women

Duke University collection of letters and memoirs of 19th century slave women. <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>

AFRO-American Almanac

A resource for African American history, this site includes biographies, historical documents, descriptions of historical events, speeches, poetry, folktales, a book list, current news, and links to African American organizations.

<http://www.toptags.com/aama/index.html>

The Black Stripe

Articles, book list, ongoing discussions, film list, notable people list, searches, organizations, and links about lesbian, gay, and bisexual African Americans.

<http://www.blackstripe.com/>

Deeper Shade of Black (MIT)

Includes a searchable timeline of significant events in black history.

<http://www.ai.mit.edu/~isbell/HFh/black/bhcal-toc.html>