



## African Americans

### ➡ REFERENCE BOOKS:

Reference Books are useful for overviews of a topic. The information is concise, and often highlights specific aspects of a subject. Reference books must be used in the library; plan to take notes or photocopy the information. Be sure to use the indexes to locate specific names or topics.

<i>Africana: the Concise Desk Reference</i>	Ref DT 14 .A37455 2003
<i>Black Americans: a Statistical Sourcebook</i>	Ref E 185 .B512 2008
<i>Black Firsts</i>	Ref E 185 .B574 2003
<i>Atlas of African-American History</i>	Ref E 185 .C55 2001
<i>Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History</i>	Ref E 185 .E54 2006
<i>Encyclopedia of Black Studies</i>	Ref E 185 .E554 2005
<i>Timetables of African-American History</i>	Ref E 185 .H295 1995
<i>Reference Library of Black America</i>	Ref E 185 .R455 2005
<i>The State of Black America</i>	Ref E185.5 .N317
<i>Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America</i>	Ref E 185.61 .E544 1998
<i>Black Women in America</i>	Ref E 185.86 .B542 2005
<i>African-American Social Leaders and Activists</i>	Ref E 185.96.R88 2003
<i>Slavery in the United States</i>	Ref E 441 .S635 2007

### ➡ CIRCULATING BOOKS:

Circulating books can be checked out. They are found in the library's book stacks. Books develop a topic in detail. You can search the [Library Catalog](#) to find books on your subject. Try some of these words and phrases by doing a **Keyword** search or a **Subject** search:

African Americans	Blacks
African Americans Civil Rights	Black Power
African Americans Social Conditions	Black Women
African Americans History	

➡ **E-BOOKS:** Use the **E-Book Collection** tab on the Library's [Database](#) page. **Gale Virtual Reference Library** is an excellent resource for finding thousands of full-text articles from electronic reference books such as *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, *Encyclopedia of World Cultures*, *Dictionary of American History*, *American Decades*, and *African American Eras*. Additional articles can be found in the **Infobase eBook** and **ABC-CLIO eBook** collections.

## DATABASES:

Magazine, newspaper and journal articles provide current information on your topic. The following are a sample of the many databases that the library carries. Save yourself some time; send articles to your e-mail account, and read them later. You can also search the databases from home, or any off-campus location. You will be asked to enter your name and seven-digit college ID number.

### African American Experience

This database specializes in African American history and culture. It provides topical articles, biographical information, timelines, statistics, and primary sources, such as documents, speeches, narratives, quotes and more. Use the **Quick Search** box at the top to locate information on a specific topic like, "Hurricane Katrina." Add words using the Search within Results box or use the "Filtering" capabilities on the left to narrow your search.

### Diversity Studies Collection

This database contains articles from over 150 journals that explore topics such as cultural differences, contributions and influences. An **Advanced Search** will allow you to combine keywords to locate articles on specific aspects of a topic, such as, *African Americans AND education*. On the other hand, a **Subject Guide Search** can help narrow a broad subject like *racial profiling* by providing a list of subdivisions, such as *social aspects* or *investigations*. From the list of results, you can limit your search using options in the right hand column, such as limiting to articles from Academic Journals, or you can search additional words using the query box.

### Academic Search Premier

The contents of thousands of magazines, academic journals and newspapers can be searched here. Use **Advanced Search** to narrow or broaden your search by combining words and phrases using Boolean operators like AND (to narrow) or OR (to broaden). For example, if you were researching the history of African Americans in the military, you could create a search by typing *African Americans or Blacks* in the first search box and *military or armed forces* in the second box. Search results can be refined by using options from the left column such as Publication Date, or Scholarly Journals. The search results will be "updated" by eliminating articles that don't meet your additional criteria. As you search, notice that useful links to web sites, news sites, and images may appear in the right hand column of the results screen.

### Biography in Context

Look for information on the lives of famous African Americans here. You can enter the name of an individual in the **Search** box. If you do not have a particular person in mind, click on **Browse People**, and select African Americans in the **Choose a Category** box. Depending on the person selected, you will find academic journal and magazine articles, links to audio/video files, images, and evaluated websites.

## ➡ DATABASES (continued)

### America: History and Life

This database provides an index of literature covering the history and culture of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present. Accessing and search strategies suggested for Academic Search Premier above can be used here.

### Issues and Controversies

This database specializes in covering current controversial issues. It provides background information on many topics, as well as related news events, statistics, tables, graphs, pro/con arguments, primary documents, and much more. You may search general or specific topics, such as “Affirmative Action,” or “Racial Profiling,” etc.

### Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Articles from reference books, magazines, academic journals and more can be found here. You can do a basic search by typing keywords such as *affirmative action* in the search box at the top. Notice that the results come from different content types such as Opposing Viewpoints articles (Featured Viewpoints), Academic Journals, Images, News, Magazines, Reference books and Websites. You can use the Search Within Page box on the right of the screen to add terms that will narrow your search. Use the **Advanced Search** for more complex searches such as *African Americans AND employment*.

## ➡ Web Sites

Beware of the Web. Unless you are an expert on your subject, it might be difficult to know which web sites provide information that is accurate and objective. Click on the library's [Web Evaluation](#) page for help with evaluating the web sites that you find, or to find web sites that have already been evaluated by an expert.

### Specific Web Sites Related to African Americans

<a href="http://www.blackpast.org/">http://www.blackpast.org/</a>	African American History
<a href="http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-06.pdf">http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-06.pdf</a>	2010 Census Brief
<a href="http://www.digital-librarian.com/africanamerican.html">http://www.digital-librarian.com/africanamerican.html</a>	Digital Lib - African Americans
<a href="http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html">http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html</a>	Slave Narratives
<a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders</a>	Freedom Riders
<a href="http://www.kinginstitute.info/">http://www.kinginstitute.info/</a>	M.L. King Research Institute
<a href="http://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/">http://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/</a>	National Archives
<a href="http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/index.html">http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/index.html</a>	Archives: African American History
<a href="http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/fpoc/index.html">http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/fpoc/index.html</a>	Free People of Color in Louisiana

## ➡ ALWAYS REMEMBER TO ASK A LIBRARIAN IF YOU NEED HELP

- In developing a search strategy appropriate to your assignment and thesis.
- To evaluate your sources and to suggest additional research options.
- For [citation help](#).

African Americans (also referred to as Black Americans or Afro-Americans) are an ethnic group of Americans with total or partial ancestry from any of the black racial groups of Africa. The phrase generally refers to descendants of enslaved black people who are from the United States. African Americans constitute the third largest ethnic group and the second largest racial group in the US, after White Americans and Hispanic and Latino Americans. Most African Americans are descendants of enslaved