



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. Start your research after consulting books such as the following:

<i>Africana: the Concise Desk Reference</i>	Ref DT 14 .A37455 2003
<i>Historical and Cultural Atlas of African Americans</i>	Ref E 185 .A8 1991
<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>Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America</i>	Ref E 185.61 .E544 1998
<i>African-American Political Leaders</i>	Ref E 185.96 .C18 2004
<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 either a **Subject** or **Keyword** search:

Slave Trade - Africa	Slavery – United States
Middle Passage	Plantation Life
Slave Narratives or Slaves' Writings	African Americans – biography
African Americans – Civil Rights	African Americans – Economic Conditions
African Americans – Education	African Americans – Employment
African Americans – History	African Americans – Race identity
African Americans – Segregation	African Americans – Social life and customs

➡ **DATABASES:**

Information from books, journals, magazines and reference works is available in full-text from the following online databases. Save yourself some time; send articles to your e-mail account, and read them later. You can also access the databases from home, or any off-campus location through the Library Home Page. You will be asked to enter your name and seven-digit college ID number to access the following databases.

African American Experience

This database specializes in African American history and culture. It gives overviews of topics, biographical information, timelines, statistics, tables and graphs, history, and more. You can scroll through **Subjects; Resources; Topic Guides**, etc. For example, click on [Timeline](#) under **Resources**, select a **Time Period**, and then, a decade (top of page). You can now scroll through the important events and people associated with various categories for each year, such as Art, Business, Education, etc. You can also browse the **Subject list** on the left of the screen to find articles on Culture, History, Music, etc. Or, you can use the **Quick Search** box to locate information on a specific topic like, "Hurricane Katrina."

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.

Expanded Academic ASAP

The contents of thousands of magazines and academic journals can be searched through either an advanced or subject search. An [Advanced Search](#) will allow you to combine keywords to locate articles on specific aspects of a topic. For example, enter keywords, such as, *African Americans AND education AND discrimination*. On the other hand, a [Browse Subjects](#) search can narrow down a broad subject like *African Americans* by providing a list of subdivisions such as *health aspects*. From the list of results, you can also "limit to Full-text" articles and add more keywords in the "Refine Results" box.

➡ **Web Sites**

Beware of the Web. Unless you are an expert on your topic, it can be difficult to find a reliable site using Google or Yahoo. Try one of the search engines linked from the library's web site. These search engines provide access to websites that have been evaluated for authority. From the library homepage, click on the Research Aids link; then, go to [Best Websites](#). Select one of the recommended search engines on the page and try searching with general words or phrases, such as "segregation" or "civil rights".

➡ **ALWAYS REMEMBER TO ASK A LIBRARIAN IF YOU NEED HELP WITH:**

- Developing a search strategy appropriate to your assignment and thesis.
- Evaluating your sources and finding additional research options.
- [Citing Sources](#).