umbrasearch.org
About **Umbra**

**Umbra: Search African American History** (umbrasearch.org) comes from the Givens Collection of African American Literature at the University of Minnesota, in partnership with Penumbra Theatre Company.

*Umbra* aggregates and makes discoverable more than 400,000 digitized archival materials from archives, libraries, and museums at colleges, universities, and other institutions across the country.

*Umbra* is a launching point for research, putting thousands of primary sources at students’ fingertips. It is freely available for use by students and scholars, writers and artists, and the general public.
Core Components of *Umbra*

**Building partnerships** with institutions and organizations across the country.

**Identifying** where content is and is not.

**Understanding** how this content is described.
Umbrà’s Partners

African American Registry
Alabama Department of Archives and History
American Theatre Archive Project
Amistad Research Center (Tulane University)
Apollo Theater
Barnard College
Boston Public Library
Brown University
California Digital Library
Columbia University
Cornell University
Digital Commonwealth
Digital Public Library of America
Digital Library of Georgia
Emory University
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Georgia State University
Governors State University
Howard University
Illinois State Library
Johnson C. Smith University
Kentucky Virtual Library
Knox College
Library Company of Philadelphia
Library of Congress
Linda Hall Library
Lowcountry Digital Library
McNeese State University
Michigan State University
Milwaukee Public Library
Minnesota Digital Library
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Missouri Historical Society
Missouri State University
National Museum of African American History and Culture
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts and Schomburg Research Center for Black Culture
Northwestern University
Payne Theological Seminary
Penumbra Theatre Company
Queens College
Smithsonian Institution
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
St. Joseph County Public Library
Temple University
Theatre Communications Group
Theatre Library Association
Trinity University
University of Georgia
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Iowa
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Michigan
University Mississippi
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Virginia Union University
Wisconsin Historical Society
Yale University
Contributing Institutions
Identifying Content

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

Independent institutions with technological capacity

Rich collections without infrastructure

Content not in libraries, or not digitized
Designing a Search Strategy

{ "pattern": [
  "p16002coll17",
  "p16002coll13",
  "p15037coll17",
  "p15037coll10",
  "p16002coll14",
  "p15799coll102",
  "p15799coll83",
  "p15799coll19",
  "13th amendment",
  "aaron douglas",
  "abbey lincoln",
  "abolition",
  "abolitionist",
  "abolitionists",
  "grace zulu",
  "zulu, j. b.",
  "zulu, justin b.",
  "zuma, jacob gedleyihlekisa",
  "jacob gedleyihlekisa zuma",
  "zvobgo, eddison",
  "eddison zvobgo",
  "zwane, mandlenkosi a.",
  "zweloke, d. m.",
  "álvaro, nini a nkanga",
  "éboué, félix",
  "‘abdallah, jamma’",
  "‘abduh, muhammad",
  "‘ali, ibn yusuf ibn tashfin",
  "‘alluba, muhammad ‘ali",
  "‘aqqad, ‘abbas mahmud al-",
  "‘ayyad, ben moussa",
  "‘aziz, al-"
] }
975 Keywords, Names, Events
Search African American History

406,213 items from more than 1000 U.S. archives, libraries, and museums.

Get Started
Try some example searches to see what you can find in Umbra.

- African American Firsts
- Video from the Civil Rights Movement
- Underground Railroad (Advanced Search)
- The Creation of the Niagara Movement
- The Repertoire of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Discover and Share with #UmbraSearch
See what others have found in Umbra and how they've used it for research projects, art, and teaching. Share your #UmbraSearch to add to the conversation.

- Life and Times of Harriet Tubman
- Poetry by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Projects by UMN English Students
- Partner Feature: Temple University
- A Century of Black Hair
You searched for: naacp

Sort By: Relevance 20 Per Page

1. NAACP
Du Bois W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt)
University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives

11. NAACP meeting
Bernato, Anthony.
University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries

12. "NAACP rally"
Owens, William.
Library Of Congress

13. "NAACP marchers"
Riccardi, Anthony A.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Collection
DPLA: Include in Digital Public Library Of America 447
Groups Of Images (LOTH) 320
Held At Libraries In High Demand 167
African American Experience 69

Location
NAACP Membership

Mosley, John W.

Description
NAACP Philadelphia Branch membership group shot. 1945 Membership Campaign

Type:
Image
Format:
1 photograph b&w
Created Date:
1945 - 2010-06-31

Rights:
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View Original At:
http://digital.library.temple.edu/dmreftcollection/p15037coll10Mz/100

Record Contributed By
Temple University Libraries
406,213 items from more than 1000 U.S. archives, libraries, and museums.

Get Started
Try some example searches to see what you can find in Umbra.

Discover and Share with #UmbraSearch
See what others have found in Umbra and how they've used it for research projects, art, and teaching. Share your #UmbraSearch to add to the conversation.
Women and Niagara Movement Membership

@ University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives

Description
Principles on which the Niagara Movement includes Women membership.

Type:
Text

Created Date:
1906

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Record Contributed By
University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives
**Women and Niagara Movement Membership**

**Description**

Principles on which the Niagara Movement includes Women membership.

**Type:** Text

**Created Date:** 1906

**Rights:**
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**View Original At:**
http://credo.library.umass.edu/view/fullmuma312-0004117

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University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives
#UmbraSearch

*Umbra* encourages the use of archival materials for education and scholarship, creative arts, and public engagement. #UmbraSearch is a digital exhibits project that includes materials found in *Umbra*.

These exhibits **bring to life the incredible materials** found in *Umbra*, and highlight the significance and restore some of the context that can be lost in a digital aggregation.

#UmbraSearch is an opportunity to amplify the many silences in our national history by calling attention to where one may fail to find relevant materials in *Umbra*’s national digital collection.
Black Hair
By Georgetta Wuo, #MyUmbraSearch Curator

When tasked with creating my own #MyUmbraSearch exhibit I was unsure what I wanted to focus on. As a biology major, public health minor, and someone who is planning on working in the health care field, I started my search in #Umbra looking for something interesting that would pertain to health care in some way. Eventually I started to branch out to other searches using the keyword search and found this advertisement for natural hair wigs. I knew right then that I wanted to focus my exhibit on black hair.

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NATURAL HAIR WIGS
DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER

My Partner is selling the quality Human Hair wigs on the market. All of our wigs are made by most famous wig manufacturers. Our Human Hair Wigs are very fashionable and should not be confused with machine made goods which are frequently advertised at lower prices.

MADE TO YOUR OWN MEASUREMENTS

This wig is made from human hair and it is sold as a natural wig, though the color may vary slightly. It has a straight part with a lace front which can be worn on the left or right side. The wig is made with a Lace Front and a Lace Top for added comfort and style.

FREE—Illustrated Catalogues with instructions for ordering sent on request
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED—All goods as represented or money refunded

ALEX MARKS, P. O. Box 226, Station "A," New York City

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As a self-proclaimed "naturalista" and member of the natural community, I enjoy a good protective hairstyle. A protective hairstyle is a hairstyle that is traditionally worn by black women to keep our hair protected from damage and breakage. Combs, braids, twists and even wigs are used for protective styling. When I came across this ad in #Umbra, I was pleasantly surprised.

It reminded me of the many advertisements I see online today that specifically target African American beauty consumers. Within the last decade there has been a decline in hair relaxer sales and this is largely attributed to the natural hair movement. More and more African American women are avoiding the use of chemical hair treatments and preferring natural hair styles. Also many African American women who wear extensions, wigs, or wigs are turning to more "natural" looking styles. Viewing this ad made me realize how cyclical beauty trends can be.
“Photographic Journeys Across Cultural Barriers: The Photography of John W. Mosley,” Part 1

By: Leslie Willis-Lowry, Archivist, Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, Temple University Libraries
In The Stacks with Erin Sharkey: Keeping Track of Time

This is the third in a series of dispatches from artists Erin Sharkey and Junauda Petrus. The pair, founders of the collective Free Black Dirt, were invited to be among the first users of Umbra: Search African American History (umbra.search.org), a new digital tool created by the Givens Collection of African American Literature at the University of Minnesota and dedicated solely to African American history and culture.

“We didn’t know even when the war was over. They white folks tried to keep it out of the ears about freedom.”
How you can help share umbrasearch.org

- **Embed** the *Umbra widget* in your web pages.
- Encourage faculty to use *Umbra/widget* in their teaching and research.
- **Use Umbra** in presentations to demonstrate the efficacy of archival, primary resources; the serendipity of research; or the value of presenting a diverse view of history.
- Suggest that **students** use *Umbra* for their **research and writing assignments**.
- **Share #UmbraSearch** as an easy platform for digital research projects and presentations—digital timelines, storyboards, or traditional narratives illustrated by materials from *Umbra*.
- **Test Umbra** by using it for 5 minutes and filling out a brief online survey.
- Work with us to adapt *Umbra* to pedagogical and research needs.
Umbra Team

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Free Black Dirt—Erin Sharkey and Junauda Petrus, Community Engagement

#UmbraSearch curators/student liaisons

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Georgetta Wuo

Maryama Dahir (2016)

Delaney Churchwell (2014)
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Follow us on Twitter @UmbraSearch, and like our Facebook page:
Archie Givens, Sr. Collection of African American Literature.

*Umbra* site: umbrasearch.org

#UmbraSearch digital exhibits: myumbrasearch.tumblr.com