Quick Facts

Explore crucial facets of the African American experience through more than 170 wide-ranging periodicals
Rare titles—many short-lived and not collected by most libraries—brim with surprises and untold stories
Based upon James P. Danky’s monumental bibliography African-American Newspapers and Periodicals

“...access to little-known treasures of the Black press; for the first time researchers around the world will gain a full awareness of their content.”
— Kathleen E. Bethel, African American Studies Librarian, Northwestern University Library

Overview

African American Periodicals, 1825-1995, features more than 170 wide-ranging periodicals by and about African Americans. Published in 26 states, the publications include academic and political journals, commercial magazines, institutional newsletters, organizations bulletins, annual reports and other genres. These diverse periodicals—which have shaped, and in turn been shaped by, African American culture—enable new discoveries on lives of African Americans as individuals, as an ethnic group, and as Americans.

From Slavery to the Modern Era
Like African American Newspapers, 1827-1998, this collection is based upon James P. Danky’s monumental African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography (Harvard, 1998). Drawn from the matchless holdings of the Wisconsin Historical Society, African American Periodicals covers more than 150 years of American life, from enslavement during the Antebellum Period to the struggles and triumphs of the modern era. Editorial views from the pages of these periodicals include opinions on the abolitionist movement; “Jim Crow” segregation; African American achievements in literature, music, sports and science; the beginning of the Freedom Movement; the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968; and more.

The voices of African American society and culture

Beyond offering opinions on issues and events of the day, the rare titles in African American Periodicals capture the voice of African American society and culture. The publications brought together here—many short-lived and not collected by most libraries—brim with surprises and untold stories.

An America’s Historical Periodicals/Archive of Americana collection
Forming the largest database of its kind, African American Periodicals is the inaugural America’s Historical Periodicals collection. For the broadest coverage available of African American history, culture and daily life, this collection can be cross-searched with African American Newspapers, Afro-Americana Imprints and other Archive of Americana collections.

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