

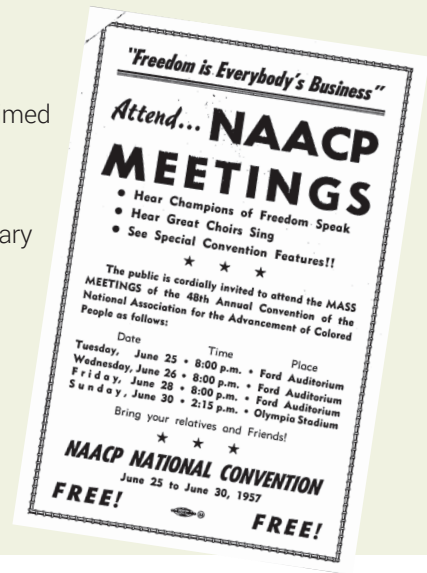
Documenting a Century of Civil Rights Activism

The NAACP Papers Collection

ProQuest and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) have teamed up to digitize the association's archives as part of the acclaimed ProQuest History Vault.

Nearly two million pages of internal memos, legal briefings and direct action summaries—the most widely used collection in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress—are easily accessed and searched, helping researchers chart the NAACP's groundbreaking efforts.

With a timeline that runs from 1909 to 1972, users can examine the realities of segregation in the early 20th century to the triumphs of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and beyond.



NAACP Papers: Board Of Directors, Annual Conferences, Major Speeches, And National Staff Files

ProQuest's digitization of the NAACP Papers begins with the central organizational records: thousands of pages documenting important meetings, monthly reports to the board of directors, and the association's annual conferences. This module also collects special reports by NAACP officers and committees on issues including the Ku Klux Klan, discrimination in public employment, the depiction of Blacks in motion pictures, economic equality, the church and civil rights and the changing attitudes of Black youth.

The records from the 1950s chronicle the violent reaction within southern states against the determination of the NAACP and other civil rights groups to force compliance with *Brown v. Board of Education*. Month after month, reports poured into the national office on acts of intimidation, economic reprisal, brutality and terror against advocates of all forms of integration in the South. This collection also reveals the organization's encouragement of voter registration in the face of resistance, its support of black students seeking admission to universities and professional schools, its work with labor unions, statewide appeals to fair employment practices commissions, and the push for federal civil rights legislation.

Records from the 1960s reveal the triumphs of this period in the form of the March on Washington, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. NAACP initiatives against housing discrimination culminated in the inclusion of an open housing provision in the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The 1960s was also a period of change for the NAACP as the organization dealt with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Congress of Racial Equality, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The association struggled to respond to the growing anti-Vietnam War movement, Black Power Movement, problems facing African Americans living in urban ghettos, and Nixon administration policies on civil rights and school desegregation.



Bishop Stephen Gill Spottwood
Chairman
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

the moral nature of our crusade for equal citizenship is completely in line with the principles of this nation. We must tell all of America, place that we shall never surrender.

great burden in this struggle has been carried by NAACP and workers all over the land. Let's keep our "Eye on the prize victory will surely be ours."

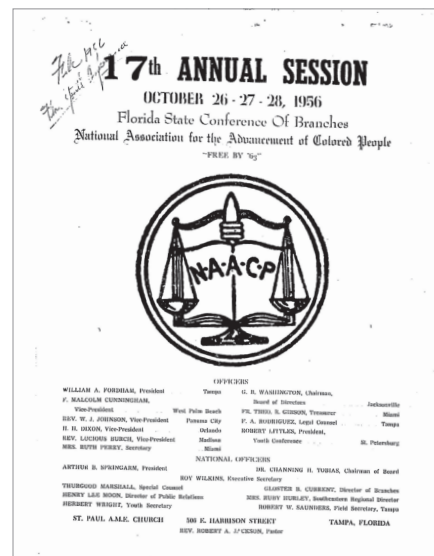
NAACP Papers: The NAACP's Major Campaigns—Education, Voting, Housing, Employment, Armed Forces

The Education files in this module document the systematic assault on segregated education that culminated in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. Files from 1955 to 1965 focus on the NAACP's efforts to implement the *Brown* decision as well as to combat de facto segregation outside of the South.

Fighting for voting rights was one of the NAACP's earliest major campaigns. The 1916-1950 files document the NAACP's campaign against the "white primary," discriminatory registration practices and the "grandfather clause." Files from 1956-1965 chronicle efforts to capitalize on the 1957 Civil Rights Act and the much stronger Voting Rights Act of 1965. NAACP's voter registration efforts during this period are also well documented.

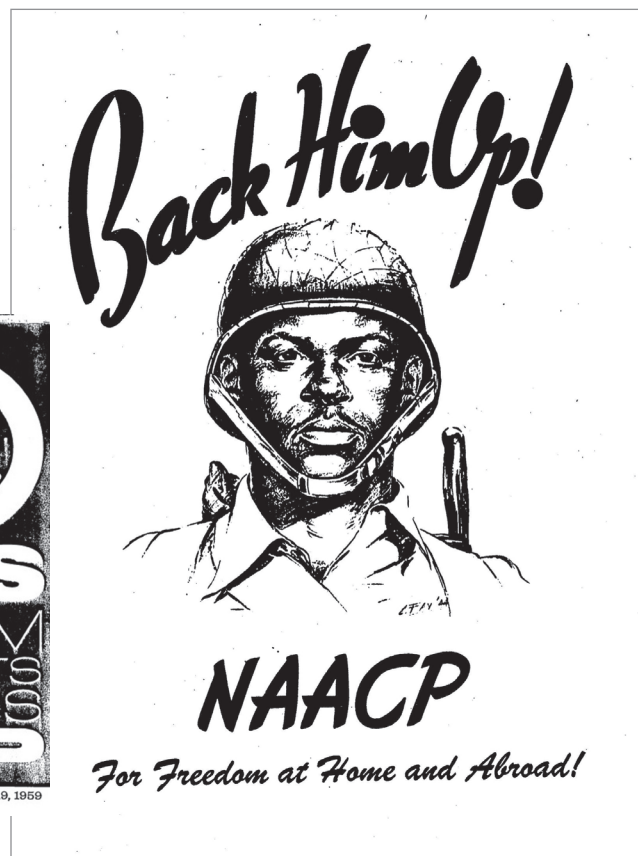
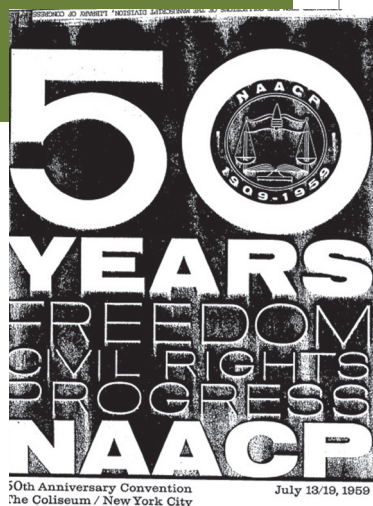
In its determination to provide African Americans with entry to the economic mainstream, the NAACP exposed and confronted every aspect of employment discrimination. This module highlights the effectiveness (and more often limitations) of fair employment practices laws, nondiscrimination clauses in collective bargaining contracts, negotiations with major corporations, boycotts, and presidential orders requiring equal opportunity in federal contracts.

The armed forces portion of this module is an exceptionally rich documentary source on African American military service between 1918 and the early 1950s. It includes the complete extant files of the NAACP's Department of Veterans Affairs, established to handle the increasingly heavy load of inquiries by Black servicemen and veterans and to advance the NAACP objective of eliminating discrimination based on race or color. The bulk of these files pertain to complaints that were forwarded to the Washington office by local NAACP veterans committees and individuals and their families.



"History Vault is an absolute first-rate research tool, the single best online resource in 20th century and African American history I have ever encountered."

— Eric Arnesen Professor of History at George Washington University



NAACP Papers: The NAACP's Major Campaigns—Scottsboro, Anti-Lynching, Criminal Justice, Peonage, Labor, and Segregation And Discrimination Complaints And Responses

The focus of this module is on efforts to combat lynching, mob violence, discrimination in the criminal justice system, and white resistance to civil rights efforts. These files are supplemented by materials on segregation and discrimination complaints regarding public accommodations and recreational facilities sent to and investigated by the NAACP, and records on discrimination in employment.

A particularly rich set of records is the NAACP file on the case of the Scottsboro Boys. In 1931, nine young Black men were accused of raping two white women on a train in northern Alabama. Sixteen days after their arrest, eight of the nine teenagers were sentenced to death in the electric chair. All eight escaped execution when the Supreme Court, in the landmark *Powell v. Alabama*, ruled that the defendants had been inadequately represented by counsel. The files document the publicity that this case generated, as well as the competition between the NAACP and the Communist Party in representing the Scottsboro Boys.

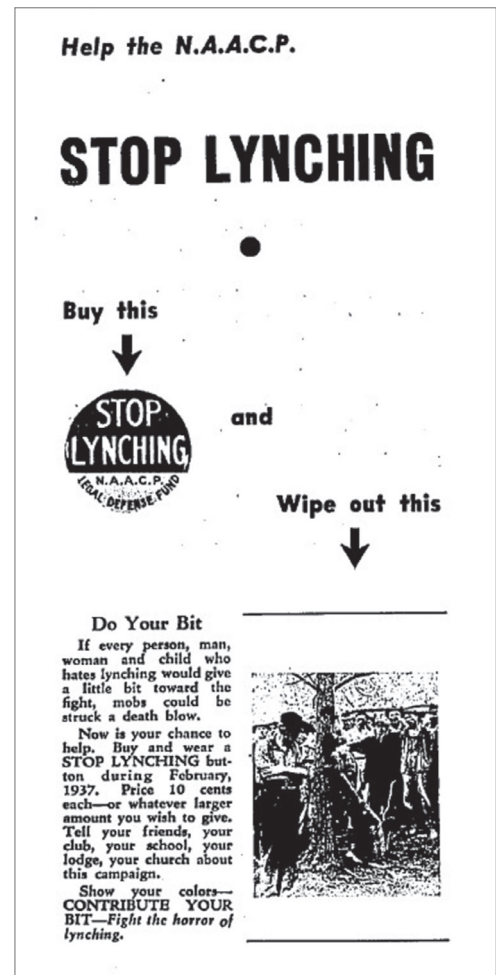
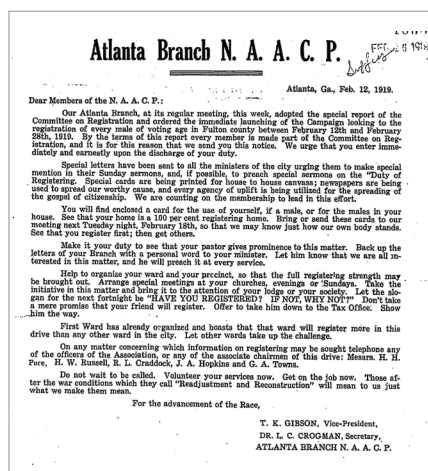
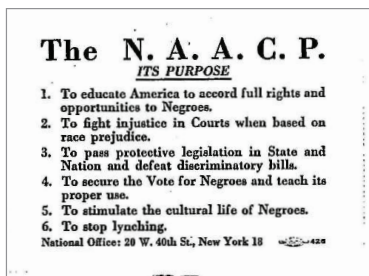
Closely related to the Scottsboro records are the key NAACP national office files on the campaign against lynching and mob violence, and NAACP efforts to fight discrimination in the criminal justice system.

The campaign against lynching and mob violence was ideally suited to the NAACP's early goals of breaching the wall of silence regarding racial discrimination and violence. The records of this campaign shed light of the early 20th century movement of African Americans to urban areas, and NAACP's efforts to respond to urban mob violence, especially during 1919 as well as later riots. The NAACP's efforts to win passage of a federal law against lynching reveal the grief, and appeals for help, the details of impending lynchings, and the personal sacrifices of NAACP officers.

The files on discrimination in the criminal justice system primarily consist of correspondence among local and national NAACP attorneys, plus legal documents, briefs, some trial transcripts, and correspondence with prisoners and their relatives. Major topics in this module include death penalty cases, criminal cases pertaining to rape and murder, police brutality, conditions in prisons, and discrimination by juries, and in jury service. The extradition cases involved persons who escaped from the south and sought refuge in northern or western states—and the NAACP's efforts to prevent these fugitives from being returned to southern states. One of the most significant cases is that of Pink Franklin, whose defense was the first legal redress case taken up by the newly established NAACP in 1910.

The relentless resistance to the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s is also documented. Hundreds of private communications reveal the courage and resolve of civil rights leaders, as well as some of the movement's most dramatic episodes.

The last two sets of records in this module cover efforts to combat employment discrimination from 1913-1939, and NAACP legal department files regarding complaints about segregation and discrimination in places of public accommodation, recreational facilities, and within private organizations.



NAACP Papers: The NAACP's Major Campaigns—Legal Department Files

This module covers the key issues the NAACP confronted during the peak years of the modern civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

During this period, the NAACP Legal Department operated separately from the Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. Chief Counsel Robert L. Carter headed the former while Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall (succeeded in 1961 by Jack Greenberg) headed the nonprofit "Inc. Fund."

The Legal Department's responsibilities included defending the NAACP against attacks, and mediating internal questions about the NAACP constitution and bylaws. Many branches turned to the Legal Department for guidance, making these administrative files an intriguing mix of correspondence with local civil rights attorneys on cutting-edge legal strategies and reference materials on every aspect of civil rights law.

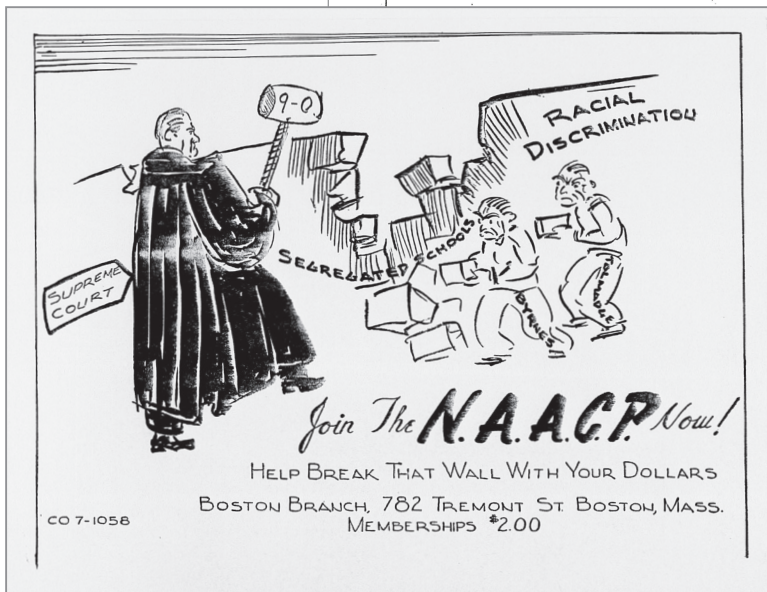
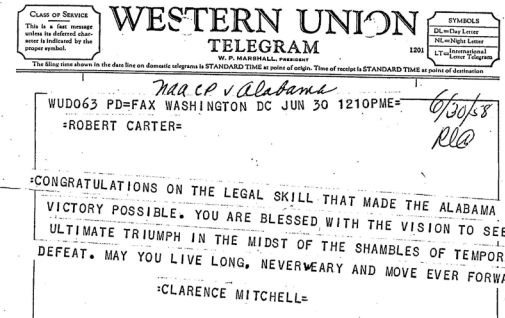
The largest portion of this module consists of the working case files of the NAACP's General Counsel and his Legal Department staff from 1956 to 1972. Their aggressive campaign to bring about desegregation led to some of the 20th century's most influential judicial rulings. Users will find records on school desegregation, abuses of police procedure, employment discrimination, freedom of speech, privacy, freedom of association, and housing discrimination.

Background correspondence of NAACP attorneys spotlight strategic decisions in the litigation process. The complaints, briefs, transcripts, depositions, and exhibits provide important perspectives on the civil rights movement and the segregationist opposition.

The NAACP also took up cases involving the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, including indictments against Martin Luther King, Jr. The collection includes background reference files on landmark cases that the Legal Department did not participate in but still collected documentation on, such as *Parks v. City of Montgomery*. In total, this module contains over 600 cases from 34 states and the District of Columbia.

"An essential acquisition for libraries serving scholars in civil and human rights American history, criminal justice, social choice and political theory, military history, and sociology. A tremendously significant historical resource."

— Cheryl LaGuardia, *Library Journal Review of NAACP Papers in History Vault*



NAACP Papers: Special Subjects

The NAACP was involved in projects that did not rise to the level of major campaigns. This module reveals the scope of NAACP activism and interest.

The 1912-1939 files cover subjects and episodes crucial to the NAACP's early history. Researchers will find primary-source material on civil rights complaints and legislation, segregation and discrimination, the Klan, "Birth of a Nation," Blacks and American politics, the Walter White-W.E.B. Du Bois controversy, and records of conferences where strategies for Black advancement were debated.

Series A for 1940-1955 details NAACP activities in the context of significant events of that era. Series A: Legal Department Files covers the Ku Klux Klan, communism and anticommunism during the "red scare," the congressional prosecution of Hollywood personalities, the treatment of conscientious objectors during World War II, the persecution of the pro-Japanese network of African Americans known as the Pacific Movement, efforts of the Farm Security Administration to establish Black sharecropper communities in the cotton South, prison conditions throughout the United States, and a large series on Thurgood Marshall.

Series B and Series C for 1940-1955 are General Office Files. Notable individuals covered include Paul Robeson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Theodore Bilbo, Thomas E. Dewey, and W.E.B. Du Bois; while records of organizations include those for the American Civil Liberties Union, the FBI, and Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Other records investigate Loyalty Boards, Joseph McCarthy, Politics, Poll Tax, the President's Committee on Civil Rights, and papers covering vigilante and economic retaliations in Mississippi in the 1950s.

The files for 1956-1965 cover the NAACP's relations with African colonial liberation movements and with the Nation of Islam, the organizing of support among Christian churches for the civil rights cause, the fending off of charges of Communist influence in the NAACP, racial injustice in the criminal justice system, presidential campaigns, relations with Jews, and NAACP fundraising and membership recruitment.

The files for 1966-1972 provide an in-depth look at the emergence of the Black Power movement, the enactment of open housing legislation, the fight against discrimination by employers and labor unions, new obstacles in the field of school desegregation, the War on Poverty, urban riots, the Vietnam War, and confrontations with President Richard M. Nixon, plus excellent documentation on the NAACP's interest in colonial liberation movements, African nationalism, and opposition to the South African policy of apartheid.

STOP  LOOK LISTEN
A Monster Mass Meeting

Under the auspices of the

**JERSEY CITY BRANCH
 N. A. A. C. P.**

TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 1939
 8 P. M.

AT

Y. W. C. A., House of Friendliness
 43 Belmont Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

Hear WILLIAM PICKENS
 Director of Branches of N.A.A.C.P.

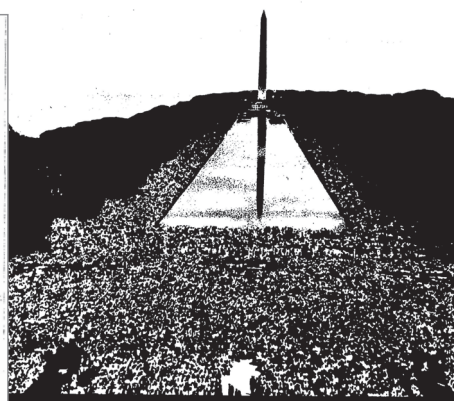
Subject: "The Negro and The Present World Crisis"

and the Story of the
 Sam Buchanan Extradition Case

Rev. H. P. Dixon, Pres.
 Dr. Paul Sinclair, Chairman of Legal Defense Committee
 Charles W. Carter, Lawyer

Handwritten signature

SPEECHES BY THE LEADERS



**The MARCH on WASHINGTON
 for Jobs and Freedom**

PRINTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

You Need the NAACP

- To secure and protect first class citizenship for all Americans
- To eliminate the color line in employment
- To defend your right to live in a home of your choice
- To open up the best schools in your community to all children
- To uphold your right to vote
- To guarantee equal justice under the law
- To expose and fight racial bigotry and discrimination wherever they occur

CLIP THE COUPON AND JOIN TODAY!

NAACP
 35 West 40th Street
 New York 18, New York
 or send local branch

I wish to join the NAACP and enclose membership fee of \$ _____

I enclose \$ _____ as a contribution to the NAACP, BRANCH N.A.A.C.P.,
 4214 WILSON BLDG. AVENUE
 BALTIMORE 21, MARYLAND

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____

Membership fee \$1, \$3.00, \$5, \$10, and up per year. Life membership \$100. Youth membership (under 18) \$1.00, \$7.00 (1). Membership of \$1.00 and up includes a year's subscription to the Crisis magazine.

NAACP Papers: Branch Department, Branch Files And Youth Department Files

These files chronicle the local heroes of the civil rights revolution from 1913 to 1972: attorneys, community organizers, benefactors, students, mothers, teachers and more. Some of the most widely acclaimed recent scholarship in American history has focused on local leaders and activists who transformed race relations in the United States during the 20th century, especially after World War II. This module demonstrates how effectively the NAACP used the branch network to advance its national program.

The Branch Department Files pre-1940 contain the correspondence between the NAACP national office and the most important and interesting local branches. These records reveal efforts to build permanent community-based protest organizations and secure the cooperation of white liberals. Branch files frequently contain material on local civil rights leaders whose efforts have been largely unchronicled by historians.

The Branch Department Files include reports and correspondence from NAACP regional field secretaries and the comprehensive annual activities reports of hundreds of local branches. These documents reveal a national surge in grassroots activism in the wake of U.S. mobilization for World War II and the U. S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The Branch Department Files 1956-1965 place NAACP local branches in the midst of 1960s political activism. The records cover hundreds of local civil rights cases inspired by *Brown v. Board of Education*, voter registration and turnout drives, pressure on congress members to support federal civil rights legislation, and activist events like pickets and boycotts.

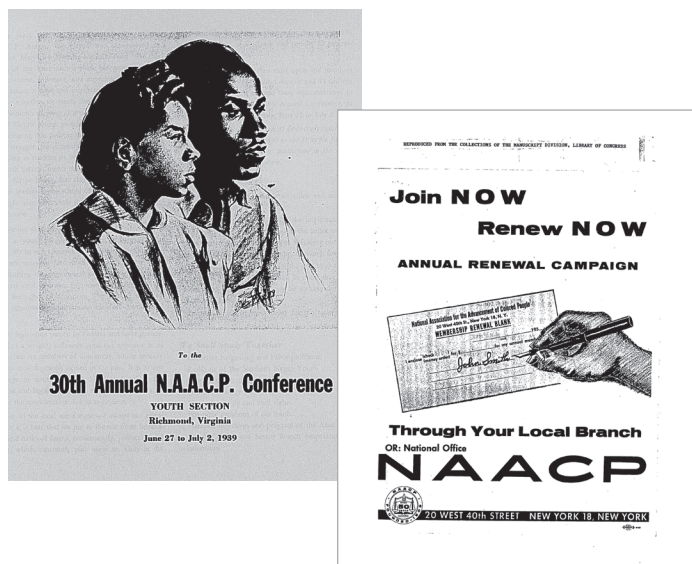
The Branch Department Files 1966-1972 include voter registration, the War on Poverty, urban riots, and the civil rights policies of the Nixon administration. Finally, the diverse reaction of NAACP branches to the concept of Black Power is a particularly interesting theme in the 1966-1972 NAACP Branch files.

The Regional Files and Special Reports show how National Branch Director Gloster Current set up regional offices to link local branches to the national office. Regional officers were on the front lines contesting housing segregation, especially in the North. In the Midwest and West, files reflect substantial efforts to fight against discrimination and for enactment of fair housing legislation. Southern files detail the emergence of a civil rights network during World War II (before the *Brown* decision) and the work of talented and notable Southern leaders. Western files reveal particular concern for keeping local organizations free of communist influence. Concern with the media is seen in the establishment of a controversial NAACP Hollywood Bureau.

The Field Staff Files show how even after the passage of major civil rights legislation in 1964 and 1965, the NAACP branch network continued to work vigorously for the association's goal of ending racial discrimination in all aspects of American life. The Field Staff Files reports on efforts to achieve school desegregation and quality education for African Americans. The one major civil rights issue not covered by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was housing. As a result, the NAACP remained active on the state and local level in pressing for expanded and improved housing opportunities for African Americans.

The Youth Department Files commence in the 1930s, when the NAACP began to develop an extensive network of youth councils and college chapters. With talented leadership by Juanita Jackson, Madison S. Jones, and Ruby Hurley, the organization attracted young people for the next three decades.

- **Series A: 1919-1939** covers the Youth Department's formative years, when the NAACP's focus was on antilynching legislation.
- **Series B: 1940-1955**, explores the American Jewish Congress through to the Motion Picture Project.
- **Series C: 1940-1955**, NAACP through Youth Builders documents the NAACP's dramatic expansion of its civil rights program and its increasing success as a major force in American politics.
- **Series D: 1956-1965** details the infusion of energy from hundreds of young men and women in the decade following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. The records show how the roots of youthful militancy in the 1960s ran deep into the preceding decade. They document an outpouring among both African American and white youths of energy and political action dedicated to basic change and improvement of race relations in the United States.



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ProQuest History Vault's coverage offers the opportunity to study the most well-known and unheralded events of the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century from the perspective of the men, women and even children who waged one of the most inspiring social movements in American history.

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- Federal Government Records
- Federal Government Records, Supplement
- Organizational Records and Personal Papers, Part 1
- Organizational Records and Personal Papers, Part 2

Southern Life, Slavery and the Civil War

Slavery and the Law: This collection consists of petitions documenting slavery at the most immediate local level and with amazing candor.

Southern Life and African American History, 1775-1915: Plantation Records, Part 1:

Records from the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina; Maryland Historical Society; Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane University; Louisiana State

Museum; and the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries.

Southern Life and African American History, 1775-1915: Plantation Records, Part 2: Major collections from the holdings of the University of Virginia and Duke University.

Confederate Military Manuscripts and Records of Union Generals and the Union Army: Available digitally for the first time, the collections in this module offer researchers the opportunity to make new discoveries in the study of the Civil War.

Black Historical Newspapers

Primary source material essential to the study of American history and African-American culture, history, politics, and the arts. Examine major movements from the Harlem Renaissance to Civil Rights, and explore everyday life as written in the *Chicago Defender*, *The Baltimore Afro-American*, *New York Amsterdam News*, *Pittsburgh Courier*, *Los Angeles Sentinel*, *Atlanta Daily World*, *The Norfolk Journal and Guide*, *The Philadelphia Tribune*, and *Cleveland Call and Post*.

Black Studies Center

Supports research, teaching, and learning in Black Studies and other disciplines that benefit from a more detailed coverage of the Black experience such as history, literature, political science, sociology, philosophy, and religion.



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