



# Historical Black Newspapers

To see history being made, start here.



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Part of **Clarivate**

Essential primary source content and editorial perspectives of the most distinguished African American newspapers in the U.S. Each of the eleven Historical Black Newspapers provides researchers with unprecedented access to perspectives and information that was excluded or marginalized in mainstream sources. The content, including articles, obituaries, photos, editorials, and more, is easily accessible for scholars in the study of the history of race relations, journalism, local and national politics, education, African American studies, and many multidisciplinary subjects.

From coverage by the first black White House correspondent and stories on the cultural explosion of the Harlem Renaissance to exposure of, and arguments against, social injustice, these publications reveal history as it was being made, by the people who experienced it.



## THE NEED FOR NEWS

In an era where local news coverage has been on the decline, historical regional papers can transport students and researchers to another time where smaller newspapers served as the informational hub of the community. Stories about neighborhood personalities, town events, city politics, schools, agriculture, commerce and other local business aren't available anywhere else.

Additionally, regional newspapers reveal local perspectives on national and international affairs for insight on how everyday lives are impacted and influenced by the issues and events that dominate the headlines of major metropolitan papers.



### EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

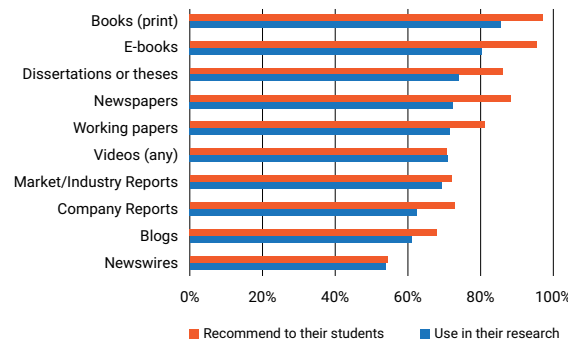
Faculty state that developing critical thinking skills in students is extremely important.

From a 2018 survey of more than 1,300 faculty and students on the use of varied content in research, teaching, and learning, faculty indicate why they assign primary sources in teaching.

## 72% of researchers use news today

A 2017 ProQuest study shows that newspapers are a vital tool in research – they're used by 72% of researchers and recommended by 80% of researchers who teach.

### Which of the following types of information do you use in your research? Which do you recommend to your students?



Faculty use a rich mix of content in their work and they encourage their students to stretch beyond journals.

## Atlanta Daily World (1931–2010)

*Includes extension years 2004–2010*

W.A. Scott II founded the *Atlanta Daily World* at a time when most black Americans lived in the South. He felt that “the race problem” could only be solved in the South, which required an informed community. Rather than reading news about African Americans “through the optics of a host of prejudiced white papers,” he launched his own newspaper to educate, inspire, uplift, and promote the expression of the Southern black community.

Follow first-hand coverage of the infamous Scottsboro Case; read reviews of Richard Wright’s best-selling protest novel, *Native Son*; witness the fight for civil rights from a black, Southern perspective; and more through this historically important newspaper.

Home to the first black correspondent assigned to cover the White House, this newspaper continues to inform the Atlanta metropolitan community and beyond. More than seven decades of this newspaper’s historic coverage, online and easily searchable, is available from ProQuest for both researchers and readers.

## The Baltimore Afro-American (1893–2010)

*Extension years 1989–2010*

Founded by former slave John Henry Murphy, Sr. when he merged three church publications, *The Baltimore Afro-American* became one of the most widely circulated African American newspapers on the Atlantic Coast. In addition to featuring the first black female reporter (Murphy’s daughter) and female sportswriters, the paper’s contributors have included writer Langston Hughes, intellectual J. Saunders Redding, artist Romare Bearden, and sports editor Sam Lacy, whose column influenced the desegregation of professional sports.

Through the decades, the newspaper fought for equal employment rights, urged African American participation in politics, and advocated state-funded higher education for blacks. In the 1930s, *The Afro-American* launched “The Clean Block” campaign, which is still in existence today, to clean up inner-city neighborhoods and fight crime. The paper stationed correspondents in Europe and the Pacific during World War II, providing first-hand reports to readers.

In the 1950s, working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the newspaper’s efforts contributed to the outlawing of public-school segregation. To see history being made, start here.

## Chicago Defender (1910–2010)

*Includes extension years 1976–2010*

The *Chicago Defender* has been a leading voice of the black community well beyond the Windy City, with more than two-thirds of its readership outside Chicago. The newspaper was a proponent of The Great Migration, the move of over 1.5 million African Americans from the segregated South to the industrial North from 1915 to 1925. It reported on the Red Summer race riots of 1919 and editorialized for anti-lynching legislation and the integration of blacks into the U.S. military. This newspaper also supported the aviation career of Bessie Coleman, the first African American female pilot, and promoted the writing of Langston Hughes, a poet and leader of the Harlem Renaissance, and Gwendolyn Brooks, poet laureate of Illinois.

Over six decades of this newspaper’s historic coverage, online and easily searchable for both researchers and readers, is available from ProQuest.



## Cleveland Call & Post (1934–2010)

*Extension years 1992–2010*

Editor William O. Walker used his newspaper to rally the masses in support of equal rights, much as civil rights leaders would decades later. In the 1930s, the *Cleveland Call & Post* called upon the local community to support the Scottsboro defendants with letters, clothing, stamps, and cigarettes. It also encouraged donations to the defense fund for the innocent youths, reminding its readers that the freedom of nine Southern black boys wasn’t all that was at stake — so were the rights of all black Americans to a fair jury trial.

Through his newspaper, Walker also promoted participation in politics, urged the establishment of legal aid societies by the African American community, and encouraged black solidarity and self-reliance. Today’s researchers can explore 57 years of the *Cleveland Call & Post* online.

## Los Angeles Sentinel (1934–2010)

### *Extension years 2006–2010*

From its earliest beginnings when it urged African Americans not to “spend your money where you can’t work,” the *Los Angeles Sentinel* has exposed prejudice, promoted social change, and empowered the black community.

By accessing more than 70 years of cover-to-cover reporting, today’s readers view the Depression through the eyes of African Americans in the 1930s. They can follow the grass-roots struggle against the racially restrictive housing covenants of the 1940s. Researchers can follow Roy Wilkins’ column, “The Watchtower,” and see how he attacked efforts to label civil rights activists as “communists” during the Cold War. Today, this independent publication continues to cover community and world issues from the unique cultural perspective of the Los Angeles African American community.

## Louisville Defender (1951–2010)

The *Louisville Defender* is a weekly newspaper founded in 1933 and has been one of the main Black newspapers in the local Louisville area, and is an excellent source for coverage on issues affecting African Americans. The newspaper played an integral role in the fight for integration in the 1960s.

Frank L. Stanley, Sr., who was senior editor and publisher for the paper for 38 years, was also a civil rights activist who worked on Senate Resolution no. 53 in 1950, which focused on the integration of higher education of the state’s public universities. He later wrote another bill that created the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. His column, “Being Frank,” became nationally syndicated in the 1940s.

This paper has hosted the annual Louisville Defender Black Expo, now known as the Louisville Defender Newspaper’s Minority Consumer Expo, since the 1930s. The event celebrates Black culture and is one of the oldest Black expos in the country.

Follow first-hand coverage on Martin Luther King, Jr., integrated public accommodations, equal job opportunities, desegregation, local protests by civil rights leaders, student protests, Muhammed Ali, police violence such as the murder of Desmond Rudolph, Angela Davis, and much more.

## Michigan Chronicle (1939–2010)

The *Michigan Chronicle* was founded in 1936 by John Sengstacke, the owner of the *Chicago Defender* and has continued to be a leading voice for Blacks in Detroit and beyond. It’s longtime editor, Longworth Quinn became a leader in Detroit’s African American community, business and church groups in the 1940’s solidifying the Chronicle’s position in the community.

Early on the paper gained national attention for what was viewed at the time as its radical point of view by supporting both organized labor and the Democratic Party.

*Michigan Chronicle* played a pivotal role in civil rights of the 20th century including its involvement in negotiations at the Attica Prison Riots in 1971. It consistently reported on efforts of black citizens to better themselves in the 1950s and 60s as they integrated into Detroit neighborhoods.

In 2001, the *Chronicle* took the lead on supporting, Coleman Young, Detroit’s first black mayor, and its relentless reporting on violence against African-Americans. The *Chronicle* was tremendously instrumental in uncovering abuses by the Detroit police department and its use of STRESS, the controversial undercover unit that resulted in 23 young black men being killed—most of them shot in the back. Many people credit the *Chronicle* for exposing the abuses and overturning STRESS’s appalling four-year run.

## New York Amsterdam News (1922–2010)

### *Extension years 1994–2010*

From an initial \$10 investment, the *New York Amsterdam News* grew to become one of the nation’s leading black newspapers and one of New York’s most influential black-owned institutions. For nearly a century, it has helped influence and promote the causes and aspirations of African Americans. Contributors have included W. E. B. Du Bois, Roy Wilkins, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and Malcolm X.

The *New York Amsterdam News* captured the vibrancy and cultural richness of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, advocated for the desegregation of the U.S. military during World War II, and fought against discriminatory employment practices and other civil rights abuses in the 1960s. Today, the *New York Amsterdam News* continues to deliver local, national, and international stories of interest to its multicultural readership.

More than 70 continuous years of cover-to-cover news from this remarkable publication is available online now from ProQuest.

## Norfolk Journal and Guide (1916–2010)

*Extension years 2004–2010*

Under the leadership of P.B. Young, the “Dean of the Negro Press,” the *Norfolk Journal and Guide* became one of the best researched and written newspapers of its era, with a circulation of more than 80,000 by the 1940s. It argued against restrictive covenants, rallied against lynching, encouraged blacks to vote, supported improvements to city streets and water systems, and more. In contrast to other black newspapers, such as the *Chicago Defender* (with which the *Norfolk Journal and Guide* is cross-searchable), this newspaper campaigned against The Great Migration of Southern laborers to the North. It was one of only a few black newspapers to provide on-the-scene coverage of the 1930s Scottsboro trial and helped raise legal funds for the nine young black defendants.

This Southern-based newspaper had to use a factual, unemotional tone in expressing opinions on social injustice. This approach attracted advertising from local and national white-owned businesses — such as Goodrich, Pillsbury, and Ford — that other black newspapers didn’t receive. Let these articles, advertisements, editorials, and so much more bring history to life for your researchers.

## The Philadelphia Tribune (1912–2010)

*Extension years 2002–2010*

The oldest continuously published daily black newspaper in the U.S., *The Philadelphia Tribune* was founded by Christopher James Perry. His paper conveyed ideas and opinions about local and national issues affecting blacks in the post-emancipation period, and today continues to serve the country’s fourth-largest African American community.

*The Philadelphia Tribune* campaigned to appoint black citizens to the board of education, city council, and the judiciary. It actively supported the growth of the United Way fund and launched a “clean block” program, promoting the health, safety, and well-being of the city’s residents. The newspaper fought against segregation and rallied against the race riots in Chester, Pennsylvania. ProQuest provides access to nearly 90 years of news written by and for African Americans.

## Pittsburgh Courier (1911–2010)

*Includes extension years 2003–2010*

Urging African-Americans to actively participate in shaping their political destinies — and often leading the charge — the *Pittsburgh Courier* was once the most widely circulated black newspaper in the U.S. in the early 20th century.

The newspaper campaigned for increasing the number of black physicians and opening a hospital to serve the black community in Pittsburgh, where white facilities often refused to provide services. In the 1930s, the newspaper led a nationwide protest against the *Amos ‘n’ Andy* radio show and its advertisers because of the media’s offensive portrayal of African Americans. The publication’s “Double V” campaign during World War II demanded equal rights at home for black soldiers risking their lives overseas.

Through the decades, intellectuals and influential writers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, and others have written columns or reported for the newspaper. For access to these writers and more, ProQuest offers more than 90 continuous years of the *Pittsburgh Courier* online.

## Why ProQuest Black Historical Newspapers?

- **Full access to a leading voice of the black community:** Users can study the progression of issues over time by browsing issues of the historic newspaper. These newspapers are an excellent record of fine points and facts that are overlooked elsewhere.
- **Local Perspectives from Multiple Sources:** Search and browse local perspectives on regional, national and international affairs providing insight into views, people and events where they happen, when they happen.
- **Cover-to-cover Searchable Access:** Beyond feature articles and breaking stories, users can find newspaper editorials, advertisements, cartoons, obituaries, birth records, marriage records, and classified ads that provide valuable information and contextual understanding into centuries of primary sources.
- **Research Across Large Spans of Time:** Provides a comprehensive record of how stories unfold — and continue to unfold — over years and decades.
- **User-friendly support tools to facilitate research:** Offered on the intuitive ProQuest platform, users benefit from the ability to search by more than 20 article types, keyword, date ranges, specific dates, author, and more. They can also focus on relevant information quickly with hit-term highlighting and download articles and images in PDF format.
- **Award-winning, user-friendly interface:** ProQuest was awarded Best Interface in the 2015 Charleston Advisor Reader’s Choice Awards: “It is much more intuitive and easier to use than previous versions. It includes improved document viewing, easier navigation...Kudos to ProQuest.”

# National and Local news coverage during the Civil Right Movement

## 1930s



### September 1937

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters fought for years to open doors in the organized labor movement in the U.S. for African American workers. They scored a big win after the Pullman Company, a company that had a virtual monopoly on sleeper cars, finally signed a contract that raised wages and provided better working conditions for porters.



### September 1938

Crystal Bird Fauset becomes the first female African-American state legislator elected in the United States. Fauset was elected to represent the 18th District of Philadelphia in the House of Representatives. Even though she represented an area that was 66% white at the time, she continued to fight for issues concerning public health, housing, and women's workplace rights.

## 1950s



### May 1954

Thurgood Marshall, the head of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, served as Chief Attorney for the plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case Brown vs. Board of Education. The Supreme Court ruling that state law establishing racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional is considered to be one of the greatest victories of NAACP.



### September 1957

Governor Orval Faubus ordered the National Guardsmen and State Troopers to visit Central High School in Little Rock to prevent African American students from enrolling, which caused the Little Rock Crisis. The crisis was not resolved until the intervention of President Eisenhower.

## 1960s



### August 1963

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom "closed shop" as thousands of protesters poured in to participate in the largest mass protest against segregation and racial discrimination in the nation's history. At the march, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.



### February 1964

The New York City School Boycott held on February 3, 1964, was a mass boycott to protest segregation in the New York public school system. It involved nearly half a million, students, teachers, and protesters who rallied together to demand integration into the schools.



### March 1965

On February 21, right before he addressed the audience, Malcolm X was assassinated at Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom. Thousands attend his funeral to mourn the "champion of all people."



### July 1966

On July 10, 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. placed a list of demands, including open housing, quality education, transportation, and job access, etc., on the door of the Chicago City Hall to obtain leverage with city leaders. A large rally was held by Dr. King, which attracted over 30,000 people. The rally is considered to be the first giant "freedom rally" held by Dr. King during the Chicago Freedom Movement.



### June 1967

Loving vs. Virginia was a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court where anti-miscegenation laws were declared unconstitutional, ending all race-based legal restrictions on marriage in the United States. The Court issued a unanimous verdict in the Lovings' favor and overturned the couple's convictions.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929-1968**

**Pittsburgh Courier** Future Of America At Crossroads

**An Assassin Walks Among All Black Men**

**His Burden Was Heavy**



Dr. King's Feast Hour: He Had A Dream!

**April 1968**

The nation mourns over the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. To this day, he is remembered for all that he has fought for. Although his voice has been stilled, they will never be forgotten... "I have a dream..."

**Cops sue to halt U. S. cash**

**Chicago Defender**

Image changing? Say 3 execs face axe at Malcolm X

Martin Green Slain socialite's rites scheduled



**September 1973**

The Afro-American Patrolmen's League (AAPL) files a discrimination suit against the Chicago Police Department on the grounds that racial minorities are discriminated against when it comes to hiring, promotion, assignment, and discipline. "It is claimed that blacks who represent 33 per cent of the population of the city, make up only 16 per cent of the police force."

**Atlanta Daily World**

School System Defends Business Enterprise Program

Tiger Woods "Masters" The Augusta Masters

Sweet Auburn "Springest" Welcomes Student Visitors



**April 1997**

Tiger Woods wins the Masters Tournament in Georgia and becomes the first Black person/youngest golfer to win the title at age 21.

**1970s**

Angela Davis Arrives On The West Coast From New York

**Amsterdam News**

More Hit NY Plan

Angela Answers Questions

Young - Nixon And 'New Day'

NYC Vs. Philly Called 'Disgrace'



**February 1972**

Angela Davis was wrongfully accused of supplying weapons used in a courtroom shootout. Soon after, Davis fled California and got listed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitive List. After a few months, she was found in New York City and brought back to California to stand trial.

**1990s**

Let Our Voice Be Heard on the Issue of the Week: Call the Sentinel Hotline 1-900-988-7880

**Los Angeles Sentinel**

TRANSIT

RODNEY KING PREPARES FOR PEACE 'WE CAN ALL GET ALONG'



**May 1992**

Four Los Angeles police officers were videotaped and broadcasted to the nation violently beating Rodney King, a construction worker turned writer and activist, after a traffic stop. On April 29th, the jury acquitted all four officers of their convictions, causing riots throughout the city for the next six days. During the riots, King made a television appearance to plead for peace to prevent any more deaths, fires, and damage. From his speech was born his famously known quote, "Can we all just get along?"

VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1936

**MICHIGAN CHRONICLE**

**Rosa Parks**

the spark that ignited a nation's conscience



**October 2005**

Rosa Parks dies at age 92. Her solitary action spearheaded the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955.

**PASTORS DECLARE 'DOPE WAR'**

**CHRONICLE**

Hint Slaying Victim Was 'Hit' Target

Foul Play Claim By Relatives



**March 1973**

STRESS was a Detroit Police Department unit that was created to reduce crime in the city, but it used decoy units to target African-American men. In March 1973, Robert Hoyt was shot to death by an off-duty STRESS officer. Relatives of Hoyt believe there was foul play and Hoyt was a "hit" target. Eventually, laboratory tests indicated that the shooting was not self-defense and the STRESS officer was charged with second-degree murder.

**MILLION MAN MARCH MAKES HISTORY**

Aftermath of the march: Where do we go from here?

**MICHIGAN CHRONICLE**

Serving Michigan for 59 years

'Detroit can benefit from Remembering with honor'



**October 1995**

The Million Man March was a large gathering of African-American men in Washington, D.C., on October 16, 1995. Organized by Minister Louis Farrakhan, the purpose of the march is to teach solidarity.

**THE INAUGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA**

44th President of the United States of America



**January 2009**

Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States and is the first African-American to become president.

**2000s**

Explore other Historical Newspaper Collections

## ProQuest Historical Newspapers

### Travel digitally back through time

Historical newspaper content is among the most sought-after primary source material in research. These collections, many with titles going back hundreds of years, give your users insight into everything from local government decisions to historic moments that may not have been reported anywhere else.

Every issue of each title includes full-page and article images in easily downloadable PDFs. Researchers can study the progression of issues over time through these historical newspaper pages, including articles, photos, advertisements, classified ads, obituaries, editorial cartoons, and more. The ProQuest Historical Newspapers archive contains more than 55 million digitized pages.

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- **American Jewish Newspapers:** Important American Jewish Historical Newspapers with coverage beginning as early as 1854 through as late as 2000.
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