

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

COLLECTIONS IN THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



HISTORY OF THE COLLECTIONS

The African American Studies Collection in the IU Libraries on the Bloomington campus began in 1970s with the founding of the Afro-American Studies Department. Although the libraries of Indiana University collected some early literature by and about African Americans before that time, it was the social movements of the 1960s, and the Black Arts Movement, in particular, which led to extensive publishing in African American Studies, and the rapid growth of collecting by the Indiana University Libraries.

Dr. Herman Hudson, who served as the first chairperson of the IU Afro-American Studies Department, established the IU Black Culture Center (later named the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center) and in 1972-73 founded the Afro-American Arts Institute (later the African American Arts Institute) with its three performing ensembles. The original curriculum emphasis of the Afro-American Studies Department was on the arts; later curriculum emphasized the arts and humanities, with a focus on history, ethnomusicology, theatre, and film. Gradually, the department's focus broadened to include the social sciences, as well as the humanities, and the IU Libraries' African American Collection grew to reflect this change.

STRENGTHS OF THE COLLECTIONS

Collections in the subject area of African American Studies can be found in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center (NMBCC) Library, as well as collections in the Herman B Wells Library Research Collections, Media Services unit, and Government Information, Microforms & Statistical Services (GIMSS). The Wells Library holds broad collections in the humanities and the social science, with African American literature dispersed throughout these collections. The NMBCC Library's

collection is focused on a core literature in African American history and culture, with particularly strong collections in the performing arts.

Beginning in the 1990s, the African American Studies collections were enhanced by the addition of major databases, *African American Poetry* (1790 – 1900); *Black Drama* (1850 – present); and *African American Newspapers: The 19th Century*.

In 2002, the African American Studies Department changed its name to the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, which encompasses the study of the experience of people of African ancestry in the United States, as well as of the African Diaspora, the trans-Atlantic experience of those of African ancestry worldwide. Curricular support in the aforementioned areas is supported by the African Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies collections, located in the Wells Library.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

- Indexing and full-text access to African American Studies periodical literature can be found in the *International Index of Black Periodicals*.
- Notable research microform collections include *The Papers of the NAACP*.
- Full-text database collections on African American experience and literature include the databases *Lexis-Nexis History Universe: Access to African American Studies*, *Black thought and Culture*, *Black Short Fiction*.

LOCATION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COLLECTIONS

The majority of the collections are located on the sixth floor, Indiana University Bloomington, Wells Library (Class E in the Library of Congress call number system). Microform collections are in Government Information, Microforms and Statistical Services (GIMSS), on the second floor of the Wells Library. The Neal-Marshall Black culture Center (NMBCC) Library, founded in 1972, serves as a cultural resource for all Indiana University students, faculty, and staff and is a center of campus cultural activity that highlights Black Culture and the interchange between it and all American culture. Electronic resources can be accessed from the Libraries' web pages, www.libraries.iub.edu.

The NMBCC Library collection web page is:

<http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageId=75>

For further information or assistance using the collection, please contact the NMBCC librarian:

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