



umbrasearch.org

Works in Progress Webinar: *Umbra Search* *African American History*

14 February 2017, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Tuesday 14 February 2017 12:00-1:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time

Presenting today from the University of Minnesota:

Cecily Marcus, Curator, Givens Collection of African
American Literature/Principal Investigator, *Umbra Search*
African American History

Sarah Carlson, *Umbra Search* Project Manager

Dorothy Berry, *Umbra Search* Digitization and Metadata
Lead



What we will cover:

1. History of the project
2. umbrasearch.org site
3. Identifying Content
 - a. Metadata and description
 - b. Mass digitization across collections
4. Community engagement and outreach efforts
5. Public Launch
6. Future directions

About *Umbra Search*

Umbra Search African American History
makes African American history more broadly
accessible through:

1. Freely available online search tool umbrasearch.org, and embeddable widget
2. Digitization of half a million African American history materials across University of Minnesota Libraries collections
3. Support of students, teachers, artists, and the public through residencies, workshops, and public events.

About *Umbra Search*

Project History

- Planning grant (2012-2013, IMLS) to understand needs and motivations of those who create archival collections, with a focus on culturally specific arts organizations.
- Development grant (2014-2016, IMLS) to develop institutional partnerships; build; test; release *Umbra Search*.
- Community engagement (2015-2017, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation) to share *Umbra Search* with partners, stakeholders, and the general public through a variety of activities.
- Digitization (2016-2018, CLIR) of African American content across collections.

About umbrasearch.org

umbrasearch.org brings together more than 500,000 digitized materials from over 1,000 libraries, archives, and cultural heritage institutions from across the country.

Materials aggregated in *Umbra Search* represent:

- Those that have been collected by libraries, archives, and cultural heritage institutions, and
- The specific selections that have, to date, been digitized and made openly available online.





African American History

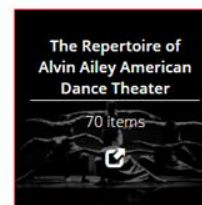
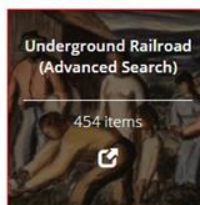
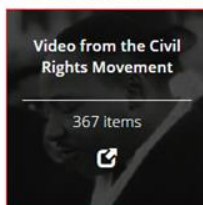
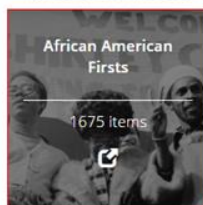
 

Ashley Bryan's ABC of African American Poetry: Givens Collection of African American Literature, University of Minnesota Libraries

519,264 items from more than 1000 U.S. archives, libraries, and museums.

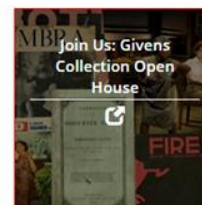
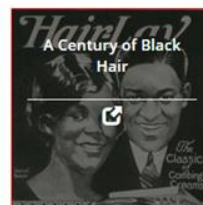
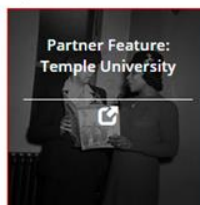
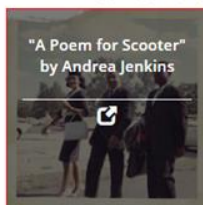
Get Started

Try some example searches to see what you can find in *Umbra Search*.



Discover and Share with #UmbraSearch

Exploring African American stories through digital projects by students, artists, and archivists.



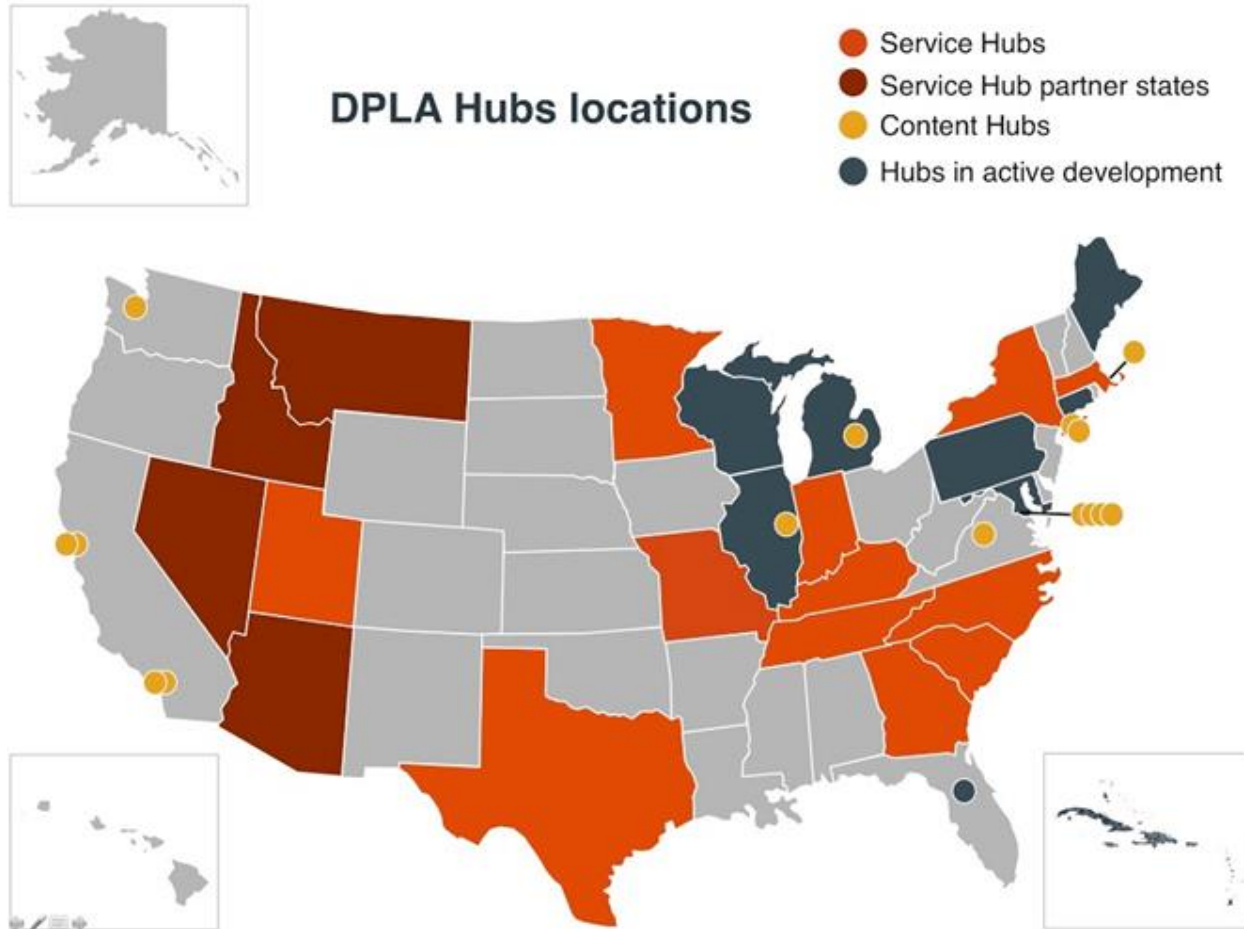
About *Umbra Search*

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

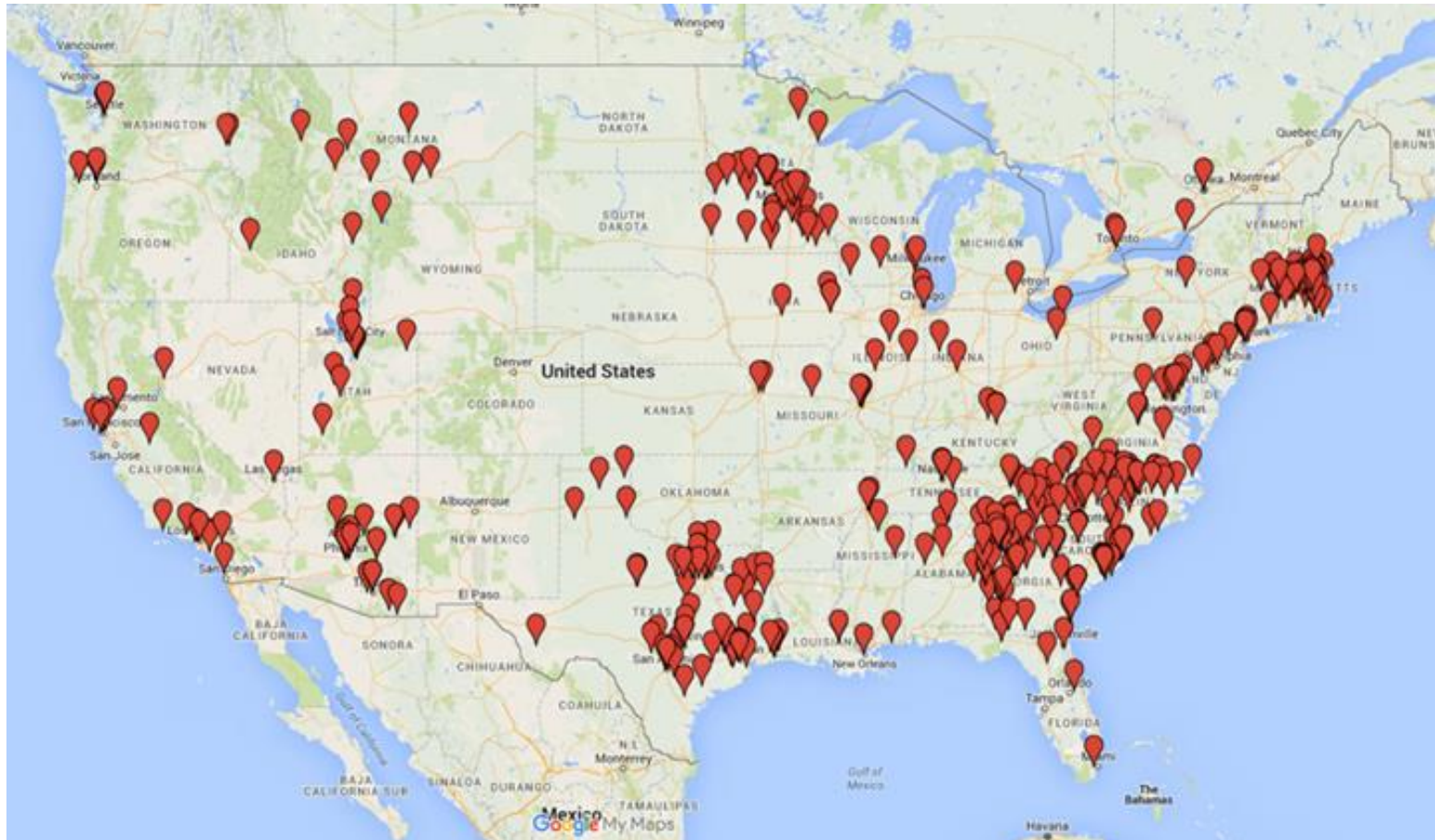
Johnson C. Smith University
Kentucky Virtual Library
Knox College
Library Company of Philadelphia
Library of Congress
Linda Hall Library
Lowcountry Digital Library
McNeese State University
Michigan State University
Milwaukee Public Library
Minnesota Digital Library
Mississippi Department of Archives 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

Recollection Wisconsin
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 of 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

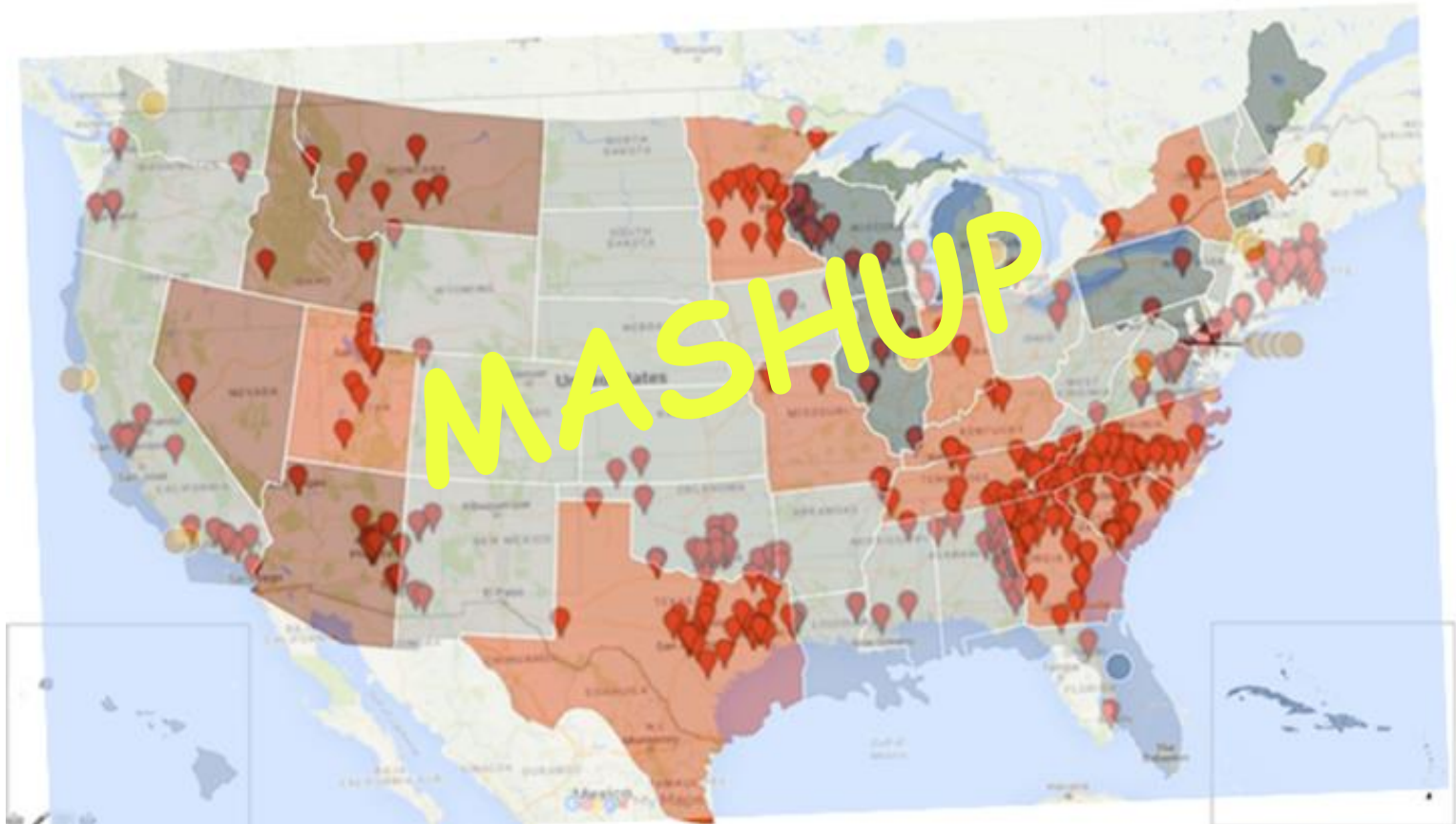
Where content comes from?



Where does content come from?



Where content comes from?



Site Development



Blacklight Solr user interface

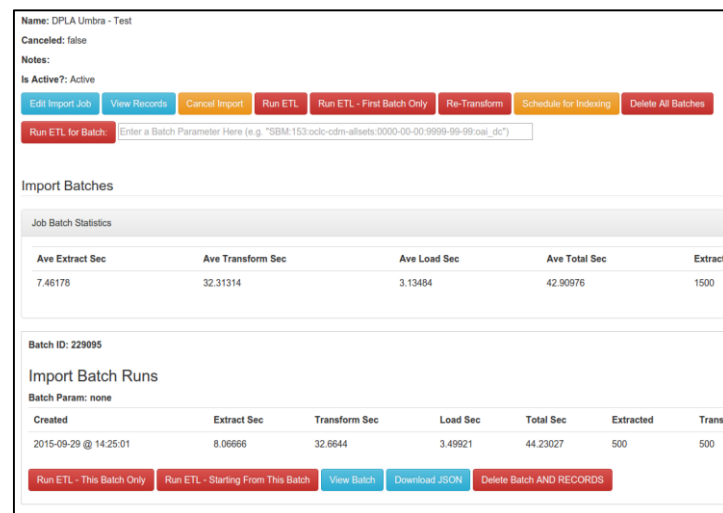
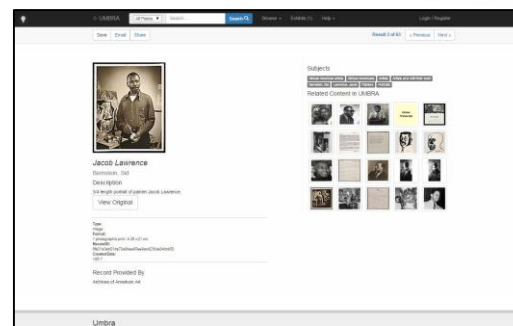
- Open source discovery platform

Harvesting Content: APIs and ETL

- Application Programming Interface
- Extract Transform Load

History of Discovery and Aggregation Projects

- Ojibwe People's Dictionary (ojibwe.lib.umn.edu)
- EthicShare (ethicshare.org)
- Minnesota Digital Library (mndigital.org)



Site Development: Challenges

Sustainability

- Digital collections and institutions without technological capacity or infrastructure
- Digital Public Library of America

Design and Presentation

- Navigation
- Content and Description

Identifying Content

- Search strategy
- Conversations with curators

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1002 lines (1001 sloc) | 22.1 KB
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2   "pattern": [
3     "p15031coll17",
4     "p15031coll17",
5     "p16001coll121",
6     "p16002coll17",
7     "p16002coll13",
8     "p15037coll117",
9     "p15037coll110",
10    "p16002coll14",
11    "p15799coll1102",
12    "p15799coll183",
13    "p15799coll19",
14    "13th Amendment",
15    "Aaron Douglas",
16    "Abbey Lincoln",
17    "abolition",
18    "abolitionist",
19    "abolitionists",
20    "Abraham, Kyle",
21    "Absalom Jones",
22    "Achebe, Chinua",
23    "Affirmative Action",
24    "African American",
25    "African-American",
26    "Afro",
27    "Afro-American",
28    "African Americans",
```


Benny
3/11/51

March 28, 1950

The Editor
The Wisconsin Daily
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

We, the members of Sigma Alpha Upsilon Fraternity, question the editor's description and the mere acceptance of the recent official investigation concerning the character of its cover and its to the American Jewish community. We are not in a position to make any statement on the subject, but we do feel that the editor's statement is not only incorrect, but also a distortion of the true nature of the present. Furthermore we feel that the editorial approval of the use of colored language and terms against Jewish people is an accurate picture of the event.

We, a Jewish organization, the Wisconsin Daily would extremely regret the use and approval of the attitudes and opinion of the students regarding the University of Wisconsin. The members of this one event, on fact, did not have the slightest voice in the matter of the majority of university students.

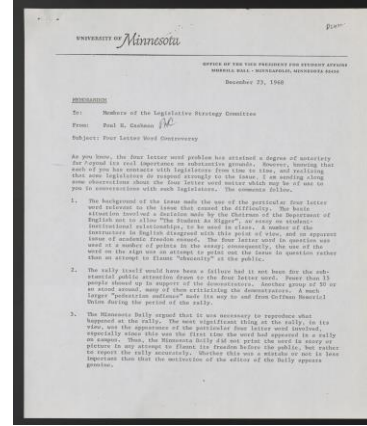
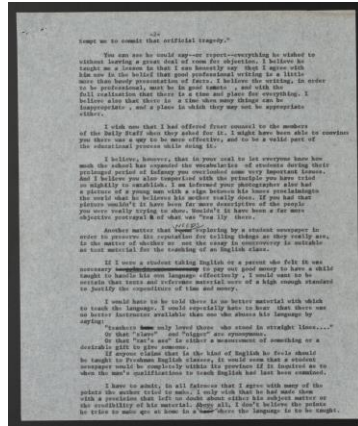
Believe, the editor in question of the explanation of this matter. Most certainly he has found a convenient story of systematic discrimination against Jewish people. This is a very serious matter, and we are not in a position to make any statement on the subject, but we do feel that the editor's statement is not only incorrect, but also a distortion of the true nature of the present. Furthermore we feel that the editorial approval of the use of colored language and terms against Jewish people is an accurate picture of the event.

We, a Jewish organization, the Wisconsin Daily would extremely regret the use and approval of the attitudes and opinion of the students regarding the University of Wisconsin. The members of this one event, on fact, did not have the slightest voice in the matter of the majority of university students.

We do not condemn the character of the editor, we only wish that the editor would be more fair in his report of Jewish Publications. We are not in a position to make any statement on the subject, but we do feel that the editor's statement is not only incorrect, but also a distortion of the true nature of the present. Furthermore we feel that the editorial approval of the use of colored language and terms against Jewish people is an accurate picture of the event.

Very truly yours

THE NEW OF ARIZONA
THE NEW OF ARIZONA



- **Archival Description** - Lack of Standardization Makes Machine Understanding Challenges
- **Lack of Transferable Documentation** - Assumptions About Users Narrow Accessibility
- **Speedy Processing** - Low Budgets for Processing and Describing Level Underrepresented Histories in the Margins

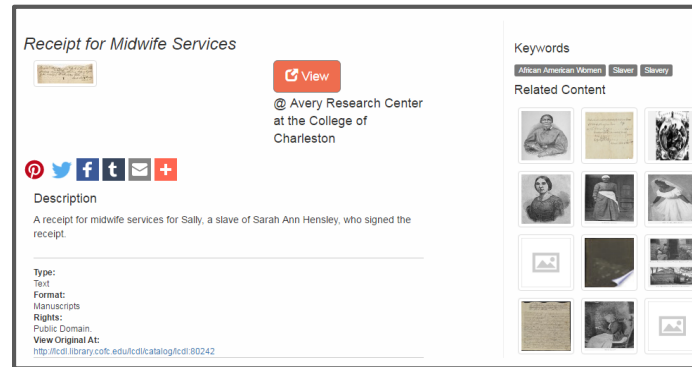
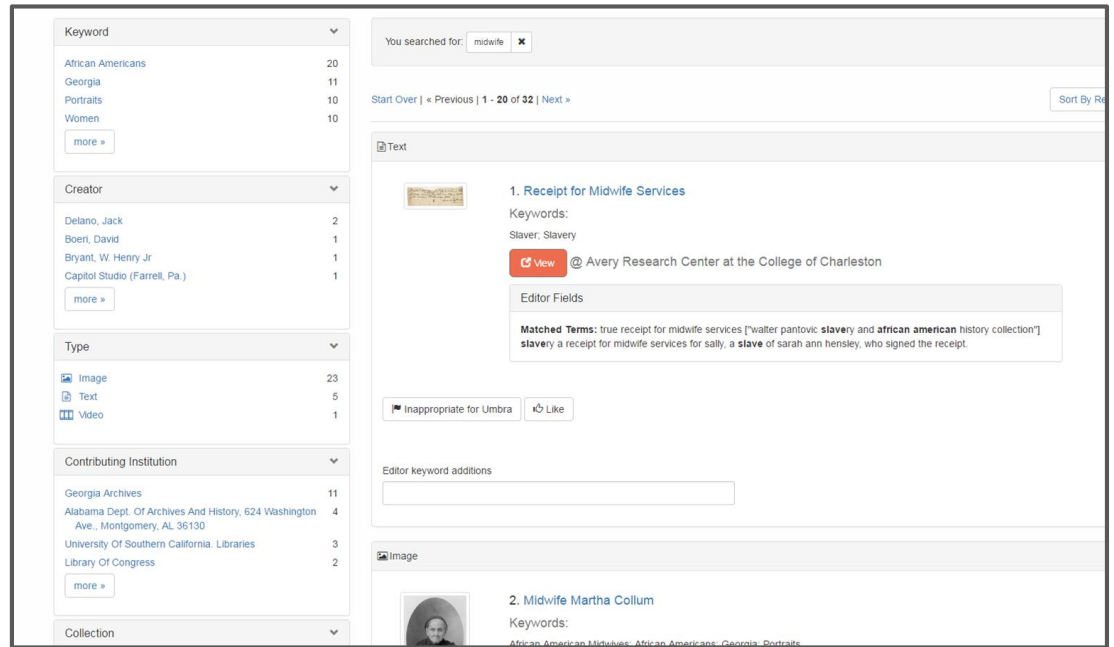
Metadata and Harvest Analysis

- Developing systems to pull relevant and well curated records with minimal human labor
- Clarifying subjects and keywords as they are used in practice
- Using data to improve description of African American related records across institutions

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	term	umbra	umbra/dpla	dpla/institutions	limited terms	
2	13th Amendment	34	3	15/20		
3	Aaron Douglas	0	0	21/11		
4	"Abbey Lincoln"	2	0	7/6		
5	"abolition"	1321	18	5743/121	african american: 4418	
6	"abolitionist",	4220	30	801/84		
7	"abolitionists"	4220	30	9777/91	african american: 2304	
8	"Abraham, Kyle"	0	0	0		
9	"Absalom Jones"	12	1	12/11		
10	"Achebe, Chinua"	23	0	7/3		
11	"Affirmative Action"	703	37	745/73		
12	"African American"	103,730	13,785	61514/507		
13	"African-American"	103,730	13,785	61514/507		
14	"Afro"	1400	159	4731/138	english + eng: 1375	
15	"Afro-American"	1111	153	2364/101		
16	"African Americans"	103,730	13,785	70294/478		
17	"African-Americans",	103,730	13,785	70294/478		
18	"African art"	541	33	788/33		
19	"Afro-Americans"	1111	153	240/34		
20	"Ailey, Alvin"	99	0	4/4		
21	"Aime Cesaire"	0	0	0		
22	"Aimé Césaire"	0	0	1/1		
23	"Alaine Locke"	5	0	0		
24	"Albert Cleage"	8	0	0		
25	"Aldridge, Ira"	11	0	11/6		
26	"Alexander, Elizabeth"	10	0	6/6		
27	"Alvin Ailey"	147	0	42/10		
28	"Amiri Baraka"	151	3	144/11		

Editor Tags

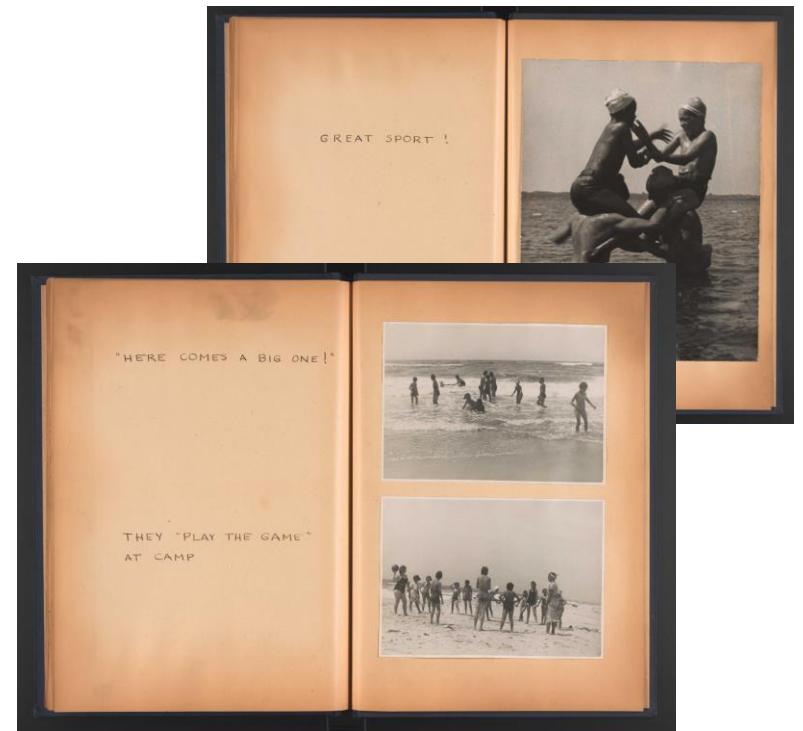
- Voting relevancy of records
 - Ability to “hide” content from users and rank content
- Adding search terms and keywords
 - Increasing usability on *Umbra Search* platform while maintaining integrity of records



Mass Digitization across Collections

Over 2 years, *Umbra Search* staff will digitize and make discoverable hundreds of thousands of African American history materials from across University of Minnesota Libraries collections.

This work is supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources' Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program.



Mass Digitization across Collections

- Pulling from collections across UMN Archives and Special Collections
- Identifying hidden records related to African American history and creating opportunities for discoverability and access
- Enhancing metadata and description, creating opportunity to rethink traditional methodology
- Almost 500,000 items identified, 156,103 digitized to date.



Mass Digitization Across Collections

- Documenting process for future projects both inside and outside the University of Minnesota
- Creating new controlled vocabularies for in-house African American collections
- Deep research to expand description

Geographically extended					
	A	B	C	D	E
		LOC	LOCa	Frequency	
1				1	
2	Social work with African American children	y		1	
3	African American school children	y		1	
4	African American children--Care	y		1	
5	African American children--Education	y		1	
6	Howard University, Washington, D.C.	y		1	
7	Locke, Alain LeRoy, 1885-1954	y		1	
8	Harlem, New York, N.Y.	y		3	
9	African American children--Alabama	y		1	Geographically extended
10	African American families	y		3	
11	National Urban League	y		2	
12	The Crisis magazine		y	1	
13	Journal of Negro History	y		1	
14	Bennett College for Women		y	2	
15	National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers	y		5	
16	Harlem Adult Education Committee		y	4	
17	American Social Hygiene Association	y		1	
18	Baptist Educational Center (New York, N.Y.)	y		1	
19	Johnson C. Smith University	y		1	
20	Council on Adult Education for the Foreign-Born		y	1	
21	National Woman's Christian Temperance Union	y		2	
22	African American youth	y		6	
23	Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor		y	2	
24	Eastchester Neighborhood Association		y	2	
25	Social Service Federation of Englewood		y	3	
26	Society of Friends	y		1	
27	New York Urban League	y		1	
28	Boy Scouts of America	y		1	
29	League for Social Service Among Colored People		y	2	
30	Henry Street Settlement	y		1	
31	Utopia Children's House (New York, N.Y.)	y		1	
32	Powell, A. Clayton (Adam Clayton), 1865-1915	y		1	
33	Powell, Adam Clayton, Jr., 1908-1972	y		1	
34	Spelman Fund of New York	y		1	
35	African American veterans	y		1	
36	Unemployment	y		1	
37	Bedford-Stuyvesant Youth in Action, Inc.		y	2	
38	Bedford-Stuyvesant (New York, N.Y.)	y		2	
39	National Committee for Children and Youth	y		1	
40	Holden, Arthur C., 1890-1993	y		1	
41	Harlem Neighborhoods Association	y		1	
42	Harlem Parent's Committee		y	1	
43	Social Services--African American		y	1	



#UmbraSearch

HOME CONTACT UMBRA SEARCH AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY



Digitizing African American History

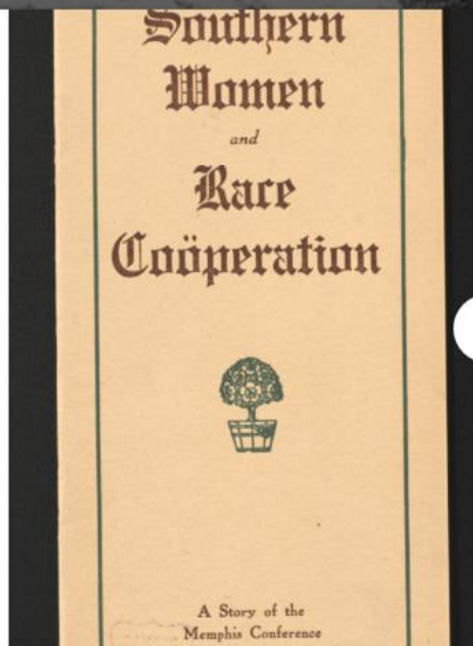
Using Archives to Present the Past



EDIT

African Americans in the Ozarks

Missouri State University has the largest collection of materials relating to an oft-neglected Black community.



EDIT

A Potential Power of Which They Had Little Dreamed

The Woman's Missionary Council (WMC) of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, learns from African American women

Community Engagement

Public Events to celebrate African American history, culture, and art.

In the Classroom with K12 & higher education students & teachers.

Residencies and Workshops
In the Stacks program with Coffee House Press (2015-16)

#UmbraSearch365 African American history every day.
Follow [@UmbraSearch!](https://twitter.com/UmbraSearch)



Advisory Board

Dorothy Berry, CLIR Digitization Project Manager, University of Minnesota Libraries

Janet Bishop, Associate University Librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries

Valerie Caesar, Black Seed Photography

Lynnee Denise, Scholar, Performative lecturer, Wild Seed Group

Ezra Hyland, Teaching Specialist, Professor of Multicultural Literature, University of Minnesota

Athena Jackson, Head of Special Collections Library, Penn State University Libraries

Sharon Kennedy Vickers, IT Management Consulting

Kara Olidge, Executive Director, Amistad Research Center

Junauda Petrus, Performance Artist, Writer, Free Black Dirt

Erin Sharkey, Writer, Free Black Dirt

Catherine Squires, Professor of Communication Studies and Director of Race, Indigeneity, Gender & Sexuality Studies Initiative (RIGS), University of Minnesota

John S. Wright, Morse-Amoco Distinguished Teaching Professor, Departments of African & African American Studies and English, University of Minnesota

Future Directions

Education Initiatives: K12 and higher education

Metadata Work: inclusive metadata standards for archival collections large-scale digital aggregations

Programming: public events, workshops, residencies

Site Refinement: UX/UI enhancements to meet known user needs

Sustainability: DPLA alignment for thematic collections

Umbra Search Team

Cecily Marcus, Director

Sarah Carlson, Project Manager

Jason Roy, Director of Digital Library Services

Chad Fennell, Lead Developer

Dorothy Berry, Digitization and Metadata Lead

Jennifer Hootman, Education Lead

Erin Sharkey & Junauda Petrus, Free Black Dirt, Community Outreach

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