Introducing
Black Abolitionist Papers

Extraordinary African Americans who shaped the global anti-slavery movement

This unique, primary source collection comprehensively details the extensive efforts of African Americans to abolish slavery. This extraordinary digital collection spans 1830-1865 and presents the massive, international impact of African American activism against slavery, in the writings and publications of the activists themselves. Approximately 15,000 articles, documents, correspondence, proceedings, manuscripts, and literary works of nearly 300 black abolitionists show the full range of their activities in the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, France, and Germany.

The complete story, told through the writings of the activists themselves

The Black Abolitionist Papers collection was conceived in the early 1980s by scholars C. Peter Ripley and George E. Carter, who recognized that while African Americans had been a pivotal and persuasive force in the anti-slavery movement, their work had been virtually ignored in scholarship. A team under their direction spent years painstakingly identifying African American activists and their papers through countless hours of research and scrutiny, bringing to light many names previously lost to history—along with primary documents gathered from more than 100 libraries and archives across the world. Now these papers are available in a searchable, easily accessible format for research, teaching, and study.

This invaluable collection is available separately or as an add-on module to Black Studies Center™.
Unique, handwritten correspondence and documents comprise around 30 percent of this collection. All 17 reels of the microfilm collection have been digitized. Included in the collection are primary documents, such as:

- Correspondence of many key African American activists
- Speeches, sermons, and lectures
- Reform newspaper articles, essays, and editorials
- Receipts, poems, and other miscellaneous documents

Vital content for researchers, teachers, and students

While the majority of content is from the United States, Canada, and the British Isles, Black Abolitionist Papers is wide-ranging in geographic scope and spans disciplines. Covered topics include:

- Political power of minority groups
- International social movements
- Black political action
- Black colonization and emigration
- Northern/Southern separatism within the church
- Church support of black educational institutions
- Black intellectual and social life
- Controversies within the black abolitionist community
- Racial relations within the larger abolitionist movement

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