History Vault Modules

ProQuest History Vault debuted in 2011 and has grown to include 39 modules in 2017.

Major content areas covered in History Vault focus on Southern Life, Slavery, and the Civil War; Civil Rights and the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century; Women’s Studies; American Politics and Society; and International Relations and Military Conflicts.

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

Plantation Records is a two-part collection rich in primary sources. Business records include ledger books, payroll books, cotton ginning books, work rules, account books and receipts. Personal papers include family correspondence, diaries and wills.

- **Part 1** is sourced from 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.

- **Part 2** comes from the University of Virginia and Duke University. Major collections include the Tayloe Family Papers, Ambler Family Papers, Barbour Family Papers and Randolph Family Papers. Other collections document plantation life in Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland.

Confederate Military Manuscripts and Records of Union Generals and the Union Army

CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title, 2017

This module delivers manuscripts sourced from Virginia Historical Society; Louisiana State University; University of Texas at Austin; and the University of Virginia. As well, several previously unpublished collections of records include papers of spies, scouts, guides and detectives; records on military discipline from courts-martial; and records of the U.S. Colored Troops.

Reconstruction and Military Government after the Civil War

This module offers remarkable insight into the early Reconstruction period in the American South. The correspondence of the U.S. Army’s Office of Civil Affairs reveal efforts to foster democracy and rebuild communities in the divided and war-torn former Confederate states. The files include letters, petitions, court proceedings and internal documents related to elections. Another prominent subject is the fair administration of the election process. Troubles often arose as African Americans prepared to exercise their newly won rights to vote and run for office; many letters in the collection call for military intervention to
secure these rights. Also included are Letters Received by the Attorney General pertaining to law and order in southern states from 1871-1884 and records of the Freedmen's Hospital and the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company.

This module makes an excellent companion to the Southern Plantation Records, Slavery Petitions, and Confederate Military Manuscript and Union Army Records that are already digitized in History Vault.

Civil Rights and the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century

This category consists of the NAACP Papers and Federal Government Records, Organizational Records and Personal Papers regarding the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century. Taken together, these ten modules offer an extremely strong combination of resources on the civil rights movement with major collections of records from the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). The Library Journal selected the NAACP Papers modules as a Best Reference Pick in March 2015.

Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century

The Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century consists of four modules: two modules of Federal Government Records, and two modules of Organizational Records and Personal Papers, offering unique documentation and a variety of perspectives on the 20th century fight for freedom.

Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century: Federal Government Records focuses on the political side of the freedom movement, the role of civil rights organizations in pushing for civil rights legislation, and the interaction between African Americans and the federal government in the 20th century. Major collections in this module include the FBI Files on Martin Luther King Jr.; Centers of the Southern Struggle; and civil rights records from the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations.

Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century: Federal Government Records, Supplement adds civil rights records from the Ford and Reagan presidencies. With the records in this module, the two Federal Government Records modules in History Vault contain presidential records on civil rights from the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration through the George H. W. Bush administration.

Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century, Organizational Records and Personal Papers, Part 1, is highlighted by records of three major civil rights organizations: the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. Papers of civil rights leaders included in this module are those of labor leader A. Philip Randolph; the organizer of the March on Washington, Bayard Rustin; and of the pioneering educator Mary McLeod Bethune. Records of Claude A. Barnett's Associated Negro Press cover topics such as religion, sports, education, fraternal organizations, and even the field of entertainment.

“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

Black Freedom Struggle of the 20th Century: Organizational Records and Personal Papers, Part 2, is highlighted by the records of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Africa-related papers of Claude Barnett, and the Robert F. Williams Papers. With the addition of SNCC and CORE records, History Vault includes SNCC, SCLC, CORE, and NAACP records, the four most important civil rights organizations of the 1950s and 1960s.

“History Vault is an absolute first-rate research tool, the single best on-line 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 Papers collection consists of 6 modules, containing internal memos, legal briefings and detailed activity summaries from national, legal and branch offices throughout the country. With a timeline that runs from 1909 to 1972, the NAACP Papers document 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. With these files, researchers can trace the major concerns of the NAACP from year to year; the major campaigns of the NAACP in areas like education, voting rights, anti-lynching legislation and criminal justice; and the amazing branch network of the organization. The Branch Department files contain detailed files on 34 states and 181 branches and branch activities reports from 571 branches in 48 states plus the District of Columbia.

The six NAACP Papers modules are:

NAACP Papers – Board of Directors, Annual Conferences, Major Speeches, and National Staff Files (annual conference resolutions and speeches are excellent source for studying the major issues of importance to the NAACP from year to year)

NAACP Papers – The NAACP’s Major Campaigns: Education, Voting, Housing, Employment, Armed Forces

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

NAACP Papers – The NAACP’s Major Campaigns: Legal Department Files (featuring over 600 cases from 34 states)

NAACP Papers: Special Subjects

NAACP Papers: Branch Department, Branch Files, and Youth Department Files (offering excellent documentation on the local heroes of the civil rights movement throughout the United States)

Women’s Studies

Margaret Sanger Papers

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966) was the principal founder and lifelong leader of the American and the international birth control movements. The Margaret Sanger Papers covers every aspect of the birth control movement, including the movement’s changing ideologies, its campaign for legitimacy and its internal conflicts and organizational growth. These papers also provide significant insight on the history of changing attitudes towards women’s roles and sexuality, and have significant research value to the fields of women’s history, social and intellectual history, medicine and public health, religion, and world economic development, among others.

Struggle for Women’s Rights, 1880-1990: Organizational Records

This module is comprised of records of three important women’s rights organizations: the National Woman’s Party, the League of Women Voters, and the Women’s Action Alliance. Originally a committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the National Woman’s Party (NWP) was founded in 1913 when Alice Paul and her colleagues broke away from NAWSA in dissent over strategy and tactics. The Women’s Action Alliance, established in 1971 as a grass-roots organization, concerned itself with issues such as employment and employment discrimination, childcare, health care and education. The League of Women Voters collection documents almost every facet of women’s involvement in U.S. politics from 1920 to 1974.
Women's Studies Manuscript Collections from the Schlesinger Library: Voting Rights, National Politics, and Reproductive Rights

Collections from the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College consist of materials documenting voting rights, national politics and reproductive rights from national, regional and local leaders. National leaders featured in this module include Carrie Chapman Catt, Matilda Joslyn Gage and many others. Regional and local leaders represented include Harriet Burton Laidlaw, Helen Barten Owens, Clementina Rhodes Hartshorne and many others. On the topic of national politics, major collections include papers of Molly Dewson, Emma Guffey Miller, Sue Shelton White, Jeannette Rankin, and Jessica Weis. Collections on reproductive rights are the Schlesinger Library Family Planning Oral History Project and the papers of Mary Ware Dennett and the Voluntary Parenthood League.

Women at Work during World War II: Rosie the Riveter and the Women’s Army Corps

Women at Work during World War II consists of two major sets of records documenting the experience of American women during that era: Records of the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and Correspondence of the Director of the Women’s Army Corps.

The first set documents the Women’s Bureau as an investigative agency and a source of public information and education to promote the welfare of wage-earning women. It also includes a detailed study on the treatment of women by unions in several Midwestern industrial towns, with additional documents on women’s work in war industries pertaining to issues like equal pay and child care.

Women in the U.S. Military, Correspondence of the Director of the Women’s Army Corps, 1942–1946 documents the women who joined and served in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC, known as the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps [WAAC] from May 1942 until July 1943) during World War II. These documents provide insight on issues such as recruiting, public support for the WAC, personnel matters like discipline and conduct, education, gender roles and race.
Native American History

American Indians and the American West, 1809-1971

Collections from the U.S. National Archives and the Chicago History Museum join first-hand accounts on Indian Wars and westward migration. Coverage of American Indians in the first half of the 20th century includes Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Records from the Major Council Meetings of American Indian Tribes. Researchers will also find excellent collections, many previously unpublished, on American Indians in the 19th century, with a focus on the interaction among white settlers, the U.S. federal government and Indian tribes.

American Politics and Society

Thomas A. Edison Papers

Perhaps more than anyone else in U.S. history, Thomas Edison integrated the worlds of science, technology, business and finance. Now Edison’s life, work and vision are documented for scholars through rare laboratory notebooks, diaries, business records, correspondence and related materials.

Law and Society since the Civil War: American Legal Manuscripts from the Harvard Law School Library

Eleven collections from the Harvard Law School Library highlight Supreme Court Justices Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louis D. Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter; the first Black federal judge, William H. Hastie; and the high-profile Sacco-Vanzetti murder case. The Frankfurter Papers are of special note because they reveal how the Court approached the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision.

Progressive Era: Robert M. La Follette Papers

Congressman, Governor, and United States Senator, Robert Marion La Follette is one of the crucial figures of the Progressive Movement of the early twentieth century. This collection documents his early career in the political reform movement from 1879 to 1910. During these years, La Follette emerged as the powerful leader of the reform coalition which was struggling with the state’s large economic interests for control of the government. In 1901 the reformers won control of the state Republican party, and La Follette began the first of his three terms as governor.

Immigration: Records of the INS, 1880-1930

This module investigates the massive immigration wave at the turn of the 20th century. Files cover Asian immigration, particularly Chinese and Japanese, to California and Hawaii; Mexican immigration 1906-1930; and European immigration. There are also extensive files on the regulation of prostitution and white slavery and on suppression of radical aliens.

New Deal and World War II: President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Office Files and Records of Federal Agencies

The centerpiece of this module is Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Office Files, which highlight domestic and foreign concerns that were of special importance to the president. Additional collections include FBI Reports of the Roosevelt White House; Civilian Conservation Corps Press Releases; Records of the Committee on Economic Security, Department of Treasury records; and a set of documentary records on the Roosevelt presidency covering 50 important episodes and themes.

FBI Confidential Files and Radical Politics in the U.S., 1945-1972

Under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI investigated and tracked the activities of Communist groups, Communist-front groups and other radical organizations in the United States. Module highlights include Hoover’s office files; documentation on “black bag jobs,” as they were called before being renamed “surreptitious entries”; and the “Do Not File” collection – numerous records that were supposed to be destroyed but survived. These documents provide insight into FBI policies and priorities, the scope of investigations of subversives, the purposes of investigations of liberal and conservative activists, and the bureau’s relationships with other intelligence agencies.
American Politics and Society from JFK to Watergate, 1960-1975

The strength of this module lies in documents from the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon presidencies as well as records from federal agencies. Issues span women's rights, environmental issues, urban renewal, rural development, tax reform, civil rights, space exploration, international trade, War on Poverty and the Watergate trials.

Students for a Democratic Society, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the Anti-Vietnam War Movement

Key collections offer new opportunities for research on the 1960s through the lens of two influential anti-war organizations. In its heyday, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) emphasized participatory democracy, community building, and creating a political movement of impoverished people. As U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War escalated, SDS became involved in the anti-war movement, before splintering and disbanding by 1970. Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) organized major national protests, which catapulted VVAW to a position of leadership within the antiwar movement. The VVAW survived to the end of the Vietnam War by focusing on veterans' benefits and, after 1987, on the Agent Orange health issue. In addition to the SDS and VVAW collections, this module contains documents of 10 other anti-Vietnam War organizations.

Records of the Children's Bureau, 1912-1969

Though it's one of the lesser-known federal agencies, the Children's Bureau is one of the richest sources for understanding American society and social welfare. The Bureau's correspondence, research reports, radio scripts, brochures, bills and laws, court hearings and speeches represent the largest collection of primary material for the study of the family and the health and well-being of children in the 20th century; as well, they throw a fascinating light on the way welfare policies affected women.

American Politics in the Early Cold War—Truman and Eisenhower Administrations, 1945-1961

The Cold War takes center stage in the Truman files on international relations, and the stalling of Truman's Fair Deal program are documented in the files that pertain to domestic concerns. The Eisenhower files focus on national defense, Cold War preparedness, the Soviet Union, economic issues, and tariff negotiations. With the publication of this module, History Vault will include, in different modules, White House files for the presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt through Richard M. Nixon.
Military and Diplomatic History

World War I: British Foreign Office Political Correspondence

Early records in the collection describe the political situation in European countries on the outbreak of the war, as reported by military attaches and diplomatic and consular personnel. These early records also cover the financial position of the warring countries and even anti-war sentiments in 1914.

The documents also examine the technological innovations of World War I, particularly in air and naval warfare. Additionally, this formerly confidential correspondence covers a wide range of other wartime issues, such as birth rates, the role of women in the war, food supply, Zionism, and the Vatican.

The files conclude with detailed coverage of various peace efforts and the armistice, as well as postwar issues such as redrawing the map of Europe, and the consequences of the war for Germany.

U.S. Military Intelligence Reports

U.S. Military Intelligence Reports offer comprehensive documentation of developments and events in the key nations of the world during the period from World War I to the final campaigns of World War II.

After World War I, the U.S. military developed a sophisticated intelligence gathering capability. Concerned with much more than strictly military intelligence, American military attachés and their staffs reported on a wide range of topics, including the internal politics, social and economic conditions and foreign affairs of the countries in which they were stationed.

This module contains reports for China, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Mexico, Soviet Union, Biweekly Intelligence Summaries and Combat Estimates.

U.S. Diplomatic Post Records, 1914-1945

The State Department Diplomatic post records consist of correspondence and reports from American diplomats stationed around the world. Diplomatic post records are those kept at the embassies or legations rather than those kept in Washington. These materials contain the incoming messages from Washington, retained copies of outgoing dispatches, locally gathered information and background material on decision making. The following countries or cities are represented in this module: Japan; Cuba; El Salvador; Honduras; Nicaragua; Iran; Iraq; Beirut; Jerusalem; Aden; Lebanon; Russia; and the Soviet Union.

World War I: Records of the American Expeditionary Forces, and Diplomacy in the World War I Era

This module offers extensive documentation on the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) during World War I as well as materials on U.S. intelligence operations and the post-war peace process. AEF documents consist of correspondence, cablegrams, operations reports, statistical strength reports and summaries of intelligence detailing troop movements and operations of Allied and enemy forces. The vast majority of the AEF documents date from April 26, 1917-July 2, 1919.

Other notable collections include Select Reports of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace and Reparations Papers of the Allied Powers Reparations Commission, and Records of the Conference on Limitation of Armament, 1921-1922. Finally, this module includes an important collection on diplomacy and the intelligence work of the U.S. State Department during World War I and in the decade after: State Department Collection of Intelligence, 1915-1927: Records of the Office of the Counselor, Undersecretary of State, and the Chief Special Agent.

World War II: U.S. Documents on Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Axis War Crimes, and Refugees

The collections in this module document the innermost workings of the top level of military planning during World War II in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Map Room Files and Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Office of War Information Papers contain information on the U.S. home front, as do records on the internment of Japanese civilians. World War II Combat Interviews offer firsthand accounts from the perspective of the individual soldiers who participated in the D-Day invasion. The Papers of the War Refugee Board provide documentation on the fate of civilians in Europe with a special focus on Jewish refugees. Other collections in this module include FBI Files on Tokyo Rose, Manhattan Project documents, Potsdam Conference Documents, and records on lend-lease.

Office of Strategic Services (OSS)-State Department Intelligence and Research Reports, 1941-1961

During World War II and the first decade and a half of the Cold War, the Office of Strategic Services and the State Department assigned leading scholars to write special, classified reports about Asia, Europe, the Soviet Union, Latin America, and Africa. At the time, the reports helped to shape U.S. foreign policy decisions, and, now, as part of History Vault, the over 3,500 reports in this module provide an excellent source for studying the major areas of the World during the period from 1941 to 1961. These reports are not contained in the State Department's foreign relations series or the armed forces’ official histories.
Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969

Student demonstrations, political unrest, coups d’etat, assassinations, political trials, meetings and visits of foreign leaders, economic and agricultural assistance, disputes over the use of international waters, international trade, military conflicts - these are just some of the subjects covered by Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files on the turbulent 1960s around the world.

Concentrating exclusively on those U.S. State Department Central Files that have not been microfilmed by the National Archives or distributed by other publishers, this collection contains a wide range of materials from U.S. diplomats in foreign countries: reports on political, military and socioeconomic matters; interviews and minutes of meetings with foreign government officials; important letters, instructions, and cables sent and received by U.S. diplomatic personnel; and reports and translations from foreign journals and newspapers.

History Vault’s U.S. State Department Central Files on the 1960s are offered in three modules, organized by geographic region of the world: Europe and Latin America; Africa and the Middle East; and Asia.

Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Europe and Latin America

Countries covered in the Europe and Latin America module are: Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany); Germany (focusing on Berlin); Soviet Union; Cuba; Mexico; Panama; and Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Africa and Middle East

The countries covered in this module are: Biafra/Nigeria; Congo; Egypt; Ghana; South Africa; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Lebanon; Palestine; Saudi Arabia; and the Persian Gulf States (Aden, Bahrein, Kuwait, Muscat & Oman, Qatar, Trucial Sheiks); Yemen.

Vietnam War and American Foreign Policy, 1960-1975

This module features the records of the Associated Press’s Saigon Bureau. Over 40 years ago, as Saigon was falling to the communists and the U.S. was evacuating Vietnam, Peter Arnett saved the records of the AP’s Saigon Bureau and brought them back to the United States. Until ProQuest scanned them and digitized them in History Vault, they were never before available to the public.

Other key collections in this module include records of the Military Assistance and Advisory Command, Vietnam (MACV); General William Westmoreland Papers, and National Security Files from the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford administrations.
Workers and Labor Unions

Labor Unions in the U.S., 1862-1974: Knights of Labor, AFL, CIO, and AFL-CIO

Unique, important documentation on the growth and transformation of four major labor organizations takes history, business and other research topics in exciting new directions.

• In the 19th century, the Knights of Labor was the first national labor force to recruit women and African Americans as a matter of policy, to organize throughout the country, and to attempt to unify industrial and agrarian workers. This module presents the papers of executives Terence V. Powderly and John W. Hayes, which span the life of this powerful organization.

• In 1886, the founding convention of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) elected five men to lead an organization of fewer than 200,000 members. AFL records illuminate years of strikes and boycotts, competition with rival organizations, political developments, antitrust laws, pensions, and the direct election of U.S. senators; plus internal AFL matters such as membership, relations with international and local unions, and state labor federations.

• The CIO was at the center of labor activism from 1935 to 1955 – years characterized by mass organizing, nationwide strikes, and bitter ideological and political conflict. The records in this module consist of Minutes of the Executive Board of the CIO and the papers of Adolph Germer, a longtime member of the United Mine Workers and a leader in the formation of the CIO. Records that document the AFL-CIO in this module consist of State Labor Proceedings for 1885-1974 with the 1955-1974 portion of the records pertaining to the AFL-CIO.

Workers, Labor Unions, and the American Left in the 20th Century: Federal Records

Key collections emphasize the interaction between workers and the federal government. The Wilson Administration Files consist of Papers of the National War Labor Board, Papers of the President’s Mediation Commission, and Records of the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations. Government surveillance files consist of U.S. Military Intelligence Reports on radicals and Department of Justice investigations of the Industrial Workers of the World, the Communist Party and the use of military force by the federal government in domestic disturbances. Other collections cover unemployment relief, farm tenancy, labor strife during World War II, and records on migratory labor in the 1950s and 1960s.