Resources For Women’s Studies
ProQuest® History Vault archival and manuscript content – the vast majority of which is available online exclusively from ProQuest – is sourced from major institutions. A significant concentration of the primary source records documents the lives and activism of American women in the 19th and 20th centuries. Slavery petitions and Southern plantation records shed light on the experiences of women in the American South in the 1800s, while collections like the NAACP Papers, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs Records and Women's Studies Manuscript Collections from the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College document political activity and the struggle for women's rights at the voting booth, in the workplace and in education.

**ProQuest History Vault**

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

Three women's rights organizations – the National Woman's Party (NWP), the League of Women Voters, and the Women's Action Alliance – are represented in this module.

Originally a committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the NWP was founded in 1913 when Alice Paul and her colleagues broke away from NAWSA in dissent over strategy and tactics. The rift proved permanent: The NWP’s confrontational tactics against the Wilson administration and provocative picketing and marches clashed with NAWSA’s more conservative approach to reform.

The National Woman's Party papers document the militant aspect of the U.S. suffrage movement from 1913–1920, as well as activities from 1921–1971 as the NWP sought to secure equal rights for women in employment, eligibility for jury service and appointments to federal executive positions.

The League of Women Voters collection reproduces organization records from 1920 through 1974 as well as the National Office Subject Files from 1920–1932. The minutes of the board of directors and the records of LWV conventions and general councils depict the history of the league's struggle to gain respectability during the 1920s; its response to the Great Depression at home and the rise of fascism abroad in the 1930s; its perspective on World War II in the early 1940s; its own organizational restructuring at the 1944 convention; and its reactions to the civil rights and women's movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

Rounding out this module are the papers of the Women's Action Alliance – a group founded in 1971 by such leaders as Gloria Steinem, Brenda Feigen and Catherine Samuels to coordinate resources for organizations and individuals involved in the women's movement on the grassroots level. The most successful initiatives include the Information and Reference Service, the Non-Sexist Childhood Development Project and the National Women's Agenda and Women's Centers Projects.
Women's Studies Manuscript Collections from the Schlesinger Library: Voting Rights, National Politics, and Reproductive Rights

These collections from the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College consist of three series: voting rights, national politics and reproductive rights.

- The series on voting rights spotlights national leaders and covers the decades between 1880 and 1920 when the suffrage movement unified diverse groups of activist women.
- The series on national politics is divided in two parts, Democrats and Republicans, from the early 1920s through the 1960s.
- The series on reproductive rights is sourced from the Schlesinger Library Family Planning Oral History Project, and the papers of Mary Ware Dennett and the Voluntary Parenthood League. The Schlesinger Library interviews focus on the politics and ethics of reproduction, marriage counseling, and maternal and infant health and welfare. The other portion of the reproductive rights materials includes the Papers of Mary Ware Dennett and the Voluntary Parenthood League. Dennett’s rich personal correspondence reveals a fascinating intellectual and political odyssey.

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

In this collection, two major sets of records trace the lives of American women during World War II: Records of the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, and Correspondence of the Director of the Women’s Army Corps.

Records of the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor chronicle the changing status of women workers through two world wars, the economic upheaval of the Great Depression, and periods of postwar readjustment.

The records consist of two major series. The first documents the role of the Women’s Bureau as an investigative agency, as a clearinghouse for proposed changes in working conditions, and as a source of public information and education. The second is a detailed study on the treatment of women by unions in Midwestern industrial centers, with background interviews and other research materials; community studies conducted nationwide on the influx of women to industrial centers during the war; and subject files and correspondence on women’s work in war industries, including issues like equal pay and child care.

Correspondence of the Director of the Women’s Army Corps, 1942–1946 documents the women who served in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) during World War II. The collection consists of the correspondence of Oveta Culp Hobby, WAC director from 1942 -1945, as well of her successor Westray Battle Boyce, who led the WAC from 1945 through the remainder of the collection’s coverage in 1946.

Every topic of importance is covered in the correspondence, with an emphasis on issues such as recruiting, public support for the WAC, personnel matters like discipline and conduct, and race.
Southern Life and Slavery

ProQuest History Vault
Southern Life and African American History, Plantations Records, Part 1

The collections in Part 1 detailing women's experiences on Southern plantations come from the holdings of the Louisiana State University Libraries and the Maryland Historical Society. Many collections are particularly noteworthy:

• David Weeks and Family Collections documents the lives of Rachel O’Connor, Mary Weeks Moore and Harriet Weeks Meade, with a focus on their role in plantation management.
• Miss Sidney Harding’s Diary covers the difficulties of life in Civil War Louisiana.
• Ms. Mary Williams Pugh’s correspondence covers health conditions, travel and social affairs.
• Josephine Nicholls Pugh Civil War Account describes Pugh’s experiences in Assumption Parish, Louisiana.
• Rosella Kenner Brent’s Papers contain her writings about the Civil War.
• Daniel Trotter Papers document the life of Daniel and his wife, Rose, who saved enough money to purchase their own plot of land after the Civil War. The Trotter Papers indicate that Rose, by running a cosmetics and personal care business, as well as working as domestic and by taking in sewing, made an invaluable contribution to the Trotter’s finances.
• Susanna Warfield’s Diaries and Martha Foreman Diaries, both from the Maryland Historical Society, record their activities on their plantations in Maryland.

ProQuest History Vault
Southern Life and African American History, Plantations Records, Part 2

Many collections in Part 2, sourced from the holdings of the University of Virginia and Duke University, reveal women’s lives on Southern plantations from 1775 to 1915.

• Sigismunda S. Kimball Journal focuses on Kimball’s Civil War experiences in the Shenandoah Valley and includes information on slavery.
• Martha Tabb Dyer Diaries, 1823-1839, chronicles her family’s migration from Albemarle County, Virginia, to Calloway County, Missouri.
• Elizabeth Edmonia Cooke Diary, 1855-1858, is the diary kept by the widow of Thomas Nelson Berkeley, at “Dewberry” on the edge of Tidewater Virginia.
• Diary of Louisa H. A. Minor, 1855-1866, of Albemarle County, Virginia, reveals her personal feelings as well as routine and extraordinary events in the lives of herself, her family, and friends.
• Cocke Family Papers, 1725–1939, Surry and Fluvanna Counties, Virginia, include diaries of John Hartwell Cocke’s second wife, Louisa Maxwell Holmes. These diaries reveal intellectual and literary pursuits, interaction with slaves, and details of daily life. Correspondence from Louisa Maxwell Holmes Cocke is also scattered throughout the collection.
• Ann Madison Boyer Smyth Letter, 1837, consists of a letter from Smyth to Sarah Buchanan (Campbell) Preston (1778–1846), Abingdon, Virginia with mentions of slavery, debt and family life.
• Clement Claiborne Clay Papers, 1811-1865, Huntsville, Alabama include the correspondence of Clement Comer Clay’s eldest son, Clement Claiborne Clay, with his wife, Virginia Tunstall Clay. Letters to Virginia Clay are rich in social matters, women’s concerns, and reactions to issues presented by her male correspondents. The letters chronicle Clay’s imprisonment, including letters to his wife and letters from Virginia Clay to Andrew Johnson attempting to secure her husband’s release. Virginia Clay’s correspondence from the early 1870s documents the efforts of Clay women to work their land and develop new modes of labor relations.

“These modules of History Vault are extraordinary, necessary historical resources. Highly recommended for libraries serving serious scholars of Southern, African American and women’s history.”

—Cheryl LaGuardia, Library Journal
ProQuest History Vault

Slavery and the Law

With 700 divorce petitions in the Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks collections, the Slavery and the Law module is an excellent source for women's studies research. Loren Schweninger of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro spent four years traveling to 10 states and Washington, D.C to collect petitions related to slavery and free blacks. Prof. Schweninger also collected all petitions written by slaveholding white women seeking divorce or alimony. These petitions are remarkable for their candor and provide unique information about the personal lives of women from 1775-1867.

ProQuest History Vault

The NAACP Papers

The NAACP Papers is an outstanding collection of historic content, sourced directly from what is arguably the most significant civil rights organization of the 20th century. For students, an important fact about the NAACP is that many of its important leaders, both at the national and local level were women – and History Vault offers fascinating documents by or about them.

ProQuest History Vault

The Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century, Organizational Records and Personal Papers

This module contains two outstanding collections:

- The Mary McLeod Bethune Papers document Bethune’s remarkable life, especially her career as an educator and founder of Bethune-Cookman College, her friendship with Walter White of the NAACP and Eleanor Roosevelt, and her role in FDR’s so-called “Black Cabinet” (Federal Council on Negro Affairs). The collection includes autobiographical content, speeches and correspondence.

- The records of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, the oldest African American women’s organization in the United States, features minutes from the organization’s conventions from 1897-1992. The records of the NACWC include documents on the organization’s state and local affiliates, publication of the national office, and materials on leaders.

“History Vault is an absolute first-rate research tool, the single best online resource in 20th century and African American history I have ever encountered.”

– Eric Arnesen, Professor History at George Washington University
Women’s Magazine Collections

The Harper’s Bazaar Archive
America’s first fashion magazine
Including every page of the U.S. edition of Harper’s Bazaar from 1867 to the present, ProQuest’s Harper’s Bazaar Archive puts 150 years’ worth of material into the hands of the researcher. Digitally available in its entirety for the first time, this corpora of primary source material unlocks decades of popular culture, design, fashion and art. Supporting studies of brand identity, body image, gender studies, advertising, social mores, marketing to women and more, this highly visual and searchable resource creates new opportunities for research and discovery.

The Vogue Archive
Entire run digitized from 1892 to present day
The Vogue Archive includes the fully indexed, complete run of U.S. Vogue, from 1892 to the present. This full-color collection of more than 400,000 searchable pages is a rich lens into American and international popular culture, facilitating academic research in fields such as women’s studies, fashion, marketing, advertising, material culture and design.

Vogue Italia
One of the most influential international editions
Renowned for its innovative, often controversial initiatives, Vogue Italia has an appeal that spans the world, with almost half of its issues typically being sold outside of Italy. Few libraries outside the country of a given edition have maintained substantial print holding of such publications. These digitized pages include every issue from its launch in 1964-present, and are easily accessible, fully indexed and searchable, as well as preserved for perpetuity.

The Women’s Magazine Archive Collection 1
Late 19th and 20th century leading periodicals
The backfiles of leading women's consumer magazines like Ladies’ Home Journal and Good Housekeeping let researchers uncover aspects of history, culture and society, relating to — for example — gender/family roles, social history, health, history of economics/consumerism and fashion. This database offers every page, from the publications’ first issue through to the early 21st century, in high-resolution color with fully searchable text.

The Women’s Magazine Archive Collection 2
This new module adds additional titles to the archive including Cosmopolitan 1886-2005, which started out as a family magazine and evolved into an esteemed literary journal. It went on to become a targeted women’s magazine in the 1960s, renowned for its bold coverage of sexuality and relationships. Essence, Seventeen and Women’s International Network News are also in this collection.

Women’s Wear Daily Archive
An inside view of the fashion industry
Previously unavailable in digital form, the entire archive of this definitive fashion and retail publication is an authoritative record of a developing industry. Delivering valuable primary source material for students of fashion, business and history, Women’s Wear Daily Archive contains the full run of past print issues and supplements, and is updated biannually with more recent issues. Users can explore every page since 1910, including advertisements, in high resolution and full color with searchable text.
Historical Periodicals and Ephemera

The Gerritsen Collection of Aletta H. Jacobs

An award-winning archive

This vast, cross-cultural resource spans continents and centuries to trace the evolution of feminism. Monographs and pamphlets representing about 75 percent of the content includes rare works from the early 17th century and pivotal publications from the 19th and 20th centuries, originating from the English-speaking world, Germany, France, Spain and many other countries. Some 264 periodical titles, ranging from 1815 to 1977, are collected from around the world.

Queen Victoria’s Journals

A monarch’s surprising insights

Thanks to a partnership between ProQuest, the Bodleian Libraries and the Royal Archives, 141 volumes of Queen Victoria’s personal diaries are available to search and explore in their entirety. Every page of every journal is presented as a high-resolution, full-color digital image, with detailed transcriptions of each handwritten entry.

British Periodicals

Copious material on women’s issues

From its origins in the 17th century through to the “age of periodicals” and beyond, the material in this collection offers insights into Britain’s political, economic, and social influence on the wider world. In addition to providing access to landmark texts by major female authors, British Periodicals offers exciting new ways to explore the inaccessible, neglected, or forgotten writings that formed their original contexts.

John Johnson Collection

Views of women via ephemera

This digital archive broadens access to rare materials documenting life 18th- 19th- and early 20th- century Britain. Each item is presented as a full-color, high-resolution facsimile, indexed by specialists at the Bodleian Library. Researchers of history will find fascinating advertisements, which present a view of the role of women and how it changes over time.

American Periodicals Series Online™

Experiences of women over two centuries

Researchers can chronicle America’s development through historic titles like Benjamin Franklin’s General Magazine and America’s first scientific journal, Medical Repository, popular magazines such as Vanity Fair and Life, and groundbreaking publications like The Dial, Puck and McClure’s.
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