Using the BU Libraries Search: www.bu.edu/library

The BU Libraries Search provides a single search across our print and online collections.

Some tips:
Try various keywords—this search is based on keyword searching.
Don’t be surprised if you retrieve 1,000’s of results.
Rely on the left-hand menu to refine your results; by resource, creator, subject, date, etc....

Stop by the African Studies Library...

Our library is much more than just the content on our website...

We have special collections, including:

- “JDocs” & African Docs Collections ~ collections of African government documents (note: JDocs are not online—accessible in the library via card catalog)
- Rare Books Collection ~ old & rare books dating back to the 1800’s.
- African Newspapers in print and on microfilm.
- Approx. 1,500 maps on Africa.
- Pamphlet collection containing 1,300 newsletters, brochures, reports, etc.

We are here at the library to help you!!

The African Studies Library is located on the 6th floor of Mugar Memorial Library and accessible by the North elevator (closest to the circulation desk).

Call, make an appointment, or stop by!

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9AM—5PM
Email: Beth Restrick, brestric@bu.edu
Tel. 617-353-3726
As you begin your research...

* African resources can be rare & difficult to locate.
* Resources may exist, but in other languages, such as French, Portuguese, Swahili, Arabic...
* Information may be biased depending on who the author/publisher is.

Here are some helpful hints...

* Research something you are genuinely interested in!
* It helps to start broadly. Consult general reference books on Africa to learn about the country and/or ethnic group you research. (Each African country has a unique history which continues to impact it today. Understanding the larger context will help as you narrow your research topic.)
* As you narrow your topic, identify keywords that will help you in your research, such as names, events, African terms.
* Keep in mind there may be variations in keywords. For example: The Fula, Fulani, Fulbe, Peul, and Pullo are all terms used to refer to the same ethnic group in West Africa. The people call themselves Fula. Their Hausa neighbors call them Fulani. The Fula people were colonized by both the French and the English, leading to orthographic variations such as Peul. And just to make things interesting, there are subgroups of the Fula, such as Bororo or Wodaabe which are also used as subject headings.
* When you find a good resource, be sure to note the author (did they write other works on this topic?) and consult the works cited and/or bibliography to see who they relied on for their research.

Some Reference Works:


Recipe Books:


Music:

Youtube can be a great source for African music, some channels (most link to corresponding websites):


Locating Helpful Resources Online:

* All Africa News: www.allafrica.com
  Regional and country headlines, articles and videos.
* Ethnologue: http://www.ethnologue.com/
  A very useful online encyclopedia cataloging approximately 7,000 known living languages worldwide.
  Guides to selected internet sites about Africa on a variety of topics.
* AfricaFocus: Sights and Sounds of a Continent http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/AfricaFocus/
  This collection “contains more than 3000 slides, 500 photographs, and 50 hours of sounds from forty-five different countries.”
  Indexes 33,000+ articles from over 280 English language and multi-lingual journals and periodicals that specialize in African Studies or consistently cover the African continent.
* Internet Archive http://www.archive.org/
  Using the top search box will search text, audio and film. Many older books and ethnographies can be found digitized in this collection.
* Visit our library’s Guides & Tutorials page: http://www.bu.edu/library/african-studies/research/guides/
* African News Resources (print & online) http://www.bu.edu/library/guide/africanprimaryarchives/newsresources/
* Guide to the BU African Maps Collection & Online Map Resources http://www.bu.edu/library/african-studies/research/maps/