

Title:

1930 Census Records
African-American Reference Collection

Publisher:

National Archives and Records Administration
Heritage Quest

If part of a collection is being requested, which specific parts are needed?

1930 Census Records – Ohio only
African-American Reference Collection – complete collection

Projected cost:

1930 Census Records - \$4,930
African-American Reference Collection - \$588.10
Total: \$5,518.10

Source of pricing information and vendor contact person:

1930 Census Records	National Archives Trust Fund
	P.O. Box 100793
	Atlanta, GA 30384-0793
	1-800-234-8861

African-American
Reference Collection

Heritage Quest
<http://www.hertiagequest.com>
1-800760-2455

How much funding for this purchase will your academic unit provide from its library allocation fund?

The Department of History is willing to contribute \$1,000 of its library allocation fund for the purchase.

For multimedia purchase:

What are licensing and system requirements?

The African-American Reference Collection includes two CD-ROM indexes:

Freedman's Index – Windows 95/98 NT, Pentium 100+, 16MB RAM, 4x CD-Rom

1870 Census Index – Windows 95/98 NT/2000, Pentium 100+, 16MB RAM, 4x CD-ROM

There are no licensing restrictions for in-house users, so these indexes could be simultaneously used on the library's CD-ROM network.

Please describe intended use:
The CD-ROM indexes will be placed on the library's CD-ROM network.

Purchase Rationale

These collections offer primary source support for various research interests at Kent State University. Since both collections offer key insight into American life at key moments in its history, they will be especially essential to professional, graduate, and undergraduate research in both the Department of History and the Department of Pan-African Studies.

The 1930 Census Records capture the United States at the very beginning of a tumultuous decade, as the Census was taken just months after the stock market collapse of 1929. By purchasing those records for all of Ohio, Kent State will offer researchers on campus and in the greater community an opportunity to better understand the early impact of the troubling economy of the 1930s on Ohioans. The 1930 Census also provides a more complete view of another major historical phenomenon, the second great wave of European immigration between 1880 and the 1920s, a movement of people and ideas that greatly reshaped the state. As a result, these records will especially help to facilitate research in local and regional history as well as research on the history of Ohio. The state's Bicentennial has sparked renewed interest in local, regional, and state history, and the Kent State Main Library serves well area historical societies and their members. Students in the *History of Ohio* (HIST 31061) will benefit from this purchase. The Department of History is also in the process of requiring for it majors *The Historian's Craft*, a course dedicated to theory and methodology, with much hands-on application of the skills historians employ. The examination of Census records is often an option in such a course. Beyond the obvious local interest, Ohio is also a key state to purchase for national research. Demographers' analyses of Census records have noted that due to its cultural, geographic, and socioeconomic diversity, Ohio is particularly representative of the nation. The *1930 Census Records for Ohio*, therefore, provide a good opportunity for case study work for students in *Recent America: The United States, 1929-Present* (HIST 41068), as well as for the following graduate courses: *Public History* (HIST 51000/71000), *American Economic History* (HIST 51047/71074), *History of the Immigrant in America* (HIST 51079/71079), *Methods of Historical Research* (HIST 61001/81001), and *Seminar in Recent American History* (HIST 61069/81069). Students and faculty in the Department of Pan-African Studies will benefit from this collection as well. It will serve as a new resource for selected courses such as *Black Experience II: 1865 to Present* (PAS 23002) and *The African American Community* (PAS 23171).

The African-American Reference Collection comprises records of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company from 1865-1874 and offers the earliest glimpse into African-American slaves' transition to freedom. These records are some of the first documents of that transition and will prove useful in various research endeavors as part of coursework and faculty research projects. Within the Department of History, students in the *African American History* (HIST 31078) will find these records of special interest. The Department of Pan-African Studies will be well supported by the addition of this

collection as well. Again, the *Black Experience II: 1865 to Present* (PAS 23002) and *The African American Community* (PAS 23171) courses would be able to take good advantage of these resources.

Although graduate work and faculty research in the Department of History and faculty research in the Department of Pan-African Studies will benefit from these collections, graduate students and members of the faculty in disciplines such as Sociology and Political Science should benefit as well. For example, the Census itself is a rich resource for study in those disciplines. Changes in the questionnaire as well as the procedures for taking the Census offer insight into the sociological and political climate of the nation at any given time.

These collections also complement existing primary source, genealogical, and Africa-American material in Kent State's collection. The 1930 Census Records supplement the library's holdings for the Census Records. With only a few exceptions, this collection includes records for Ohio from 1820 to 1920 and this continues the development of the Census Record collection.

The African-American Reference Collection will not only add primary source material to this collection, the included CD-ROM indexes will enhance the value of Kent State's holdings for the 1870 Census records. The 1870 Census was the first to include freed slaves as citizens, and as a result, over one million African-American households and over four million former slaves are visible in the public record for the first time. Since Kent State's collection includes all of Ohio for the 1870 Census, this index as well as the primary source records of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company Records will offer access to the earliest documentation of the African-American experience after the emancipation. This collection continues the collection development efforts of the Department of History and Libraries and Media Services. Over the years, Kent State built a significant collection of primary resource material related to the study of African-American history and culture. Full runs of *The Liberator*, *Genius of Universal Emancipation* and *The Abolitionist* are but a few among many resources that have supported multidisciplinary work at Kent State over the years.

Finally, these collections will support new research initiatives as the Department of History has worked to reinforce the University's focus on diversity over the last decade. In addition to new course offerings and areas of study, two new faculty positions in the Department of History focus on African-American history and culture. These collections will support not only the Department's focus on diversity in general, but the work of these new members of the Kent State community as well.