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  
Gabe Adugna, ga35@bu.edu  
Rachel Dwyer, rdwyer@bu.edu  
**Tel.** 617-353-3726

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Using the BU Libraries Search:  
[www.bu.edu/library](http://www.bu.edu/library)

The new catalog provides a one-search across our print and online collections.

**Some tips:**

Use your Kerberos log in to access your e-shelf and save journal articles and book titles:

Try various **keywords**—this search is based on keyword searching.

Don’t be surprised if you retrieve 1,000’s of results. “Refine your search” (left-hand menu) allows you to narrow your results; by resource, creator, subject, date, etc....

You can organize them in folders and even export them to **Refworks** to generate bibliographies:

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**African Studies Library**  
6th floor, Mugar Memorial Library  
771 Commonwealth Ave.  
Boston, MA 02215  
Tel. 617-353-3726  

[http://library.bu.edu/hi351](http://library.bu.edu/hi351)
As you begin your research...

Keep in mind that:
*Resources are often rare or difficult to locate.
*Useful resources may be located throughout the BU Libraries & not just in the African Studies Library. Other libraries may include Mugar (lower levels), Pardee Management Library, Theology Library, etc.
*Resources may exist, but in other languages, such as French, Portuguese, Swahili, Arabic, etc.
*Information may be biased depending on who the author/publisher is.

Research tips as you decide on a topic.

* Be specific if you can. For example, searching just Masai yielded 16,000+ results. Masai ecotourism yielded 190 results.

* Use variations in spellings, names & keywords.
CITIES and COUNTRIES are a good example:
"Delagoa Bay” → "Lourenço Marques” → Maputo
Tanganyika → Tanzania
Use synonyms: "trypanosomiasis" or "nagana" or "sleeping sickness"

* Search acronyms and full spellings (you could get different results!) For example:
  ART vs. “Anti-retroviral therapy”
  UN vs. “United Nations”
Use “quotation marks” when you search a phrase.
Use all variations in your BU Libraries Search!!

* Look for associated terms or events around your topic and trying using them as keywords.

* African Pamphlet Collection
The pamphlet collection is not in the online catalog, so be sure to stop by the library and browse through the boxes. Known as "gray literature", this fascinating collection contains tourist guides, magazines, brochures, maps, newsletters, etc.

* Map Collection: Maps can be revealing in what they do—or don’t show. They also illustrate growth & development.

* Newspapers serve as a valuable record of events and social issues of a country or a city. Photographs both in articles and advertisements can be very useful in this. For a listing of online newspapers, as well as the print and microfilm titles and coverage we have available, visit: http://library.bu.edu/africannewspapers

Newspaper Databases:
* African Newspapers 1800 - 1922

* Current news online: Library Press Display

As you begin using the BU Libraries Search, here are some helpful hints:
* Log in to the catalog with your Kerberos password.
Logging in will enable you to access materials from the start. You can also select and save citations to your "e-shelf". The e-shelf allows you to work with several items at a time, printing them, emailing them, or sending them to RefWorks. Logged in, you can save items permanently and organize them in folders.

* Keep in mind that not ALL of our 45,000+ ejournals are indexed at the article level in the BU Libraries Search. Research and subject guides  on the website list relevant databases and journals. You can also search / browse A-Z listings of both the databases and ejournal titles.

* Can’t find a book you are looking for and think we should have?
BU WorldCat Local (http://bu.worldcat.org/) will allow you to search for books and other items held by other libraries, both nearby and across the country. You can then request the books using the ILLIAD Request form: http://www.bu.edu/library/services/ill/
Note: Use Worldcat.org as an alternative to find resources.
You can recommend that we purchase a title, (link provided on the top library page).

* For more tips on searching BU Libraries Search, visit: http://www.bu.edu/library/help/bu-libraries-search/power-searching/

Locating Resources Online:

Africa South of the Sahara: Guide to Internet Resources
https://library.stanford.edu/africa-south-sahara
Guides to selected internet sites about Africa on a wide range of topics, including the Environment

Take advantage of images and video. The internet is a rich repository of resources...

Internet Archive www.archive.org
Provides access to many old travel accounts and memoirs, available as e-books. Film, audio, images are also available.
(Note: Many of the titles in our Rare Books Collection have been digitized and are available on this site.)

Look for information in seemingly unlikely places...
Increasingly archives are using sites like Flickr.com to display digital photo collections, or even YouTube for film.

Some YouTube channels with archival footage, film clips, etc. include: HuntleyFilmArchives
TravelFilmArchive

Evaluating Websites:
Perhaps you are looking at bushmeat trade. Many NGO's may have information about it.
For example: www.bushmeat.org/ or http://www.ida-africa.org/bushmeat_7.html
(Do keep in mind who created it & why)

News articles can provide insight, but can also be biased.

Searching for peer reviewed journal articles about these can provide a more balanced view.

Example:
"Species protection, the changing informal economy, and the politics of access to the bushmeat trade in the Democratic Republic of Congo". de Merode, E ; Cowlishaw, G.