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

BU Library Search provides a one-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 **facets** (right-hand menu) to narrow your results, by resource, creator, subject, date, etc.

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

- **“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  
Tel. 617-353-3726

**Email:**  
Beth Restrick, brestric@bu.edu  
Head, African Studies Library

Gabe Adugna, ga35@bu.edu  
Africana Librarian

Rachel Dwyer, rdwyer@bu.edu  
Assistant Head, African Studies Library

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

http://www.bu.edu/library/asl
Researching Africa can be a real challenge....

* Resources are often rare or 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 as you begin your research....

* 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.

Here are some useful resources to help you begin....

**Print Resources:**


Use the BU Library Search to access these journals:

- Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art
- African Arts
- Africa Report
- African Journal of Information & Communication Technology
- African Music
- JALA (African Literature Association) African Literature Association
- Research in African literatures
- New contrast [SA Literary Journal]
- Matatu (ejournal on African literatures & societies)
- English in Africa.

**Online Resources:**

“Entertainment News” www.allafrica.com/arts

Web portal dedicated to the African music sector: http://musicinafrica.net/

Stanford: Guide to Africa Literature resources online: https://library.stanford.edu/africa-south-sahara/browse-topic/literature

Stanford: Guide to African Film resources online: https://library.stanford.edu/africa-south-sahara/browse-topic/film


H-Net Africa (includes reviews, discussions, etc.): http://www.h-net.org/~africa/

**African News Resources**

2010-2012 print newspapers in our collection:

- Ethiopian Herald
- Ghanaian Times
- Daily Nation (Kenya)
- New Vision (Uganda)
- Standard (Kenya)
- The Herald (Zimbabwe)

* Older African newspapers on microfilm: www.bu.edu/library/asl/currentevents/microfilm.html

* Search “Press Display” in the BU Library catalog for current newspapers (39 African newspapers).

* Online African newspapers are listed here: www.bu.edu/library/asl/currentevents/onlinenewspapers.htm


Topics include: breaking news, continent-wide news and news by country.

* More online sources:
  - www.allafrica.com
  - www.africanews.com
  - www.newsfromafrica.org


* Blogs can be useful for beginning research: http://africanliteraturenews.blogspot.com/
  - http://woyingi.wordpress.com/african-literature/

* YouTube can be a good resource for current African music, film, TV shows, news, TV ads, etc.*

Try browsing channels:
  - allAfricanGlobalmedia
  - VOA TV to Africa
  - Ubuntufilms
  - ScenariosAfrica (film shorts)
  - GHAfricaFilm (Ghanaian film)
  - Vaseni (South African music)
  - LiberiaMusicTv

* consider more than just the videos (eg. how many views, where are comments coming from, etc.)