Collaborating for Impact: Creating a Racial Justice Blog Series to Connect the Past to the Present

March 25, 2021
WHO ARE WE?

Maureen McGavin: Writer, Marketing & Communications, Emory Libraries, mmcgavi@emory.edu

Jina DuVernay: Collection Development Archivist for African American Collections, Stuart A. Rose Library, jduvern@emory.edu

Erica Bruchko: African American Studies and U.S. History Librarian, Woodruff Library, berica@emory.edu
As members of the Emory Libraries DEI Committee, we respectfully acknowledge that the territory our institution occupies is the true ancestral and unceded homelands of the Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Muscogee people. We wish to elevate the diverse histories and cultures of this region that have experienced erasure, violence, and oppression as a result of white supremacy.

We mourn the loss of life and liberty of the millions of enslaved people whose labor has contributed to the great wealth of this nation and this institution. We acknowledge the long-lasting impact on Black communities to this day and commit ourselves to the work of justice for our colleagues, friends, and fellow citizens.
Spring/ Summer of 2020: COVID pandemic and murders of Black Americans by police and vigilantes

Requests for resources at Emory about racial injustice and previous Black student demands

Dean Cooper's response: requested a cross-departmental collaboration for a special blog project

Cooper wanted the blog to serve as a resource that would equip students with a starting point for research related to social justice
- Jina and Erica: DEI members. Maureen: involved in organizing affinity & heritage month writers for the blogs

- Goal: To connect library resources to current events that especially impacted Black Americans (protests, voting rights, BLM public art)

- Meeting Schedule: Two weekly one-hour working meetings to brainstorm, research, and write
"This is the first in a series of blog posts that brings together Emory Libraries’ resources with the current struggle to foster social change and anti-racism. Over the course of the series, topics will include Black Student Activism at Emory, Protests and Movements, Voting Rights and Public Policy, and Artists and Authors as Activists. We hope the connections that you make between our collections and current events will lead to research, scholarship, engagement, and a new understanding."
Resources about the Black Panther Party

The Rose Library has the papers of two prominent women leaders in the Black Panther Party.


A Taste of Power: A Black Woman’s Story, by Elaine Brown

Kathleen Cleaver papers. Cleaver, who served as the Party’s communications secretary, later became an attorney with an interest in prison reform and a lecturer at Emory’s law school.

To watch documentaries such as the acclaimed “The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution,” visit the database Academic Video Online.

Books indexed with the subject Black Panther Party can be found here.

PROJECT
FEEDBACK
New blog post: "Black Students’ Activism at Emory: Past and Present." This is the first in a series of blog posts that brings together @EmoryLibraries resources with the current struggle to foster social change and anti-racism. scholarblogs.emory.edu/marbl/2020/08/...

#activism @EmoryUniversity

12:07 PM · Aug 18, 2020 · Twitter Web App

8 Retweets 4 Quote Tweets 17 Likes

Devon R. Goss @DevonRGoss · Aug 18, 2020
Replying to @EmoryRoseMARBL @EmoryLibraries and @EmoryUniversity

Oooohh! Going to use this in my Racial and Ethnic Relations course next semester
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Blog Traffic

Black Students' Activism at Emory: Past and Present - 115

Protests and Movements: From Anti-Lynching to Black Lives Matter - 209
Voting Rights: Vote Like Your Life Depends on It - 94

Art Imitates Life: Artists and Authors as Activists - 84
THINGS TO CONSIDER

- You can connect your resources to current events via physical exhibits, newsletters, podcasts, presentations etc.
- When collaborating, consider individuals' strengths and what they can contribute.
- Connecting resources to current events allows your library to be part of a broader conversation.
Emorylib.info/RacialJusticeBlogSeries

QUESTIONS?