

We grow smarter communities, one person at a time.

Black History Month is Here!

Renowned Black American poet Maya Angelou said, "I always felt, if I could get to a Library, I'll be OK." In February we celebrate Black History Month with diverse library events throughout Oklahoma County celebrating Black American heritage.

Black History Month programs will include informative dance performances on the history of Hip Hop dance from the R.A.C.E. Dance Collective, a documentary screening of *The Lady: The Making of the Charlie Christian Jazz Festival* with Harold Jones, a presentation on Black Towns in the U.S. and screenings of the PBS film series *The African Americans*.

The R.A.C.E. (Radical Application of Creative Energy) Dance Collective presents an engaging performance to celebrate the history of Hip-Hop dance.



Charlie Christian (center) at Ruby's Grill, Oklahoma City

The Lady: The Making of the Charlie Christian Jazz Festival

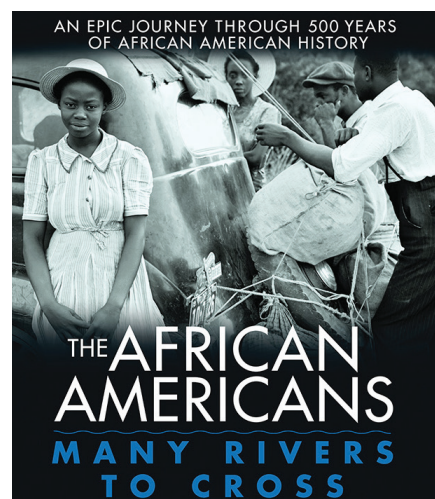
tells the story of the 2nd Street's Charlie Christian Jazz Festival with Harold Jones.

Christian is a musical legend who got his start

in Deep Deuce playing string bass, but later adopted the electric guitar. He forever changed the way electric guitar was used, making it a solo instrument.

Black Towns Coast to Coast takes attendees on a road trip through black towns in the United States with special stops in the historic all-black towns of Oklahoma. Learn about the music and events that shaped our nation from LA to Harlem.

The PBS Film Series: The African Americans explores the global experience that created the African American people. The series begins before the first slaves arrived in Jamestown and concludes with civil rights victories in the 1960s to political victories in the 2010s.



BHM History

Black History Month began as a day long celebration on Abraham Lincoln's birthday. It did not become the month long celebration that it is today until 1976. President Gerald Ford declared February Black History Month stating, "Seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Every president since had designated a theme for Black History Month. The 2020 theme announced by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is, "African Americans and the Vote." This year marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment, celebrating the culmination of the women's suffrage movement and the right of black men to the ballot following the Civil War.

Features To Know In World NewsDigest

Want to check out the [Mueller Report](#)? Or watch original footage of [Martin Luther King Jr. receiving the Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 1964? World News Digest gives you access to all that and more.

World News Digest (WND) is a chronicle of ongoing events beginning in 1940 when *Facts on File* (the original name, pre-Infobase) began. WND was a print resource for the first 70 years, but it has been around for nearly 80 years. This resource is a great way for students to begin research on current events for essays and other school assignments. It is also useful for anyone wanting to get a comprehensive overview of a topic to develop an opinion or simply as a tool to reflect on important historical events. Here are some of its best features.

Featured articles

The home page features a recent article with a link to related news articles for further research. There are also links to tabs with social media highlights, videos, editorial cartoons and infographics on the featured topic. The most recent events will have the more up-to-date content, whereas an event that has been going on for a while will have some older content as well as the most recent articles on the subject.

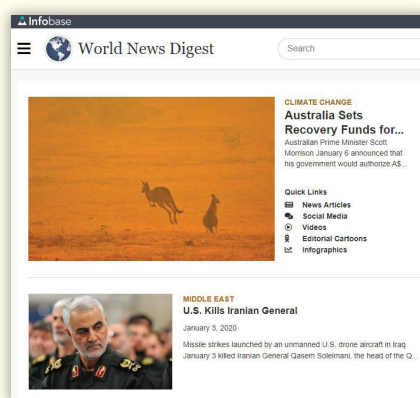
Landmark Events in History

Students usually read about history in textbooks from historians reflecting on the past, however this resource allows students to view primary sources and original news stories. Landmark Events may not have social media or videos, but they will have news stories from around the time that it was happening. However, there may also be a *Media* tab where some videos can be found.



Special Features

Infobase highlights a new topic in the *Special Feature* section on the home page every month or two. This is a great way to get a comprehensive overview of a current event. There



is currently an *Election Guide* posted under the special feature.

That Day in History

That Day in History is a fun feature on the home page where you can enter any date and it will tell you what happened on that day in history. It's a great way to

incorporate history into your daily learning.

Browsing

You can utilize the *Browse the News* feature on the menu and look at topics by country, by people or by topic. The featured topics on the browse pages will be the most recent events, people and topics in the news. For example if you go to *People in the News* the featured articles are Donald Trump, Nancy Pelosi, Boris Johnson and Mark Zuckerberg.

Curriculum Tools

In the main menu there is a feature titled, *Curriculum Tools* that has helpful teaching articles related to WND.

Featured Videos

On the home page under *Featured Resources* there is a videos link with engaging historical content. Some of the current featured videos include D-Day, the moon landing, Nixon's resignation and September 11, 2001.



BHM READS

Here are some upcoming anticipated reads for Black History Month and beyond.

FICTION

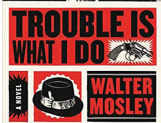
Black Panther 8: The Intergalactic Empire of Wakanda

by Ta-Nehisi Coates | Graphic Novel
Available Soon!

Has T'Challa learned what it means to be king just in time to lose his kingdom? Weeks ago, the Black Panther disappeared on a mission into deep space, leaving behind his country, his family and the woman he loves. Now, at last, find out what Wakanda Prime has done without its king.



Trouble is What I Do
by Walter Mosley | Mystery/Thriller
Available Soon!



From innovative bestselling novelist Walter Mosley comes the return of the beloved Leonid McGill detective series featuring a morally ambiguous P.I. who solves crimes and whose victims are society's most downtrodden. Phillip "Catfish" Worley is a 92-year-old Mississippi bluesman who needs Leonid's help with a simple task: deliver a letter.

It's Not all Downhill from Here

by Terry McMillan | Literary Fiction/Women's Fiction
Available Soon!

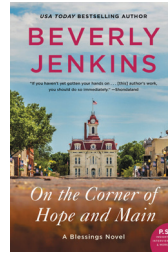
After a sudden change of plans, a remarkable woman and her loyal group of friends try to figure out what she's going to do with the rest of her life—from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* and *Waiting to Exhale*. When an unexpected loss turns her world upside down, Loretha will have to summon all her strength, resourcefulness, and determination to keep on thriving, pursue joy, heal old wounds, and chart new paths. With a little help from her friends, of course.



On the Corner of Hope and Main

by Beverly Jenkins | Romance
Available Soon!

NAACP nominee and USA Today bestselling author Beverly Jenkins celebrates her beloved Blessings series with a heartwarming novel set in Henry Adams, Kansas. Trent July

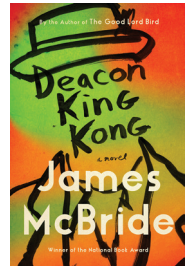


has been the mayor of this historic town for the past four years, but now he's ready to let someone else take up the mantle. As the residents of Henry Adams have learned, life will throw obstacles their way, but it's how they come together and rise above these challenges that keep the bonds of their close-knit community strong.

Deacon King Kong

by James McBride | Literary Fiction
Available Soon!

From James McBride, author of the National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*, comes a wise and witty novel about what happens to the witnesses of a shooting. In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .45 from his pocket, and in front of everybody shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range.



Conjure Women

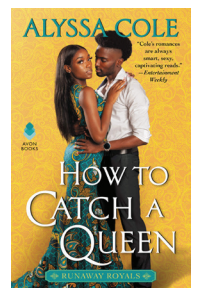
by Afia Atakora | Historical Fiction
Available Soon!

A mother and daughter with a shared talent for healing—and for the conjuring of curses—are at the heart of this dazzling first novel. *Conjure Women* is a sweeping story that brings the world of the South before and after the Civil War vividly to life. The haunting story of Rue, Varina, and May Belle, their passions and friendships and the lengths they will go to save themselves and those they love.

How to Catch a Queen

by Alyssa Cole | Romance
Available Soon!

When Shanti Mohapi weds the king of Njaza, her dream of becoming a queen finally comes true. But it's nothing like she imagined. Shanti and her husband may share an immediate and powerful attraction, but her subjects see her as an outsider, and everything she was taught about being the perfect wife goes disastrously wrong.



Party of Two

by Jasmine Guillory | Romance
Available Soon!

A chance meeting with a handsome stranger turns into an affair to remember as New York Times bestselling author Jasmine

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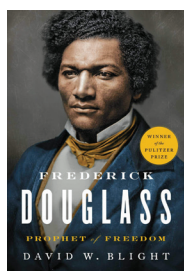
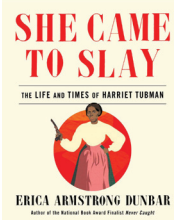
BHM READS *(Continued)*

Guillory brings together two people who should never have met but who are perfect together in this new contemporary romantic comedy.

NON-FICTION

She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman by Erica Armstrong Dunbar | *Biography*

In the bestselling tradition of *The Notorious RBG* comes a lively, informative, and illustrated tribute to one of the most exceptional women in American history, Harriet Tubman, a heroine whose fearlessness and activism still resonates today.

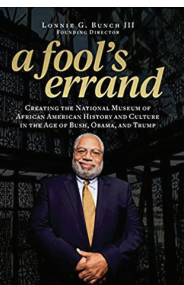
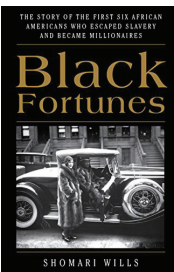


Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight | *Biography*

Winner of the Bancroft Prize, the Abraham Lincoln Prize, and the Frederick Douglass Prize, among others, Yale historian Blight has been studying Frederick Douglass for most of his life. In this title, the story of Frederick Douglass comes alive.

Black Fortunes: The Story of the First Six African Americans Who Escaped Slavery and Became Millionaires by Shomari Wills | *History*
Available Soon!

Immediately following Emancipation, there were 4,047 millionaires in the United States-and six of them were African American. Between 1830 and 1927, as the last generation of blacks born into slavery was reaching maturity, a small group of industrious, tenacious, and daring men and women broke new ground to attain the highest levels of financial success.



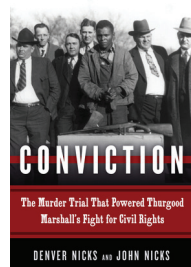
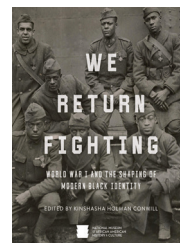
A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump by Lonnie G. Bunch | *History*
Available Soon!

Founding Director Lonnie Bunch's deeply personal tale of the triumphs and challenges of bringing the Smithsonian

National Museum of African American History and Culture to life. His story is by turns inspiring, funny, frustrating, quixotic, bittersweet, and above all, a compelling read.

We Return Fighting: World War I and the Shaping of Modern Black Identity Edited by Kinshasha Holman Conwill

A richly illustrated commemoration of African Americans' roles in World War I highlighting how the wartime experience reshaped their lives and their communities after they returned home. This stunning book presents artifacts, medals, and photographs alongside powerful essays that together highlight the efforts of African Americans during World War I.

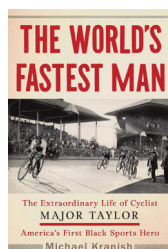
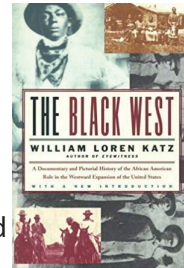


Conviction: The Murder Trial that Powered Thurgood Marshall's Fight for Civil Rights by Denver Nicks | *Available Soon!*

On New Year's Eve, 1939, a horrific triple murder occurred in rural Oklahoma. Within a matter of days, investigators identified the killers: convicts on work release who had been at a craps game with one of the victims the night before.

The Black West: A documentary and Pictorial History of the African American Role in the Westward Expansion of the United States by William Loren Katz | *History*

This entirely new edition of a famous classic has glorious new photographs-many never before seen-as well as revised and expanded text that deepens our understanding of the vital role played by African American men and women on America's early frontiers.

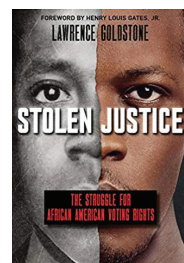


The World's Fastest Man: The Extraordinary Life of Cyclist Major Taylor, America's First Black Sports Hero by Michael Kranish | *Biography*

Michael Kranish writes about the remarkable Major Taylor, who became the world's fastest bicyclist at the height of the Jim Crow era.

Stolen Justice: The Struggle for African-American Voting Rights by Lawrence Goldstone | *History*
Available Soon!

A thrilling and incisive examination of the post-Reconstruction era struggle for and suppression of African American voting rights in the United States. Following the Civil War, the Reconstruction era raised a new question to those in power in the US: Should African Americans, so many of them former slaves, be granted the right to vote?



Summaries condensed from MLS library catalog.

HELLO!

Lyle Schwemley
DN Access Specialist I

Spencer Tracy
BI Access Specialist I

CONGRATULATIONS

Jenifer Bowman
ED Access Specialist I to DN Access Specialist II

Melannie Chavez
AL Access Specialist I to AL Youth Engagement Specialist II

Lynda Siavashpour
ED Access Specialist II to AL Adult Librarian I

Amy Thomas
ED Children's Librarian I to NW Youth Engagement Specialist II

GOODBYE

David "Cory" Davenport
2 months, BI Access Specialist I

Steve Li
4 months, VI Access Specialist I

Elizabeth Carroll
2 years, NW Access Specialist I

Kenneth "Blake" Coward
10 months, Technical Processing Specialist I

COMING UP

February 20
Commission Meeting at
Ralph Ellison Library

March 19
Commission Meeting at
Midwest City Library

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**Join us for the PLA 2020
Virtual Conference**



February 27 & 28, 2020

Join us for the PLA Virtual Conference in February at Bethany Library. We have partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to make this development opportunity possible.

Supervisor approval is required prior to attending. No pre-registration is required. Simply show up on the day of our session and sign-in to receive credit in Edubrite. Participating in professional development opportunities is noted in your performance development under the "professional development" competency.

Attend as many sessions as you want (with supervisor approval). View sessions [HERE](#).

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DIY Development

Chair Work: Yoga Fitness and Stretching at Your Desk 33(m) 11(s)

Find time for fitness. Learn simple yoga and stretching exercises you can do at your desk. The instructors at Desk Yogi have adapted traditional yoga poses into exercises that are suitable for the office. Follow along and learn basic stretches, bends, and exercises that help you improve your posture, strengthen your muscles and joints, increase blood flow, and keep you feeling strong and energetic throughout the day. This simple daily investment in your body—a program you can complete on your lunch break—will carry you through the work week and beyond.