

Africa Commons: History and Culture





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Indexing and access to 450,000 cultural artifacts, across 4,500 collections and 600 organizations.

Top content

We index and provide access to more than 300,000 digital cultural artifacts, carefully chosen from more than 2,100 collections around the world. Researchers and students can search and find high quality books, magazines, comics, photographs, maps, letters, diaries, and other content in seconds.

Preservation

Africa Commons links back to original sites, driving traffic back to the creators. With permission, we maintain copies of sites we index. If an item disappears, we're able to provide our copy.

Premium content

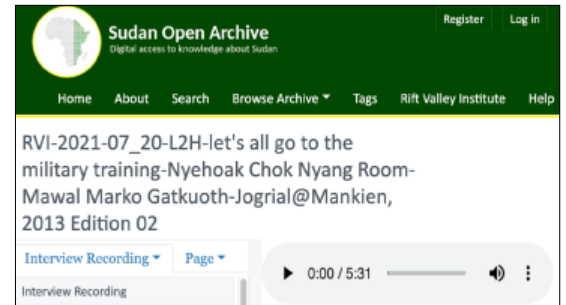
Ten percent of sales go towards funding new digitization from African institutions. We anticipate over 50,000 pages of rare materials to be digitized in this way.

Upload and share

Institutions can host their own content on *Africa Commons*. Registered members are able to upload content (if they hold copyright) and links (if they don't). It's a simple, low-cost way to provide broad access to historical and cultural materials.

Access options

Africa Commons: History and Culture, is freely accessible in Africa and for American HBCUs. It's funded by non-African institutions. For more information or to request a trial go to <https://coherentdigital.net/afco>. Register for immediate access at <https://africacommons.net>



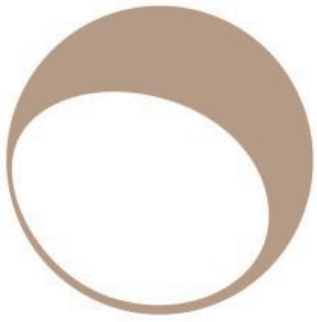
Let's all go to the military training, 2013
The Sudan Open Archive



Owodunni Women's Cooperative Society,
1997, The University of Wisconsin



OMM Poster, 1978
The Nordic Africa Institute



Black South African Magazines





Black South African Magazines

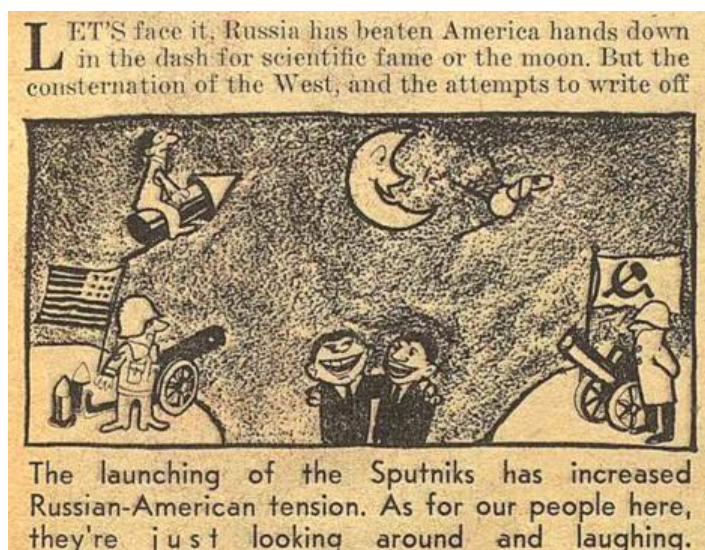


The first and only digital collection of magazines created for Black audiences in Africa from 1937-1973.

Black South African Magazines brings together over 50,000 pages of extremely rare, yet historically significant magazines, written and targeted specifically for Black African audiences. Developed in partnership with Sabinet, the materials have been sourced from African libraries. Despite their broad cultural and historical value, the magazines exist in just a few physical locations and have not been digitized before.

Much of the content was created by a new generation of Black journalists, writers and artists. The magazines were hugely popular, and were packed with investigative journalism, photography, fiction, reviews, biographies, fashion, lifestyle, advertisements, and more. Many of them were syndicated across the continent and contained content specifically developed for the African English-speaking world, so they provide a view of Black society across all of Africa.

Spanning four decades of turbulence and transformation,



Images from *Drum*, January 1958



the writings cover major historical events, such as the Defiance Campaign, and prominent figures like Winnie Mandela, Kwame Nkrumah, and Steve Biko.

A focal point of the collection, *Drum Magazine*, was once the most widely read magazine in Africa. Its journalists influenced political outcomes and are credited with changing the way Black South Africans were represented in society. The women's magazines escaped the scrutiny of the apartheid government at times when several others were shut down and their journalists jailed.

Researchers and students in history, political science, Africana studies, culture, gender, education, and media studies will discover materials that have almost never been seen outside Africa.

For more information or to request a trial go to

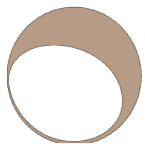
<https://coherentdigital.net/afco>



Southern African Films & Documentaries



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Southern African Films & Documentaries



Study and understand Africa through film

Southern African Films and Documentaries delivers hundreds of films that will engage students and enrich courses in African studies, film and cinema, history and world culture, race and ethnicity, and women's studies. Highlights include:

Propaganda films and newsreels allow students to experience historical events as they unfolded, such as what it was like to live under the apartheid system. This is the only source for many films from the South Africa's Information Service as well as African Mirror, the world's longest running commercial newsreel. The films and newsreels cover key events from 1919 forward, such as the Rand rebellion, WWII, mining industry efforts, the Soweto uprising, and the Rhodesian Bush War.

Exclusive interviews from the 1980s feature writers, journalists, and activists discussing firsthand accounts of censorship and apartheid. Major figures such as Winnie Mandela and Oliver Tambo provide personal narratives on the issues, people, and conflicts of their time.

Feature films include *African Jim* (1949), South Africa's first feature film, aimed primarily at a Black audience. It's a valuable historical record of a vibrant township culture that was soon to be destroyed by apartheid. *In Darkest Hollywood* (1993) examines the role of cinema in both supporting and attacking apartheid, and *Black Beulahs* (2006) explores Soweto's gay subculture.

Platform features

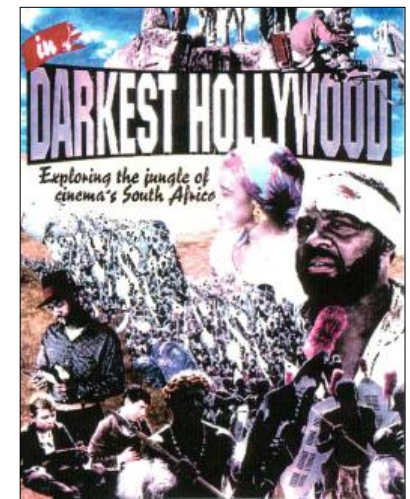
The films are delivered on the *Africa Commons* platform, transcribed and keyword searchable for the first time. Introductory essays provide context and make the films accessible for introductory courses.

Purchase options

Southern African Films and Documentaries is available as a one-time purchase or through annual subscription. For more information or to request a trial, go to <https://coherentdigital.net/affi>



Black Beulahs (2006)
Documentary



In Darkest Hollywood: Cinema and Apartheid (1993) Documentary



The Anatomy of Apartheid (1965)
Government propaganda film