This brochure is one in a series of pamphlets that collectively list and briefly describe more than 140 items in this evolving collection.

Donations from Robert C. Hayden inspired the collation of books celebrating African American arts, political activities, historical movements, and significant figures. Hayden was a senior Lecturer at U MASS Boston, Northeastern University, Boston College, and Lesley University, spanning from 1978 to 2006 and is President Emeritus of the local branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), established in 2002.

The collection does not contain fiction or autobiographical titles nor is it exhaustive of the library’s existing holdings related to this special collection.

The town of Oak Bluffs has a rich history as a time-honored black summer community, supporting African American arts & culture. Continuing to pique the interest of both historians and members of the general public, some materials within this collection describe local historic sites and tours, which juxtapose the contributions of and the injustices suffered by African Americans on the island dating back to the 1700s. The bulk of the collection allows for cultural connections between the island and Black America.
AFRICAN AMERICAN 031 NEW
The New York Public Library African American Desk Reference
The Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture
Large in scope, this covers knowledge and subjects relating to the African American experience within a historical context.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973.04 GATES
100 Amazing Facts about the Negro
Gates, Henry Louis Jr.
A compendium of question-and-answer format entries regarding historical curiosities intended to illuminate the sheer complexity and diversity of being “Negro” in the world.

AFRICAN AMERICAN REF 909.046 AFR
Africana Vol. 1-5
Gates, Henry Louis Jr. & Kwame Anthony Appiah
Inspired by the late African American scholar W.E.B. Du Bois’ dream of producing the first scholarly encyclopedia where the scope includes both African History and the African Diaspora.

AFRICAN AMERICAN REF 920.72 BLA
Black Women In America Volumes I & II
Hine, Darlene Clark
A seminal work in the underrepresented field of Black Women's Studies. It offers building blocks for further research.

AFRICAN AMERICAN REF 973 AFRICAN
The African American Almanac
Mabunda, Mpho L.
A unique and valuable resource devoted to illustrating and demystifying the moving, difficult, and often lost history of black life in America.

AFRICAN AMERICAN REF 973 AFRICAN 1993
The African American Encyclopedia Vol. 1-6
Williams, Michael W.
A broad scope of the African American experience throughout US history.

AFRICAN AMERICAN REF 973.04 AFR
African American National Biography Vol. 1-8
Gates, Henry Louis Jr. & Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
Spans over 400 years of history, beginning with the 1529 arrival of Esteban in Spanish Florida to contemporary entries. This biography presents a US history celebrating the influence of persons of African descent on the nation.

AFRICAN AMERICAN REF 973.04 COM 2017
The Complete Encyclopedia of African American History: 400 Years
Bracks, Lean'tin
Presents consequential events and people, covering milestones and challenges met by African Americans who have made considerable contributions to the fabric of American society, culture, politics, and science.