



Guide to selected sources on Africans and African Americans in the Immigration History Research Center Archives, the Social Welfare History Archives, and the YMCA Archives.

The following represents a sample of our available source material, and is not intended to be comprehensive. All sources presented here are available for public research, by appointment, in the Elmer L. Andersen Library Reading Room. To make an appointment or for more information, please visit the [Migration and Social Services Collections](#) website, or refer to the link after each collection description.

Archival Sources on Africa/Africans (primarily in or recently migrating from Africa)

[Refugee Studies Center records, circa 1970-1999.](#)

This Center was started by faculty members at the University of Minnesota who became interested in the experiences of Southeast Asian refugees. They established the Southeast Asian Refugee Studies (SARS) project in 1980, which was changed to Refugee Studies Center (RSC) in 1995. The records pertain to refugees from predominantly Southeast Asia, but also Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. Included are statistical reports, files documenting the individual ethnic groups' histories and cultures, newspaper clippings and information regarding other organizations nationally working with refugee groups.

Specifically, see: Series 5, Resource Files, Subseries 18, "Somali." And Series 5, Resource Files, Subseries 10, "East Africa." And Series 3, Refugee Organizations, "Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)." (This includes a report on Benadir Somali Community created by LIRS c. 1995, with brief descriptions of historical background, culture, effects of the Civil War, skills and recommendations for resettlement.) Other sources include: Series 3. "Refugee Organizations" and "Minnesota Refugee Consortium/ Minnesota Refugee and Immigrant Consortium" minutes, 1993-1999 (Somali resettlement information and rosters of participating organizations also included.) And see Series 7, "Articles."

Collection number: IHRC2968. [Immigration History Research Center Archives.](#)

[United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants records, 1958-2007.](#)

This Committee was initially named the US Committee for Refugees and aims to "address the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing fair and humane public policy, facilitating and providing direct professional services, and promoting the full participation of migrants in community life." Their organizational records in the Archives

include meeting minutes, correspondence, project materials, and resource files on refugee groups world-wide. They include files on various African locations and on Africans in refugee status elsewhere.

Collection number: IHRC2640. [Immigration History Research Center Archives](#).

Also, search our extensive book collection by using the search term “African” in the IHRC Archives’ book search portal, at <https://www.lib.umn.edu/ihrca>

Archival Sources on Africans and African Americans (primarily in the USA)

[Child Study Association of America records; the Inter-Community Child Study Committee files, 1925-1935.](#)

The Committee was founded in 1929 to provide parent education on child development and related issues in African American communities. These materials detail the formation and work of the Committee, which included child study groups in Baltimore; Montclair and Englewood, New Jersey; Brooklyn, North Harlem and Tuckahoe, New York; and Washington, D.C.

Collection number: sw0019. See Series 7. [Social Welfare History Archives](#).

Council on Social Work Education records, 1919-1979 (bulk 1953-1975); Record Group 15, “Minorities” files.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the National Association of Black Social Workers and other groups challenged the relationship between social work and communities of color in a movement that demanded greater diversity and cultural competence. The Council’s files include studies, meeting minutes, and correspondence related to African American and other communities of color as both recipients of social services and as social work students, practitioners, and educators.

Collection Number: sw90. [Social Welfare History Archives](#).

Life Histories Project records, 2004-2009. Collection consists of 11 biographical essays written by University of Minnesota students about their family members or community elders. Included are life stories of refugees from East Africa and Southeast Asia (Oromo, Somali, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Vietnamese, Taiwanese).

Collection number: IHRC3871. [Immigration History Research Center Archives](#).

Nyango Nembang oral history, 2009.

An oral history with Nembang, Cameroonian-American woman who served as a Hubert Humphrey International Fellow at the University of Minnesota and co-founded of the Minnesota African Women’s Association (MAWA). The amount specifically addressing Somali women is small, but she provides much general information about the experiences of African refugee and immigrant women in Minnesota.

Collection number: IHRC621. [Immigration History Research Center Archives](#).

YMCA Colored Work Department records, 1871-1946.

Reports, correspondence, publications, and other records of the National Council's Colored Work Department, established in 1890, and predecessor programs, created as avenues for African American participation in and service to the YMCA.

Collection number: Y.USA.1. [Kautz Family YMCA Archives](#).

YMCA Interracial Programs records, 1946-1980.

Reports, correspondence, and other records documenting various committees, programs, and conferences intended to monitor and promote the process of integration and the elimination of racial inequality within the YMCA, as well as to identify and address the unmet needs of African American and other non-white people served by the organization.

Collection number: Y.USA.2. [Kautz Family YMCA Archives](#).

See also the “Guide to Resources on African Americans and the YMCA” at
<https://www.lib.umn.edu/ymca/guide-afam>