Women’s & Gender Studies
ProQuest History Vault: A Visionary Archive of Primary Sources

These History Vault modules document the lives and activism of American women and other under-represented groups throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Margaret Sanger Papers
Margaret Sanger (1879-1966) was the principal founder and lifelong leader of the American and the international birth control movements. The Margaret Sanger Papers cover every aspect of the birth control movement, including the movement’s changing ideologies, its campaign for legitimacy, its internal conflicts and organizational growth. These papers also provide significant insight on the history of changing attitudes towards women’s roles and sexuality, and have significant research value to the fields of women’s history, social and intellectual history, medicine and public health, religion and world economic development, among others.

Struggle for Women’s Rights, 1880-1990: Organizational Records
Three women’s rights organizations – the National Woman’s Party (NWP), the League of Women Voters and the Women’s Action Alliance – are covered in this module.

- The National Woman’s Party papers document the militant aspect of the U.S. suffrage movement from 1913-1920, as well as activities from 1921-1971 as the NWP sought to secure equal rights for women in employment, eligibility for jury service and appointments to federal executive positions.

- The League of Women Voters collection reproduces organization records from 1920 through 1974 as well as the National Office Subject Files from 1920-1932. The minutes of the board of directors and the records of LWV conventions and general councils depict the history of the league’s struggle to gain respectability during the 1920s; its response to the Great Depression at home and the rise of fascism abroad in the 1930s; its perspective on World War II in the early 1940s; its own organizational restructuring at the 1944 convention; and its reactions to the civil rights and women’s movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

- Papers of the Women’s Action Alliance come from a group founded in 1971 by such leaders as Gloria Steinem, Brenda Feigen and Catherine Samuels to coordinate resources for organizations and individuals involved in the women’s movement on the grassroots level.

Women’s Studies Manuscript Collections from the Schlesinger Library: Voting Rights, National Politics and Reproductive Rights
These collections from the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College consist of three series: voting rights, national politics and reproductive rights.

- The series on voting rights spotlights national leaders and covers the decades between 1880 and 1920 when the suffrage movement unified diverse groups of activist women.

- The series on national politics is divided in two parts – Democrats and Republicans – from the early 1920s through the 1960s.
The series on reproductive rights is sourced from the Schlesinger Library Family Planning Oral History Project, the papers of Mary Ware Dennett and the Voluntary Parenthood League. The Schlesinger Library interviews focus on the politics and ethics of reproduction, marriage counseling and maternal and infant health and welfare. The other portion of the reproductive rights materials includes the Papers of Mary Ware Dennett and the Voluntary Parenthood League.

**Women at Work During World War II: Rosie the Riveter and the Women’s Army Corps**

Two sets of records trace the lives of American women during World War II in this collection:

- **Records of the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor** chronicle the changing status of women workers through two world wars, the economic upheaval of the Great Depression and periods of postwar readjustment. The records consist of two major series. The first documents the role of the Women's Bureau as an investigative agency, as a clearinghouse for proposed changes in working conditions and as a source of public information and education. The second is a detailed study on the treatment of women by unions in Midwestern industrial centers.

- **Correspondence of the Director of the Women’s Army Corps, 1942-1946** documents the women who served in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) during World War II. The collection consists of the correspondence of Oveta Culp Hobby, WAC director from 1942-1945, as well as her successor Westray Battle Boyce, who led the WAC from 1945 through the remainder of the collection's coverage in 1946. Every topic of importance is covered in the correspondence, with an emphasis on issues such as recruiting, public support for the WAC, personnel matters like discipline and conduct and race.

**Southern Life and African American History, Plantations Records, Part 1**

This collection details women's experiences on Southern plantations – from the holdings of the Louisiana State University Libraries and the Maryland Historical Society. A few highlights:

- **David Weeks and Family Collections** documents the lives of Rachel O'Connor, Mary Weeks Moore and Harriet Weeks Meade, with a focus on their role in plantation management.

- **Miss Sidney Harding’s Diary** covers the difficulties of life in Civil War Louisiana.

- **Ms. Mary Williams Pugh's correspondence** covers health conditions, travel and social affairs.

- **Josephine Nicholls Pugh Civil War Account** describes Pugh’s experiences in Assumption Parish, Louisiana.

- **Rosella Kenner Brent's Papers** contain her writings about the Civil War.

- **Daniel Trotter Papers** document the life of Daniel and his wife, Rose, who saved enough money to purchase their own plot of land after the Civil War. The Trotter Papers indicate that Rose, by running a cosmetics and personal care business, as well as working as domestic and by taking in sewing, made an invaluable contribution to the Trotter’s finances.

- **Susanna Warfield's Diaries and Martha Foreman Diaries**, both from the Maryland Historical Society, record their activities on their plantations in Maryland.
Southern Life and African American History, Plantations Records, Part 2
Sourced from the holdings of the University of Virginia and Duke University, these collections reveal women’s lives on Southern plantations from 1775 to 1915. Several highlights:

- **Sigismunda S. Kimball Journal** focuses on Kimball’s Civil War experiences in the Shenandoah Valley and includes information on slavery.

- **Martha Tabb Dyer Diaries, 1823-1839** chronicles her family’s migration from Albemarle County, Virginia to Calloway County, Missouri.

- **Elizabeth Edmonia Cooke Diary, 1855-1858** is the diary kept by the widow of Thomas Nelson Berkeley, at “Dewberry” on the edge of Tidewater, Virginia.

- **Diary of Louisa H. A. Minor, 1855-1866** of Albemarle County, Virginia, reveals her personal feelings as well as routine and extraordinary events in the lives of herself, her family and friends.

- **Cocke Family Papers, 1725-1939** of Surry and Fluvanna Counties, Virginia, include diaries of John Hartwell Cocke’s second wife, Louisa Maxwell Holmes. These diaries reveal intellectual and literary pursuits, interaction with slaves and details of daily life.

- **Ann Madison Boyer Smyth Letter, 1837** consists of a letter from Smyth to Sarah Buchanan (Campbell) Preston (1778-1846), Abingdon, Virginia with mentions of slavery, debt and family life.

- **Clement Claiborne Clay Papers, 1811-1865** of Huntsville, Alabama include the correspondence of Clement Comer Clay’s eldest son, Clement Claiborne Clay, with his wife, Virginia Tunstall Clay. Letters to Virginia Clay are rich in social matters, women’s concerns and reactions to issues presented by her male correspondents.

Slavery and the Law
With 700 divorce petitions in the Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks collections, the Slavery and the Law module is an excellent source for women’s studies research. Loren Schweninger of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro spent four years traveling to 10 states and Washington, D.C to collect petitions related to slavery and free blacks. Prof. Schweninger also collected all petitions written by slaveholding white women seeking divorce or alimony. These petitions are remarkable for their candor and provide unique information about the personal lives of women from 1775-1867.

The NAACP Papers
This outstanding collection of historic content is sourced directly from what is arguably the most significant civil rights organization of the 20th century. For students, an important fact about the NAACP is that many of its important leaders, both at the national and local level were women – and History Vault offers fascinating documents by or about them.
The Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century, Organizational Records and Personal Papers
This module contains two outstanding collections:

- **The Mary McLeod Bethune Papers**, documenting Bethune’s remarkable life, especially her career as an educator and founder of Bethune-Cookman College; her friendship with Walter White of the NAACP and Eleanor Roosevelt; and her role in FDR’s so-called “Black Cabinet” (Federal Council on Negro Affairs). The collection includes autobiographical content, speeches and correspondence.

- **The records of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs**, the oldest African American women’s organization in the United States, features minutes from the organization’s conventions from 1897-1992. The records of the NACWC include documents on the organization’s state and local affiliates, publication of the national office and materials on leaders.

---

Periodicals: Centuries of Pivotal Women’s and LGBT Magazines

- **The Harper’s Bazaar Archive**
  America’s first fashion magazine
  Including the backfiles of Harper’s Bazaar U.S. (1867 to present) and U.K. (1930-2015), ProQuest’s Harper’s Bazaar Archive puts 150 years’ worth of material into the hands of the researcher. Digitally available in its entirety for the first time, this archive unlocks decades of popular culture, design, fashion and art. Supporting studies of brand identity, body image, gender studies, advertising, social mores, marketing to women and more, this highly visual and searchable resource creates new opportunities for research and discovery.

- **The Vogue Archive**
  Archive digitized from 1892 to present day
  The Vogue Archive includes the fully indexed run of U.S. Vogue, from 1892 to the present. This full-color collection of almost 500,000 searchable pages is a rich lens into American and international popular culture, facilitating academic research in fields such as women’s studies, fashion, marketing, advertising, material culture and design.

- **The Vogue Italia Archive**
  An influential international edition
  Renowned for its innovative, often controversial initiatives, Vogue Italia has an appeal that spans the world, with almost half of its issues typically being sold outside of Italy. These digitized pages date from from its launch in 1964-present, and are easily accessible, fully indexed and searchable, as well as preserved for perpetuity.
Women’s Magazine Archive
Leading periodicals from the late 19th and 20th centuries

• **Collection 1** – The backfiles of leading women’s consumer magazines such as *Ladies’ Home Journal* and *Good Housekeeping* let researchers uncover aspects of history, culture and society, relating to – for example – gender and family roles, social history, health, history of economics/consumerism, and fashion. This database offers every page in high-resolution color with fully searchable text.

• **Collection 2** – This new module adds additional titles to the archive, including *Cosmopolitan* from 1886-2005, which started out as a family magazine and evolved into an esteemed literary journal. It went on to become a targeted women’s magazine in the 1960s, renowned for its bold coverage of sexuality and relationships. *Essence, Seventeen, Town and Country, Woman’s Day and Women’s International Network News* are also included.

British Periodicals
Copious material on women’s issues
From its origins in the 17th century through to the “age of periodicals” and beyond, the material in this collection offers insights into Britain’s political, economic, and social influence on the wider world. In addition to providing access to landmark texts by major female authors, British Periodicals offers exciting new ways to explore the inaccessible, neglected or forgotten writings that formed their original contexts.

American Periodicals Series Online
Two centuries of women’s experiences
Researchers can chronicle America’s development through historic titles like Benjamin Franklin’s *General Magazine* and America’s first scientific journal, *Medical Repository*; with popular magazines such as *Vanity Fair* and *Life*; and groundbreaking publications like *The Dial, Puck* and *McClure’s*.

LGBT Magazine Archive
For researchers in LGBT studies, sociology, political science, literature, history and more
As the field of LGBT Studies grows rapidly, sexual diversity studies have generated demand for more accessible sources for LGBT history. ProQuest will soon launch a collection of magazines charting contemporary issues, developments and events relating to the LGBT community over a period of more than 60 years. LGBT Magazine Archive will feature the longest-running, most eminent publications in this field for both the U.S. (*The Advocate*) and the U.K. (*Gay News/Gay Times*).

The Women’s Wear Daily Archive
An inside view of the fashion industry
Previously unavailable in digital form, the archive of this definitive fashion and retail publication is an authoritative record of a developing industry. Delivering valuable primary-source material for students of fashion, business and history, The Women’s Wear Daily Archive contains more than 25,000 past print issues and supplements, and is updated biannually with more recent issues. Users can explore content published since 1910, including advertisements, in high resolution and full color with searchable text.
Alexander Street Collections

Women and Social Movements Library
History’s greatest activists and the movements they shaped
This powerful collection focuses on women’s public activism globally, from 1600 to today. Created through a collaboration with leading historians, it contains nearly 400,000 pages of primary-source documents and more than 200 related scholarly essays interpreting these sources. This collection makes many often-inaccessible primary sources available to serve all levels of historical research.

LGBT Thought and Culture
An unprecedented look into LGBT life
Featuring key works and archival documentation of LGBT political and social movements throughout the 20th century to today, the collection contains 150,000 pages of rare archival content – including seminal texts, letters, periodicals, speeches, interviews, and ephemera. A significant portion of this collection is available exclusively through ProQuest, including the Pat Rocco Collection, the Jeanne Cordova Papers and the Magnus Hirschfeld Collection.

North American Women’s Letters and Diaries and British and Irish Women’s Letters and Diaries
400 years of personal writings
Bringing together first-person voices of women from the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, these databases help researchers view history in the context of their thoughts: their struggles, achievements, passions, pursuits and desires are captured in various shapes and formats of the diary as it evolved – including the travel diary, the personal diary, the letter diary and more.

The writings provide a detailed record of what women wore, ate, and read, the conditions under which they worked, and how they amused themselves. It highlights how frequently they attended church, how they viewed their connection to God, and how they prayed, and creates an ideal lens through which to examine their relationships with lovers, family and friends.

North American Women’s Drama, Second Edition
Includes hundreds of previously unpublished plays
Whether in awards, production, or publication, plays by women have rarely received the attention they deserve. Of the more than 80 Pulitzer prizes for drama awarded since the inception of the prize in 1901, only eight have gone to women. North American Women’s Drama brings these writings into the spotlight – it includes the full text of 1,500 plays written from Colonial times to the present by more than 100 women from the United States and Canada. Many of the works are rare, hard to find or out of print.

LGBT Studies in Video
Growing to include 400 hours of film
This first-of-its-kind collection features award-winning documentaries, interviews, archival footage and select feature films exploring LGBT history, gay culture and subcultures, civil rights, marriage equality, LGBT families, AIDS, transgender issues, religious perspectives on homosexuality and more. In addition to documenting the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, it also gives context to the cultural and political evolution of the LGBT community.
Other Collections: Historical Periodicals and Ephemera

**GenderWatch**
*250 full-text periodicals*
This well-established resource offers more than 300 titles, with more than 250 in full text, from an array of academic, radical, community and independent presses. They cover wide-ranging topics like sexuality, religion, societal roles, feminism, masculinity, eating disorders, healthcare, and the workplace. Highlights include *Off Our Backs* and *Transgender Tapestry*, international titles such as *Sister Namibia* and the *Australian Feminist Law Journal*, community newspapers such as *Out & About* and the *Windy City Times*.

**The Gerritsen Collection of Aletta H. Jacobs**
An award-winning archive with 260+ periodical titles
This vast, cross-cultural resource spans continents and centuries to trace the evolution of feminism. Monographs and pamphlets representing about 75 percent of the content include rare works from the early 17th-century and pivotal publications from the 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century, originating from the English-speaking world, Germany, France, Spain and many other countries.

**Queen Victoria’s Journals**
*A monarch’s surprising insights*
Thanks to a partnership between ProQuest, the Bodleian Libraries and the Royal Archives, 141 volumes of Queen Victoria’s personal diaries are available to search and explore in their entirety. Every page of each journal is presented as a high-resolution, full-color digital image, with detailed transcriptions of each handwritten entry.

**John Johnson Collection**
*Views of women via ephemera*
This digital archive broadens access to rare materials documenting life in 18th-, 19th- and early 20th-century Britain. Each item is presented as a full-color, high-resolution facsimile, indexed by specialists at the Bodleian Library. Researchers will find fascinating advertisements, which present a view of the role of women and how it has changed over time.

**Public Petitions to Parliament, 1833-1918**
*Material for social, cultural and religious scholars of Britain*
This collection includes Records of the Select Committee on Public Petitions, helping researchers gain insight on the formative role of petitions to Parliament during the 19th century (1833-1918), an unparalleled period of political modernization and democratization in Britain. Public Petitions to Parliament are very important indicators of the views and priorities of both the populace and Parliament. How Parliament addresses the petition – or doesn't – is a stark indicator of political and social priorities.

Explore these complementary products from ProQuest

- American Periodicals from the Center for Research Libraries
- Literature Online
- Periodicals Archive Online
- Periodicals Index Online
- ProQuest Congressional Research Digital Collection
- ProQuest Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers
- Twentieth Century American Poetry, Second Edition
- Ebooks for Women’s Studies

Request a free trial, or contact us for more information.
[proquest.com/contact]