

Exploring the *UMD Student Newspapers Database*

The University of Maryland's student newspaper began publication in 1910. It changed titles multiple times until it became *The Diamondback* in 1921.

In an ongoing effort to make all of the university's major student newspapers accessible online, the University of Maryland Archives staff has digitized issues of *The Diamondback* and its predecessors from 1910-1971. Remaining issues will be added to the database as they become available.

First, navigate to <https://go.umd.edu/aadhumDBK> (or <https://www.lib.umd.edu/univarchives/student-newspapers>) to begin to explore campus newspaper coverage of African American life.

To read more about the digitization effort, select *About* on the left-hand sidebar navigation menu.

- ❖ Then, select *Using the Database* for tips on browsing, searching, and displaying the digitized material.

When you're ready to begin browsing, select *Browse* on the left-hand sidebar navigation menu.

- ❖ Then, select a campus newspaper to explore. For example, choose *The Diamondback* to select and view any issue between June 9, 1921 and October 11, 1971.
- ❖ Alternatively, select a decade to explore, especially if an event or time period in African American history piques your interest.

- For example, choose *1950-1959*, a decade during which the university grappled with integration and admitted its first African American students. The decade's archive includes over 50,000 results, which can be further narrowed down by a single year or a specific search term. On the left-hand sidebar, look for a checkbox for the year *1955*, when Elaine Johnson, the university's first African American female student, began her studies at UMD. That same year, in a March 11 issue, *The Diamondback's* front page bore stories about African American students who had their tuition fees returned and admittance to selected courses revoked.

Try searching the database by keyword, person, or idea. Return to the left-hand sidebar navigation menu and select *Search*.

- ❖ In the search bar, type a person's or organization's name.
 - Consider using quotation marks to group multiple words together to create one search term (e.g. "Martin Luther King," "Black Student Union").
 - Using the search function, what can you learn about Parren James Mitchell?
 - Using the search function, what can you learn about the Nyumburu Cultural Center?
- ❖ In the search bar, type a keyword or idea that interests you. What keywords or ideas might help you learn more about campus newspapers' accounts of African American experiences at UMD?

Reflect on your engagement with the *UMD Student Newspapers* database and its coverage of African American history and culture.

- ❖ As you browsed campus newspapers by *date or decade*, what *types of events* helped guide or focus your search? Why?
- ❖ As you browsed campus newspapers by *keyword*, what *ideas or concepts* helped guide or focus your search? Why?
- ❖ What have you observed about how campus newspapers reported on African Americans' experiences at UMD and beyond?
- ❖ What have you observed about how UMD's campus newspapers have been digitized and made accessible and searchable?
- ❖ How can the digitization of UMD's campus newspapers enrich and/or trouble our research, teaching, and understanding of African Americans' experiences in the local area?

Want more? Consider browsing the digital archives of other local newspapers.

- ❖ Baltimore and Washington D.C. editions of *The Afro-American* are available at <http://www.afro.com/archives/>.
- ❖ The Washington County Free Library's Historic Newspaper Indexing Project has digitized 19th century newspaper accounts of life in Hagerstown, MD. Visit <http://www.washcolibrary.org/?q=hni>.
- ❖ The Library of Congress's *Chronicling America* project has digitized numerous historic American newspapers, including *The Prince George's Enquirer* and *Southern Maryland Advertiser*. Visit <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89060124/>.