

Various Source Media, Slavery and Anti-slavery: A Tra

# **SLAVERY AND ANTISLAVERY** A TRANSNATIONAL ARCHIVE

## With more than five million cross-searchable pages

spread across four fascinating parts, this historical archive embraces the scholarly study of slavery in a comprehensive, conceptual, and global way.

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## INTRODUCTION

*Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive* is devoted to the history of slavery in America and the rest of the world from the 17th century to the late 19th century. Sourced from more than 60 libraries at institutions such as the Amistad Research Center, Bibliothèque nationale de France, the National Archives, Oberlin College, Oxford University, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and Yale University, these collections allow for unparalleled depth and breadth of content.

The archive consists of more than five million cross-searchable pages sourced from books, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, legal documents, court records, monographs, manuscripts, and maps from many different countries covering the history of the slave trade. The archive is valuable to researchers in African history and the broader scope of African studies and African-American studies, making it an unprecedented collection developed under the guidance of a board of scholars. It offers never-before-available research opportunities and endless teaching possibilities.

Additionally, many of its research tools, including research guides, subject outlines, and scholarly essays, highlight the content's value and assist students with access to the primary materials. Introductory essays on sources will describe the collections' history and explain their research value. A subject-guide search allows researchers to search against the collections' subject vocabulary.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Scholars had long understood the international character of slavery and antislavery and proslavery/ authoritarian agitation. Until recently, even the most ambitious scholarship usually maintained national boundaries, attempting, at most, a comparative approach. In some measure, this was a simple consequence of the empirical bent, biographical and institutional focus and traditional national orientation of Anglo-American historical writing. We wanted to create a digital archive where a scholar could retrace common meanings and strategies of agitators for freedom as well as those opposed in diverse locales to explore broad themes and complex connections within and between antislavery and proslavery movements, the quest to integrate the energetic abstractions of political and moral reformist campaigns with the practical struggles of the enslaved - the simple need to tell the freedom story whole in this archive- has pushed down old boundaries and turned the field into a locus and vindication of transitional historical scholarship from so many different sources (and even languages) on enslavement and the transition to freedom. We envisioned an invaluable comparative slavery/abolition and Atlantic World history archive, one that would democratize historical research and enable those who did not have the funding to travel extensively to participate in the historical process.

Beginning around 2004, I began assembling a team of experienced international scholars of slavery, including Ira Berlin, Dan Littlefield, Casandra Pybus, John Thornton, James Horton, Thavolia Glymph, Charles Joyner, Laurent Dubois, and Paul Lovejoy, among many others. I also brought in my PhD students from the University of Illinois since these emerging historians would help us understand what they needed in a digital archive. We began planning, researching, and locating all relevant library collections to build the most comprehensive and user-friendly digital archive of slavery, antislavery, and freedom. Because of my previous positions in computing for the humanities, we worked with cutting-edge computer scientists and educational experts to develop these archives and create platforms that made it easy to work in these digital archives. Our ambitious project has overcome difficulties and begun to transform the field of study itself.

The creation of Gale (Cengage Learning)'s electronic repository Slavery and Antislavery: A Transnational Archive (SAS) was a remarkable breakthrough for researchers at all levels. For a decade now, SAS has partnered with libraries to present the best collections, offering a unique opportunity to search across several content types in one place by keyword/metadata for unpublished manuscripts and in full-text format for other documents. The site is designed to facilitate research by students and seasoned scholars alike and is remarkably easy to navigate (some might say addictive) for the student and scholar who wants to pioneer research. As the project director and Chair of the scholarly advisory committee, I am extremely proud of this amazing archive.

- Orville Vernon Burton, Director of the Gale Slavery, Antislavery, Freedom Project; The Judge Matthew J. Perry Distinguished Professor of History at Clemson University; Emeritus University Distinguished Teacher/Scholar at the University of Illinois

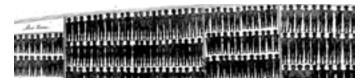
### APPRAISALS

"This database is an unparalleled resource for expert historians and undergraduate students alike. What's particularly exciting is that the current iteration is merely the beginning of an ongoing endeavor. Simply put, nothing is comparable to SAS. This project is unequivocally the most important undertaking related to the study of slavery. Essential. Upper-level undergraduates through faculty/ researchers."

#### - CHOICE

"This comprehensive digital collection is not only valuable, it is a treasure trove."

- Troy Smith, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



### PART I: DEBATES OVER SLAVERY AND ABOLITION

Part I: Debates over Slavery and Abolition contains 7,277 books and pamphlets, more than eighty newspaper and periodical titles, and eighteen prominent manuscript collections. Varied sources -from well-known journals to private papers -- open up endless possibilities for academic researchers, historians, undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and others studying the history of slavery. Reviewed and thematically arranged by a renowned board of scholars, it covers a broad spectrum of interests related to the history of slavery.

Part I has a US focus yet strongly supports comparative research with the inclusion of resources from Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. It explores various facets of the controversy, focusing on economic, gender, legal, religious and government issues. Unlike other resources that include highly edited selections of historical archives, it and its fellow parts keep complete collections intact. As a result, this archive gives users a total research experience, providing the rich context in which slavery took place and allowing for research and teaching opportunities beyond the study of slavery, including many topics in American, world, European, African, Latin American, economic, legal, and religious history.

#### ESSAY: DEBATES OVER SLAVERY AND ABOLITION: AN INTERPRETATIVE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY



Explore Professor Burton's investigation into the historical debates over slavery and abolition and see how he uses the archive to shed light on marginalised or forgotten

voices, including those who supported or wished to abolish slavery.





### PART II: SLAVE TRADE IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD

Part II: The Slave Trade in the Atlantic World continues this ground-breaking series by charting the inception of slavery in Africa and its rise as perpetuated on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, with a particular focus on the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. This collection features a wide range of materials, from monographs and individual papers to company records, newspapers, and numerous government documents. An international editorial board with scholars specializing in North American, European, African, and Latin American/Caribbean aspects of the slave trade helped make Part II international in scope than Part I.

Part II covers a diverse spectrum of subjects related to the history of slavery: legal issues; economics; the Caribbean; children and women under slavery; modes of resistance; and much more, from 1490 to 1896. This collection is particularly relevant in its significant coverage of France, Haiti, Jamaica, Denmark, Portugal, Brazil, Senegal, and many other countries and regions.

### ESSAY: DEBATES OVER SLAVERY AND ABOLITION: SLAVE TRADE IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD



Using this archive, Dr John K. Thornton unravels the incredibly complex, multilateral, and inter-regional topic of the slave trade by

studying the massive documentation generated by it and how it could fundamentally rewrite the story of transatlantic slavery.



**b** gale.com/slavery-atlantic



### PART III: THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY

Part III: The Institution of Slavery provides significant coverage of Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. It examines the institution of slavery through legal documents, plantation records, personal accounts, newspapers, and government documents, opening up opportunities for in-depth research on how enslaved people struggled to change their fates by whatever means necessary. This unique grouping of primary source materials explores slavery as a labour and legal system, the relationship between master and slave, slavery and religion, free labour, and the lives of free African Americans, covering 1490 to 1888.

### ESSAY: DEBATES OVER SLAVERY AND ABOLITION: SLAVERY AS AN INSTITUTION



Through *Part III*, Lawrence T. McDonnell moves away from the individuals to explore the pervasive and deeply rooted institution of slavery as it emerged, grew, and

catastrophically reshaped the Atlantic world across four tumultuous centuries.



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## PART IV: THE AGE OF EMANCIPATION

Beginning in 1788 with Lord Dunmore's offer of emancipation and ending in 1896 with Plessy v. Ferguson, Part IV: Age of Emancipation includes a range of rare documents related to the emancipation of slaves in the United States, as well as Latin America, the Caribbean, and other areas of the world. From the American Revolution, when northern states freed relatively small numbers of slaves, to later periods when an increasingly large free black community was developing, emancipation was a long-sought dream that eventually became a political and moral expectation.

These collections comprise multiple document types, including correspondence, speeches, plays, financial papers, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, telegrams, memoranda, legal documents, diaries, and journals. The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands constitute the richest documentary source on the African American experience in the post-Civil War and Reconstruction eras.

### ESSAY: SLAVERY AND ANTI-SLAVERY FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING



In this essay, Professor Burton reflects on how the digital age is affecting how the next generation is creating, envisioning,

understanding, and communicating ideas and how it can be harnessed to discover new histories from digital archives like *Slavery and Antislavery*.



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## AN ENHANCED PLATFORM

Gale's commitment to the accessibility of digitised historical documents is second to none. New core enhancements to the Gale Primary Sources platform streamline the discovery of meaningful search results across tens of millions of pages.

Researchers expect the powerful core features of Gale Primary Sources. They include analysis tools, embedded image viewer, deep content tagging, and optical character recognition (OCR) output. Its tools and features include:

**TERM FREQUENCY**: The term frequency tool aids researchers in tracking central themes and ideas. Researchers can now see the frequency of their search terms within a content set to begin assessing how individuals, events, and ideas interacted and developed over time.

**TOPIC FINDER:** The topic finder assists students in thoroughly developing their research topic. By identifying and organising frequently occurring themes, this tool reveals hidden relationships between search terms— helping users shape their research and integrate diverse content with relevant information.

**CROSS-SEARCH AMONG AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF GALE PRIMARY SOURCES COLLECTIONS:** Gale is undertaking a mammoth effort to migrate each of its archives to a unified environment that supports dynamic search, among other powerful benefits. The result? Your institution can offer new research possibilities with unsurpassed relevance on a cohesive interface.

**VIEW OCR SIDE BY SIDE:** With downloadable plain-text OCR now viewable alongside each scanned image—with a builtin confidence score—users can search their library's Gale Primary Sources holdings, read through its associated OCR quickly, then export the plain text for further analysis, such as within Gale Digital Scholar Lab.

#### **VIEW RELATED GALE EBOOKS**

The Related Resources panel automatically displays relevant reference material from Gale eBooks sourced from your library's collection. This feature helps

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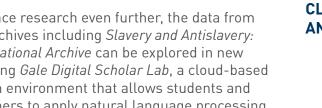
provide context to topics found in Gale Primary Sources by integrating eBooks with the archive.



## **GALE DIGITAL SCHOLAR LAB**

In combination with powerful search technologies, Gale Primary Sources brings the thoughts, words, and actions of past centuries into the present. We have been preserving and extending access to scholarly research materials and content from prestigious source libraries for nearly two decades through our ground-breaking digitisation program.

To advance research even further, the data from these archives including *Slavery and Antislavery:* A Transnational Archive can be explored in new ways using Gale Digital Scholar Lab, a cloud-based research environment that allows students and researchers to apply natural language processing tools to raw text data (OCR) from Gale Primary Sources in a single research platform.



### **BUILD YOUR CONTENT SETS**

- Use *Gale Primary Sources* archives
- Upload and use your text files
- Download content sets for use elsewhere

### **CLEAN TEXTS FOR COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS**

- Apply stop words to your analysis
- Use flexible options to target specific character removal
- Reuse configurations across Content Sets

#### **ANALYSE CONTENT IN POWERFUL NEW WAYS**

- Visualise data from up to 10,000 documents at a time
- Explore individual documents overlaid with analysis data
- Download the raw data and your visualisations



Slavery and Antislavery: A Transnational Archive is devoted to the study and understanding of the history of slavery in America and the rest of the world from the 17th century to the late 19th century.

Find out how *Slavery and Antislavery: A Transnational Archive* can enhance research and teaching at your institution.

For a FREE trial, pricing, or further information, contact us at: emea.galereply@cengage.com Or visit: gale.com/uncoverslavery

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## Emancipation Celebration

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