Finding Early 20th Century Reviews in African-American Literature
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Short version:
- First, hope for a reception history; use NUcat, WorldCat, Digital Dissertations
- Next, use primary sources at NU: Times Digital Archive, NY Times Archive, Black Historical Newspapers, and American Periodical Series
- Next, use primary sources at the BPL: Readers’ Guide Retrospective, America’s Historical Newspapers
- Finally, try additional online journal archives at BC and other partner libraries

Long version:
- At NU:
  - Search NUcat and WorldCat (Author, Title, reception, etc.)
  - Search Digital Dissertations (Author, Title, reception, etc.)
  - Search MLA (Author, Title, reception, PLUS limit by date to look for older actual reviews of Title)
  - Search JSTOR (use advanced search to limit to actual reviews, plus reception histories)
  - Search Black Historical Newspapers, Times Digital Archive, NY Times Digital Archive, and American Periodical Series (actual reviews)

- Core title in the area, very broad but can provide ideas for additional leads if stuck.
  - The Harvard guide to African-American history / Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, editor-in-chief
    [http://nucat.lib.neu.edu/record=b1575883~S13](http://nucat.lib.neu.edu/record=b1575883~S13)

- Another reference guide here at NU – perhaps worth scanning index for Author or Title.
  - Afro-American poetry and drama, 1760-1975: a guide to information sources.
    [http://nucat.lib.neu.edu/record=b1181784~S13](http://nucat.lib.neu.edu/record=b1181784~S13)

- Yet another reference guide; these may be more useful with later larger projects than for your quick initial scan:
    [http://nucat.lib.neu.edu/record=b1185703~S13](http://nucat.lib.neu.edu/record=b1185703~S13)

- Google Book search for “Author and Title and reception history or reviews” can turn up hidden book chapters

- At BPL:
  - Readers Guide Retrospective (actual reviews at time; requires fiche, film, etc.)
  - America’s Historical Newspapers (1690-1922)

- At Boston College (first you’ll need the special Boston Library Consortium Card from the front Circulation Desk; form is here: [http://www.lib.neu.edu/services/borrowing/apply_blc_card/](http://www.lib.neu.edu/services/borrowing/apply_blc_card/))
- **Black Studies Center** in particular contains the Black Literature Index and the International Index to Black Periodicals; would still require ILL.
- **ProQuest Historical Newspapers** (BC has a few additional titles we don’t, like the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Boston Globe)
- **Periodicals Archive Online** also has journal and magazine archives from the early 20th century.

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