

**NCBS PANEL PROPOSAL  
CALL FOR PAPERS  
PANEL/ROUNDTABLE SUBMISSION FORM**  
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**X PANEL**

**CONTACT PERSON:**

**Akilah Nosakhere, Convener or Chair of Panel**

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Panel title: **New Resources for Africana Diaspora Studies**

*This panel of four Africana subject specialists from academic and research libraries will review contemporary resources for the study and research of Africans in the Diaspora and on the continent of Africa.*

**Presenter #1**

Eric Kofi Acree

Director, John Henrik Clarke Africana Library

Cornell University

**Biography:**

Eric Kofi Acree is currently Director of the John Henrik Clarke Africana Library at Cornell University. He has been with Cornell since 2002. In addition to being the Director of the Africana Library, Eric is the Africana subject specialist for Cornell University Library (CUL) and is responsible for providing reference and bibliographic instruction/consultation in the area of Africana Studies. He serves as web master for the Africana Library web site. Before he took on the directorship at Cornell, he held a number of significant positions within the Undergraduate Library at the University at Buffalo (UB). While at UB he was the Information Literacy Coordinator for the Arts & Sciences Libraries, Library Instruction Coordinator for the Undergraduate Library, and the Cybraries Teaching Center Coordinator. He attained his Masters of Library Studies degree from School of Information and Library Studies, at the University at Buffalo, and has graduate credits towards a Masters Degree at Cornell. His research interests include Africana collection development, and gender studies with a concentration on male/female relationships.

**Title:**

Surveying Black Newspapers in the Age of Digitization: The Role of the Africana Subject Specialist in Advocating of Electronic Resources

**Abstract:**

Africana subject specialists are advocates for increasing digital access to Africana resources. As researchers become more dependent upon electronic resources to access

information it is important that librarians invite database providers to collaborate with Africana subject specialists to identify Black newspapers that would be good candidates for digitization. This presentation will survey existing access to African American historical and contemporary newspapers. It will also identify other African American newspapers for possible migration from print to virtual format.

**Presenter #2**

Eleanor Hunter, Reference Librarian

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History

**Biography:**

Eleanor Hunter has been a librarian at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History since 2006. Eleanor provides reference instruction and consultation in Africana Studies with particular interest in literary and historical movements of Afro-Francophone and Afro-Latino cultures. She has worked as an academic and public librarian in North Carolina and in Washington, DC. She has also worked as a researcher/consultant for the World African Network procuring quality TV programming from Afro-Francophone countries. She earned her Masters of Library Science from North Carolina Central University and has studied at the University of Lille, Lille, France. She is fluent in French and conversant in Spanish. She is currently researching the life of Vicente Guerrero, the first Black President of Mexico.

**Title:** *Après Negritude: A Survey of Francophone African and Caribbean Resources Beyond the Negritude Movement*

**Abstract:**

The contributions of the Negritude Movement founders have been well documented over the past forty years. The lives and works of Aime Césaire, Léon Damas, and Léopold Senghor are synonymous with this literary/ political movement. This presentation will give an overview of the Negritude Movement, discuss the influence of the Harlem Renaissance on this movement, highlight current Francophone writers of note and survey significant resources available to scholars of Afro-Francophone literature since the end of the Negritude Movement.

**Presenter # 3**

Mustafa Abdelwahid,

Collection Development Manager, Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History

**Biography:** Mustafa Abdelwahid is currently Head of Collection Development and Technical Services at Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture & History (AARL) in Atlanta, GA. Mustafa is responsible for providing reference and bibliographic instruction in the area of African Diaspora, Islam in Africa, and African Islamic Political Movement. He also serves as head of the library technology committee. Before his current position with AARL, he was a librarian for graduate programs at Alabama State University. He attained his Master of Library and Information Sciences from University of Wisconsin, Master of International Law from Baku State University (Former Soviet Union) BA in Political Science and

International Development from the University of North Carolina, and is currently preparing to defend his PhD dissertation in Political Science from Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. His research interests include African politics, Islam, Islamic political movement, ethnic conflicts in Africa, and problems of development in Africa. In addition to English, he is fluent in Arabic and Russian.

**Title:** New frontiers for Africana Subject Specialists following 9/11

**Abstract:**

Following 9/11, the role of Africana subject specialists changed dramatically. As a result of the rising interests among U.S researchers and policy decision-makers on the role of Islam in politics, Africana subject specialists were faced with new challenges as they were frequently called for to answer questions about Islam and Islamic political movements in Africa. This role was previously reserved for Middle Eastern subject specialists. Unfortunately, Middle Eastern subject specialists were mostly trained in areas and countries surrounding the Palestine-Israeli conflict. African countries such as Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, and Algeria are becoming more important as most of the leaders and the ideologues of the emerging Islamic political movements are from these countries. This presentation will examine resources for the study of these contemporary movements.

**Presenter #4**

Justin Marcus Johnston  
Author, Graduate Student,  
St. Joseph's College, Maine

**Biography**

Justin Marcus Johnston, a Black Nova Scotian historian and author of the historical biography, "James Robinson Johnston: The Life, Death and Legacy of Nova Scotia's first Black Lawyer" is a graduate student at St. Joseph College in Maine where he is studying Education. Mr. Johnston holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Canada and has produced a number of publications related to Black culture in the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Mr. Johnston research interest is for late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century African Diaspora community leaders—particularly clergy and lawyers. He has traveled widely having visited over eight countries including the People's Republic of China and is conversant in Mandarin Chinese.

**Title:** *Africadians: An Annotated Bibliography of the Black Maritime Experience*

**Abstract:**

Indigenous persons of African descent, known as "Africadians" have had a long history in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, especially in Nova Scotia, home to the oldest and largest community of Blacks in Canada. The word AFRICADIAN is a juxtaposition of the words "African" and Acadie," the former French colony that now includes current day Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It is a term first coined by George Elliot Clarke, poet, scholar, and essayist to describe the slaves, freedmen, and West Indians who came prior to the inception of Canada as a nation in 1867. This

also includes later, but recent groups of immigrants from the Caribbean (former British West Indies) in the decades following 1867. Currently, there is no single major bibliographic publication in existence that chronicles the regional, historical and cultural distinctiveness of these people within the Canadian cultural mosaic. There are indeed several annotated bibliographies on “African Canadians” as a whole; however, these publications are highly ambiguous tending to confuse indigenous persons of African descent in Canada, especially the Maritimes, with those in the United States and the newer black immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa. This poses daunting problems for persons who want to do in-depth research into migration patterns of these people. My proposed annotated bibliography would be the first publication to address this problem by recording scholarly sources related to experiences of “Africans,” my own ancestors.