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Creating the Notable Kentucky African Americans Database NKAA

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CREATING THE NOTABLE KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICANS DATABASE NKAA

Lexington Public Library - Downtown
Lexington, Kentucky
March 22, 2019
3:00pm-5:00pm

REINETTE JONES

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

ROB AKEN

WILLIAM T. YOUNG LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

OUR GOALS IN 2003

- Create a reference tool dedicated to African Americans in and from Kentucky
- Make it available online
- Free to anyone with internet access
- Ease of use, No ID, No Password
- Patron-friendly texts and terms
- Titles available in Kentucky libraries
- Easily updated and low maintenance
- Get feedback from patrons on campus and from the public
- Update the content every 3 to 6 maybe 12 months
- Get on with life.



African American children leaning on a white statue.

Image from Louis Edward Nollau F Series Photographic Print Collection.

University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center.

BUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WAS ...

- We heard from the patrons and others, A LOT:
- More references.
- Add the geographic locations.
- Here are 500 more submissions.
- That's my family member, you need to correct ...
- Separate the new entries and updates from the old entries.
- Would you add the African American Library Directors in the U.S.?
- Would you send me the printed version, please? I don't do computers.
- How long are y'all going to keep this online? What is the take-down date?
- Did you know about (fill in the blank) out at (fill in the blank)?
- Are you available to come talk to us about the database?

• No fair! African American students are getting extra help.

• You should be finished by now. How much longer?

• That's my grandfather! He's not Black!

• Here, add this so that I can get class credit!

• How much is this database worth? Is it for sale?

• My students are sending information about African Americans in our state. Add it to the database.

• How much is the State paying UK to do this database?

• Why isn't this database in Louisville where it belongs?

• When are you going to add more information about my county?

• THANK YOU!

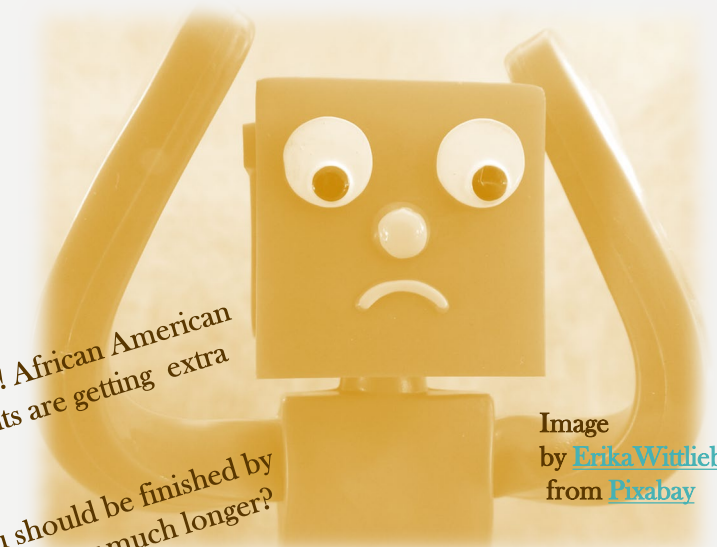


Image by [Erika Wittlieb](#) from [Pixabay](#)

SO, WE COMPROMISED



Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

- Geographic locations added
- Corrections made after verification
- African American library directors added with assistance from Alonzo Hill, a librarian in Detroit, MI, and with updates provided by BCALA members
- Submission form added to NKAA webpage. Submissions will have the writer's name added to the entry.
- NKAA webpage shows recent updates and "Did You Know?"
- Presentation requests accepted
- NKAA Database will be at UK forever and updated until ...
- There is information about all 120 counties in Kentucky
- NKAA Database is 100% supported by University of Kentucky Libraries
- It's all about African Americans in and from KENTUCKY

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Image by [Karen Arnold](#) from [Pixabay](#)

- Number of hits increased, especially during January and February
- NKAA went from being webpages to a database to an Omeka Management Platform
- NKAA Database won a national award in 2009
- Number of hits kept increasing, especially in international regions
- NKAA cited in publications with historical narratives including Kentucky as the birth location of its subjects
- Increase in reference questions and conversations about slaves, slavery, and African Americans in Kentucky
- NKAA listed as a reputable source with Family Search, Kentucky African American Griots, and Black Past
- Famous (and not so famous) persons claiming their ancestors place in Kentucky, such as President Obama, Maya Rudolph, Michael Strahan, John Legend, Glen “Doc” Rivers, Harold Washington Family, the Barclays in Liberia
- Requests for longer/original entries: Telephone Industry, Shoe Industry in Prisons, Automobile Industry, Cigar Industry, Lawyers and Attorneys, Migration to Linn County Kansas, Exclusion from the Foreign Born Parents Data Collection by the U.S. Census Bureau



CURRENT STATISTICS (Google Analytics)

- Usage Stats: Nov. 19,778
Dec. 21,393
Jan. 28,387
Feb. 42,439
- Feb. Users: United States (94.72%) | Louisville, Lexington, Nashville, Chicago, Not Set
Canada (1.57%)
United Kingdom (.50%)
Germany (.19%)
Philippines (.19%)
S. Korea (.17%)
Netherlands (.16%)
Liberia (.15%)

Feb-March

- Age 25-34 year olds 33.50% 18-24 year olds 27.5% 35-44 year olds 15.5%
- Gender Males 51.15% Females 45.85%
- Devices Desktop 51.26% Mobile 41.50% Tablet 7.23%
Apple
Samsung
Motorola



Image from James Edwin Weddle Photographic Collection. UK Special Collections Research Center

NOTABLE KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICANS DATABASE



Image from
NKAA Online

Thank You!

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Notable Kentucky African Americans Database

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