As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of FAMU's founding, the University Libraries have chosen 125 books, one from each of the years that the University has been in existence. All titles can be found in the Library’s collections, mainly the African American Collection, located in Room 403 Coleman Library. Some may be accessible from the Library’s online collections via the Internet and others are in the Heritage Collection, Room 412, Coleman library.

Books that chronicle events that were pivotal to the University’s history or African American history and literature were selected. Some were very controversial at the time of publication such as Richard Wright’s, *Native Son* and James Baldwin’s, *The Fire Next Time*. Some were selected based they repeatedly appeared on the best seller lists, such as Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*. Others were chosen based on their popularity with the faculty and students and constantly appearing on class syllabi.
**Book:**
Alexander, W. T. (1887). *History of the colored race in America: Containing also their ancient and modern life in Africa ... the origin and development of slavery in the Old World, and its introduction on the American continent; the slave trade; slavery, and its abolition in Europe and America. The civil war, emancipation, education and advancement of the colored race, their civil and political rights.* Kansas City, Mo: Palmetto Pub. Co. [Electronic Resource]

**Overview:**
Expounds on slavery, military life, and other experiences of African Americans in the quest for equality.

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Soldier George Washington Williams describes the Negro experience in the *War of the Rebellion.*
Book:

Overview:
From the original Carnegie Library, *Florida Days* describes some of Florida’s most beautiful spots with illustrations included.

1890

Book:

Overview:
Explains the plight of the black man in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the past.

1891

Book:

Overview:
Smith's narrative relates not only his personal experiences, but also includes many anecdotes about other Kentucky slaves and masters.

1892

Journal:
*Liberia*

Overview:
*The African Repository* changed its name to *Liberia* in 1892. Issues
1893

**Book:**
Smith, A. (1893). *An autobiography, the story of the Lord's dealings with Mrs. Amanda Smith, the colored evangelist: Containing an account of her life work of faith, and her travels in America, England, Ireland, Scotland, India, and Africa, as an independent missionary.* Chicago, Ill: Christian Witness Co. Heritage Collection BV3785.S56 A3 1893

**Overview:**
The story of the Lord's dealings with Mrs. Amanda Smith, the colored evangelist; containing an account of her life work of faith, and her travels in America, England, Ireland, Scotland, India, and Africa, as an independent missionary.

1894

**Book:**
Langston, J. M. (1894). *From the Virginia plantation to the national capitol; or, The first and only Negro representative in Congress from the Old Dominion.* Hartford, Conn: American Pub. Co. AAC E185.97 .L27

**Overview:**
Insight into the story of John Mercer Langston, a former slave turned politician.

1895

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Fictional book about a white male’s interpretations and observations of African-American behaviors and rituals.
1896

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Book composed of many letters from people who helped fugitive slaves escape through Wisconsin in the mid-19th century.

1897

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Explains the Berean Church, a Presbyterian Church, and its relationship with Negroes.

1898

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Rare book which was often a required reading in English Literature curriculums.
**Book:**

**Overview:**
Includes sections on African Americans in the Navy, on San Juan Hill, the Buffalo Soldiers, and African American officers and regiments. Contains photos and illustrations.

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**Book:**

**Overview:**
Book written by Paul Laurence Dunbar an early pioneer in African-American literature.

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**Book:**

**Overview:**
In black dialect *Candle-lightin’ time* describes slave experiences with illustrations.
**1902**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Taylor traces her matrilineal line back to Africa to impart her story. A freed slave at age fourteen she became a volunteer field nurse for black Union soldiers advancing through South Carolina.

*Reprint (originally published in 1902)*

**1903**

**Book:**
Cotter, J. S. (1903). *Caleb, the degenerate: A play in four acts; a study of the types, customs, and needs of the American Negro*. Louisville, Ky: The Bradley & Gilbert Company. AAC PS3505.O862 C3 1903

**Overview:**
A four-act play that’s a study of the types, customs, and needs of the American Negro.

**1904**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A collection of a variety of Negro poems with dialect used during slavery.
Book:

Overview:
This small book relates the story of Shapur, a salt merchant traveling across the desert to sell his wares at the palace of the Rajah. Along the way, misfortune overcomes Shapur and he is faced with decisions that change his life.

Book:

Overview:
*The Three Musketeers* tells the story of three great swordsmen, Porthos, Aramis, and Anthos, with their protege, D'Artagnan, who match wits with the sinister Cardinal Richelieu who seeks to divide the royalty in his own quest for power.

Book:

Overview:
Sheds light on Negro businesses in America in the early 1900s and the formation of the National Negro Business League.
1908

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A compilation of various poems.

1909

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The *NAACP Annual Report* published in the 1909 is a journal that provides articles related to the organization.

1910

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Detailed information concerning the Negro in every part of the Western Hemisphere.
1911

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Silver Fleece was black activist Du Bois's first foray into fiction. The 1911 novel remains true to the author's roots, as it tells the story of a Southern woman and Northern man while expounding on politics, power, finances, and corruption.

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1912

**Book:**

**Overview:**
One of the oldest plays in English history.

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1913

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A compilation of America's first African-American poet's work.
1914

Book:

Overview:
Book which explains slavery and showcases African-Americans that were critical in obtaining equality.

1915

Book:

Overview:
An investigation into traditional American Negro folk songs with lyrics and sheet music examples.

1916

Book

Overview
Bibliography of the poetical works of Phillis Wheatley
1917

**Book**

**Overview**
This book focuses on the study/evaluation of private and public schools for colored people.

1918

**Book**:  

**Overview**
Describes the vigorous fight which had been going on since 1776 to secure suffrage for some large and discontented groups.

1919

**Book**:  
Beasley, D. L., & Bancroft Library. (1919). *The Negro trail blazers of California: A compilation of records from the California archives in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, in Berkeley, and from the diaries, old papers and conversations of old pioneers in the State of California: it is a true record of facts, as they pertain to the history of the pioneer and present day Negroes of California*. Los Angeles, Calif: Times Mirror Print. and Binding House.

**Overview**
A compilation of records from the California archives in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, in Berkeley; and from the diaries, old papers and conversations of old pioneers in the State of California.
1920

**Book**

**Overview**
Accounts of agriculture, land tenure, and economic aspects in the southern states in relation to the Negro.

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1921

**Book**

**Overview**
This book accounts for the history of the Negro in the United States and in Liberia.

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1922

**Book:**

**Overview:**
This book shows the various stages of development through which the Negro press has evolved. It is too written to present the problems and inherent possibilities of Negro journalism, to point out progress which is being made today, and to suggest future possibilities.
1923

Book:

Overview:
A warm, engaging tale whose main character is an elderly lady who repairs the tangled romances of her children and grandchildren.

1924

Book:

Overview:
In *On the Old Plantation*, Clinkscales records his memories of life on his father's plantation. Clinkscales recounts his childhood pranks, adventures, and school experiences, which combine to present his happy memories of antebellum South Carolina.

1925

Book:

Overview:
When Porgy returns home after his brief imprisonment he hopes in vain to find Bess. His neighbors inform him that a group of stevedores plied Bess with alcohol and then took her to Georgia. Certain that he will never see Bess again, Porgy allows his neighbor Serena, to take the couple’s adoptive baby. –*Literature Resource Center*
1926

**Book:**

**Overview:**
One of the last books written by orator, educator, and journalist William Pickens.

1927

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Black April is characterized by a rugged power, despite its loose, episodic plot and its lengthy digressions on folklore; and the novel was well received by critics in such important journals as the Saturday Review and the New Republic. The narrative has definite and deliberate tragic overtones which suggest that Peterkin was a more self-conscious literary craftsman than most commentators have been willing to admit. But the approval she did receive encouraged her to write another novel which was to reveal an even greater ability to control and order her subject matter."

---Literature Resource Center

1928

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The Black Ulysses Trilogy presents a compendium of African American folklore collected by pioneer sociologist/folklorist Howard W. Odum. The trilogy collects stories, songs, and folktales, which Odum uses to weave the narrative of his chief informant John Wesley Gordon (Black Ulysses) as he travels the country, fights in World War I, and returns to the South.
1929

**Book:**

**Overview:**
One of the few depictions of African Americans in World War I, *Wings on My Feet* (1929) follows the tale of Black Ulysses, John Wesley "Left Wing" Gordon, begun in Howard W. Odum's *Rainbow Round My Shoulder*.

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**Amazon Book Review**

1930

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Discusses those who helped make Negro education attainable.

1931

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Discusses the job duties, responsibilities, and inequities associated with being African American in the Labor Movement.
1932

**Book:**
AAC [PZ3.T4258 In]

**Overview:**
"... Throughout all these comings and goings, Thurman maintains suspense while he dissects his surroundings and, ultimately, uncovers a number of truths."
--- *Literature Resource Center*

1933

**Book:**

**Overview:**
"...providing an investigation of lynching crimes from mob formation to justice efforts."
--- *Literature Resource Center*

1934

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Stars Fell On Alabama by Carl Carmer is a book of folkways. It is not journalism, or history, folklore, or a novel. It is at times impressionistic, and at other times it conveys deep insights into the character of Alabama's people and places.
--- *Google Books*

*Available as an E-book*
Book:

Overview:
A blend of Marxist theories and how they fall short in explaining race.

Book:

Overview:
Biography of the legendary boxer Joe Louis.

Book:

Overview:
Sad-faced boy, written by poet Arna Bontemps, is a juvenile fiction book based on the adventures of Negro boys who visit Harlem.
1938

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Explains the Negro experience in the Civil War.

1939

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Describes the Negro experience beginning with our African ancestral roots.

1940

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Richard Wright's novel is just as powerful today as when it was written -- in its reflection of poverty and hopelessness, and what it means to be black in America.
**1941**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Autobiography of blues star W.C. Handy describing his life before and during the height of his career.

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**1942**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Powerful poem expressing the hardships endured by African Americans.

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**1943**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The story of scientist George Washington Carver and his role as a philanthropist, educator, and empowerer of farmers.
**1944**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
An understanding and intelligent biography of the Haitian patriot and martyr Toussaint Louverture.

**1945**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Explains the early foundations of the African American church.

**1946**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Fired from her job after her ideas clash with those of her conservative school board, schoolteacher Lilybelle Lawrence attends college, where a series of accidents leads her to consider a career in nursing.
**Book:**
AAP E185.F825

**Overview:**
This is the dramatic, exciting, authoritative story of the experiences of African Americans from the time they left Africa to their continued struggle for equality at the end of the twentieth century.

**Book:**

**Overview:**
"This readable history skillfully combines anecdote with breadth of observation. Making available to a wider audience the results of the excellent scholarship in this field, Mr. Ottley covers the early days of slavery, the Revolutionary period, the pre-Civil War era, the Civil War and Reconstruction." --Morroe Berger *The New York Times* October 24, 1948

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The African American Experience from when Jim Crow laws were in effect.
1950

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The dramatic history of the American Negro.

1951

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Rubin’s conceptual scheme for the study of culture and social structure in a rural county of the Old South includes the structural-functional, the situational, and the culture-personality approaches.

1952

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Lays out much of DuBois's thinking on the struggle to achieve peace.
1953

**Book:**
AAC E185 .E69 1953

**Overview:**
History of African Americans in the United States.

1954

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Langston Hughes’s *Famous American Negroes* is a collection of brief biographical essays highlighting the individual achievements of seventeen African Americans who have contributed to the history and development of the United States.

1955

**Book:**
AAC PZ4.H926 Ag

**Overview:**
Written by a Florida-born and educated school teacher.
1956

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The research sweeps over the geographic, agricultural, economic sources of slavery, pries into the so-called psychological predispositions of oppressor and oppressed and their tragic symbiosis, gathers statistics and breakdowns on the spread and prevalence of slavery, seizes details about individual planters and their domestic tribulations, blows clean and terrible through the moral rationalizing of the South and the unthinking lachrymosities of the Yankee humanitarian.

1957

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Recreates the phenomenal athletic career of the Black baseball player who became the first Negro to play in the major leagues.

1958

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Life story of former FAMU tennis star Althea Gibson the first African-American to ever win at Wimbledon.
1959

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A Chicago South Side black family experiences the impact of an unexpected insurance bequest. Each family member sees it as the means of realizing long-nurtured dreams and of escape from grinding frustrations.

1960

**Book:**
*Anti-negro prejudice : when it began, when it will end* (1960). Retrieved from [http://purl.fcla.edu/fcla/DT/361651](http://purl.fcla.edu/fcla/DT/361651)

**Overview:**
Explains the history of slavery and prejudice in America.

1961

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The story of a man whose foreign education has separated him from his African roots and made him parts of a ruling elite whose corruption he finds repugnant. More than thirty years after it was first written, this novel remains a brilliant statement on the challenges still facing African society.
1962

**Book:**
AAC [E185.61 .F833 1962a](#)

**Overview:**
Studies the origin and development of the Black middle-class, accentuating its behavior, attitudes, and values

1963

**Book:**
AAC [LC2851.F63 N4](#)

**Overview:**
The history of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University from when it was founded as the State Normal College for Colored Students, to present day as an established university.

1964

**Book:**
AAC [E185.61 .B195 1964](#) copy 4

**Overview:**
The Fire Next Time galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. It consists of two "letters," written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism.
1965

**Book:**

**Overview:**
As pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL, Philip A. Johnson earned death threats and civic awards for his drive to peacefully integrate a large section of the city's South Side. The minister and social activist described his work in the book.

1966

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Biography based on the life of James Baldwin.

1967

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A fictionalized account of the 1831 slave revolt led by Nat Turner in Southampton County, Virginia.
1968

**Book:**

**Overview:**
This first volume of poetry established Alice Walker as a poet of unusual sensitivity and power. The collection is remarkably mature and varied: the opening group of graceful, witty poems remains an enduring "snapshot" of Africa viewed by a black American woman, while other works focus on the civil rights struggle, the South, and love.

1969

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The author shows his primitive views and opinions on the subject of slavery.

1970

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Twelve notable blacks who have given fifteen or more years of service to the state of Florida who have been selected and historical adaptations of their lives and works are presented in an interesting manner.
1971

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Presents the story of the long life of Miss Jane Pittman, who began her life as a slave in the South and who marched for her civil rights in the 20th century at the age of 110.

1972

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A traveler’s expedition about the notices of native tribes and wild animals.

1973

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A comprehensive bibliography dealing specifically with the African slave trade.
1974

**Book:**
AAC PS591.N4 B58 1974

**Overview:**  
With 200,000 copies in print, this anthology for decades has been seen as a fundamental collection of African-American verse.

1975

**Book:**
AAC NB1098 .S44 1975

**Overview:**  
Seeking to bring the African carver's work within the scope of the Western observer, Segy stresses the need for appraising African art within its own context, suspending established procedures for art appreciation and viewing the object as it actually is, not as we think it is or should be.

1976

**Book:**
AAC E185.5.I58 W49 1976

**Overview:**  
In period details, showing how much African-Americans have come a long way since slavery to the era of the Civil Rights Movement.
1977

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Exploring the history and achievements of some popular historically black colleges and universities.

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1978

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Explains the history of race and struggles between the blacks and whites, and the rise of Apartheid.

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1979

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Donated by former Dean of Student Affairs Annie L. Cooper, *Alpha Kappa Alpha In The Eye of the Beholder* describes the history and the legacy of the oldest Black Greek-letter sorority.
1980

**Book:**
AAC Z720.A45 A133 1980

**Overview:**
Donated by former FAMU Dean of the School of Library Science Emily Copeland, *The Black Librarian in the Southeast* describes the experiences of African Americans enrolled in the School of Library Science.

1981

**Book:**

**Overview:**
*Masters & Slaves in the House of the Lord* provides insight into religion during slavery in South. The book also compares and contrasts differences in religion from a white and black perspective.

1982

**Book:**
AAC E185.625 .M66 1982

**Overview:**
The controversial titled book recounts the experiences, perceptions, and hardships of a Black male living in America.
1983

**Book:**
AAC E185 .P55 1983

**Overview:**
A Reference book containing information and facts pertaining to African Americans and the African American experience.

1984

**Book:**
AAC E185.61 .B2 1984

**Overview:**
*Notes of a Native Son,* James Baldwin’s first non-fiction book, describes his troubled life in Harlem.

1985

**Book:**

**Overview:**
An annotated bibliography of African Americans in mass media compiled by former FAMU University Librarian Gloria Woody.
**Book:**

*Also available in the database Black Drama*

**Overview:**
*Fences* is one of several plays by August Wilson. The play reflects on racism, fatherhood, and the fear of the unknown in a changing society in the 1950s. AAC PS3573.I45677 F4 2007

**Book:**

**Overview:**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
An account of the African American experience from slavery to end of the twentieth century
1989

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Written by Emeritus FAMU Professor and former Graduate Dean Charles C.U. Smith; *The Civil Rights Movement in Florida* describes the Civil Rights movement locally, regionally, and nationally.

1990

**Book:**

**Overview:**
*Run, Bullet Run* chronicles the life and struggles of former FAMU star athlete turned Olympic champion Bob “Bullet” Hayes

1991

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Fiction novel centered around main character Kunta Kinte who accurately depicts experiences endured in slavery
1992

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s, *A Gathering of Old Men* is a powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man.

1993

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Fictional novel based on a young black male implicated in the death of a white store owner in a small Cajun Louisiana community.

1994

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A Black, who seeks revenge against his oppressive white employers, is doomed when he breaks the most honored rule of love in the South.
1995

**Book:**
AAC [PS3519.O2625 A95 1995]

**Overview:**
The fictional autobiography of a fair skinned bi-racial male who explains his experiences of being able to exist in two different worlds.

1996

**Book:**
AAC [PS3569.A63 P87 1997]

**Overview:**
*PUSH*, a fiction novel turned screenplay is based on the life of a 16 year old female named Precious. *PUSH* expounds on incest, teenage pregnancy, and HIV.

1997

**Book:**
AAC [PS3569.H3324 F6 1997]

**Overview:**
Critically acclaimed fiction novel turned screen play that embraces realistic experiences of four African American women.
Book:
AAC PS3563 .O8749 .M872 1998

Overview:
*Sula* is the story of the fear that makes people accept self-pity; the fear that will not countenance escape and that justifies itself through myth and legend.

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Book:
AAC PS3564.A895 M45 1999

Overview:
Explores the lives and fates of seven men, from Basil Michael, who marries a woman he does not love for the sake of her children, to Eugene Turner, torn between his homosexuality and his beloved wife.

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Book:
AAC LC2781.7 .R67 2000

Overview:
*The Divine Nine* provides the history behind America's nine Black fraternities and sororities and explores the roles of these organizations in shaping generations of African-American leaders.
2001

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Publication written by former Vice President for Academic Affairs Leedell Neyland describing Florida A&M University administration under former President Humphries.

2002

**Book:**

**Overview:**
*Faithful, Firm, & True* published by History professor Titus Brown reflects on the educational experience and history of African American schools in the South.

2003

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Popular fiction book that chronicles the life of a 26 year old woman snatched from her hometown and forced to deal with slavery in the antebellum South.
2004

**Book:**

**Overview:**
The limited edition *GOAT* is located in the Heritage Room in Rm. A410 of Coleman Library. *GOAT* is signed by Muhammad Ali and reflects on the life and legacy of the boxer with illustrations.

2005

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Edited by FAMU History Chair David Jackson, *Go Sound the Trumpet* explains the African American Experience in Florida from the Spanish era to present.

2006

**Book:**

**Overview:**
*The Audacity of Hope* written by the first African American U.S. President and former Senator Barack Obama calls for a different brand of politics.
**2007**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Children’s book that tells the story of former FAMU athlete and tennis star Althea Gibson.

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**2008**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

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**2009**

**Book:**

**Overview:**
A popular reserve book that is a compelling story of survival, struggle, and triumph over adversity.
2010

**Book:**

**Overview:**
*Wench* FAMU’s 2011-2012 Freshman Summer Reading Program Book explores the lives of 4 slave mistresses and their relationships with their white slave masters.

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2011

**Book:**

**Overview:**
Biography of former FAMU student turned famous rapper Common.

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2012

**Book:**

**Online Resource:**

**Overview:**
*The Price of the Ticket: Barack Obama and Rise and Decline of Black Politics*. This is a historical significance of Barack Obama's triumph in the presidential election of 2008.
Acknowledgment: Thanks to Ms. Khalilah Hayes, former Special Collections Librarian at Florida A&M University Libraries for coordinating this project and making it a reality.