



Using Library of Congress Subject Headings to Search

Subject headings are a set of terms or phrases (known as controlled vocabulary) that classify materials. Essentially they identify and pull together under a common umbrella information about a given subject. Most online catalogs and databases use some form of subject headings, though they may also be called descriptors or keywords.

Using subject headings is a more advanced way to research as they help to reduce the amount of “garbage,” or irrelevant results, that come up. This is because subject headings are assigned to an article or a book by a person, rather than a computer. Subject headings are also assigned based on the topic of the article, rather than just the words that appear in the text.

All library catalogs and research databases use Library of Congress Subject Headings. To execute a search in a catalog or database of interest simply paste a term or phrase in the “search bar”. You will often see that a list of hyperlinked “related subjects”, “similar items”, “suggested terms” or additional relevant terms to search are presented in the bibliographic information of a selected book or article.

Common Subject Headings for African Methodist Episcopal History

- African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church. 1st District. (etc. 1st-12th District)
- African Methodist Episcopal Church. A.M.E. Sunday School Union
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Bibliography--Catalogs.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Biography.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Bishops.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Bishops—Biography
- African Methodist Episcopal Church. Board of Education
- African Methodist Episcopal Church—Clergy
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Clergy--Appointment, call and election.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Clergy--Biography.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Clergy--Correspondence.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church--Clergy--Handbooks, manuals, etc.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church -- Discipline.
- African American Methodists -- History -- 19th century
- African Methodist Episcopal Church – Periodicals
- African Methodist Episcopal Church. -- Women's Missionary Society.
- African Methodist Episcopal Church. -- Young People's Division.
- Women in church work -- Methodist Episcopal Church.

Visit the Library of Congress Authorities site to locate additional terms and phrases

<http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects>

The titles listed below are some of the basic resources located in the Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom Memorial Library that are useful for your preliminary research in African Methodist Episcopal History.

Bibliographies and Encyclopaedia

Turner, McNeal Henry. *Methodist Polity*. The A.M.E. Sunday School Union: Nashville, Tennessee, 1986.

http://www.worldcat.org/title/genius-and-theory-of-methodist-polity-or-the-machinery-of-methodism-practically-illustrated-through-a-series-of-questions-and-answers/oclc/15100308&referer=brief_results#similar

Wayman, Alexander W. *Cyclopaedia of African Methodism*. Methodist Episcopal Book Depository, Baltimore, Maryland, 1882.

Wilberforce Archives. BX8442 .W39 1882 SCARB

Wright, R.R. *Centennial Encyclopaedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. Book Concern of the AME Church: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1947.

(available digitally - <http://docsouth.unc.edu/church/wright/wright.html>)

Wright, R.R. *The Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. The A.M.E. Sunday School Union: Nashville, Tennessee, 1963.

Payne Archives. BX8442 .W7

General Resources

Print:

The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. 1948, 1952, 1957, 1961, 1964, 1968, 1972

Payne Stacks. BX8448 .B6

Allen, Richard. *The Life, Experience, and Gospel Labours of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen*. The A.M.E. Sunday School Union: Nashville, Tennessee, 19—

Payne Archives. BX8449.A6 A33

Gregg, Howard D. *History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church: The Black Church in Action*. AMEC: Nashville, Tennessee, 1980

Wilberforce Archives. E185.7 .A37G73

Lampton, Edward W. *Digest of Rulings of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from 1847 to 1907*. The Record Publishing Company: Washington, D.C., 1907

Payne Archives. BX8440 .L28

Payne, Daniel A. *History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. AMEC Sunday School Union, Legacy Publishing: Nashville, Tennessee, 1998

Payne Reserve. Archives. BX8443 .P28 1998

Singleton, George A. *The romance of African Methodism: a study of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. New York, Exposition Press, 1952.

Payne Archives. BX8443 .S45

Smith, James H. *Vital Facts Concerning the African Methodist Episcopal Church: Its Origin, Doctrines, Government, Usages, Polity, Progress*, 1941

Payne Archives. BX8443 .S6 1941

Strobert, Nelson T. *Daniel Alexander Payne: the venerable preceptor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 2012.

Payne Archives. E185.97.P39 S77 2012

Online:

Official Website of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

<http://www.ame-church.com/>

Serials (Newspapers and Regularly Published Pamphlets)

Christian Recorder

Wilberforce Reserve Room, 1854-,

Payne Theological Seminary Archives, Microfilm 1856-1902, Print 1940-2014

The A.M.E. Church Review

Payne Archives. BX8440 .A3 1916 v.32.3, BX8440 .A3 1992 v.346, BX8440 .A3 1976 v.285

The Anvil

Digital Collections

Payne Theological Seminary and A.M.E. Church Digital Archive

<http://commons.ptsem.edu/payne>

The African American Experience in Ohio (two pamphlets)

<http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/pamphlet/index.html>

Auburn Avenue Research Library – Historic African American Education Collections (Big Bethel AME Church)

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/cgi/meta.cgi?dbs=meta&ini=meta.ini&userid=public&query=%28coll%3A%20aaed%29Subject%3A%22Big%20Bethel%20African%20Methodist%20Episcopal%20Church%20Atlanta%20Ga%22&cc=1>

Avery Research Center

- Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church
http://avery.cofc.edu/archives/Mt_Zion_AME_Church.html
- Lecque Family Papers (Plenty Lecque established oldest A.M.E. church in area)
http://avery.cofc.edu/archives/Lecque_Family_Papers.html
- Emanuel A.M.E. Church
http://avery.cofc.edu/archives/Emanuel_A_M_E_Church.html

Documenting the American South

- The Church in the Southern Black Community
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/church/>
- African Methodist Episcopal Church Search
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/results.html?q=african%20methodist%20episcopal>

New York Public Library, History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/history-of-the-african-methodist-episcopal-church-by-daniel-a-payne-edited#/?tab=about>