



National History Day Research Guide

Topic: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Contact the Reference Services department for help with your research project:

- Phone us, 720-865-1363,
- Visit us, reference desk on Floor 3 of the [Central Library](#),
- Chat with us online with the [Ask Us!](#) Service,
- Meet with us in person or online to work [one-on-one with a librarian](#).

Getting Started

Begin your research by brainstorming keywords - the words and phrases you'll use to search for books, articles, websites, government documents, and other resources. These may include names of people and places or historical concepts like eras and movements. A librarian can suggest "subject headings" to find the most relevant resources.

Example Keywords & Subject Headings

Civil rights
Montgomery, Alabama
Segregation
Montgomery Bus Boycott

[Parks, Rosa, 1913-2005.](#)

[African Americans -- Civil Rights -- History -- 20th Century.](#)

[Civil Rights Movements -- Southern States -- History -- 20th Century.](#)

[Southern States -- Race Relations.](#)

Primary & Secondary Sources

Start your search at [the library catalog](#). You will need to use both [primary](#) and secondary sources for your project. You can often find both in the library catalog and place holds on materials, if needed.

Books/Print Resources at DPL

The rebellious life of Mrs. Rosa Parks.

<http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=1196881>

She would not be moved: how we tell the story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott. <http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=613213>

Stride toward freedom: The Montgomery story. (Primary source.)

<http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=20753>

Rosa Parks. <http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=378285>

The birth of the Montgomery bus boycott.

<http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=218392>

Bus ride to justice: Changing the system by the system: The life and works of Fred D Gray, preacher, attorney, politician. <http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=251160>

Genealogy, African American and Western History Resources at DPL

The [Western History & Genealogy](#) department focuses on Colorado and the West. These materials do not check out, but are available to view on Floor 5 of the Central Library.

The [Blair Caldwell African American Research Library](#) archives and reference collection contain primary and secondary source materials about African Americans who helped shape the West. These materials do not check out, but are available to view at the [Blair Caldwell library](#). Email askblaircaldwell@denverlibrary.org or call 720-865-2401 for more information.

Southern Black women in the modern civil rights movement.

<http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=1405593>

Women in the Civil Rights movement : trailblazers and torchbearers, 1941-1965.

<http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=1406936>

Database/Online Resources

Library databases are online collections of information, organized for research. Databases contain articles, eBooks, images, maps, primary sources and more. If you don't have a library card, [register online](#) for immediate access to these resources. The following recommended databases are available on our [Research](#) and [Teen Social Studies](#) pages.

[U.S. History in Context.](#) Coverage of the most-studied events, decades, conflicts, wars, political and cultural movements, and people from reference sources, full-text magazines, academic journals, news articles, primary source documents, images, videos, audio files and links to vetted web sites.

Rosa Parks. <http://tinyurl.com/gncukw2>

Rosa Parks Resources Topic Page. <http://tinyurl.com/hufzhlh> (Requires library card.)

[America: History & Life.](#) Index to historical coverage of the United States and Canada from pre-history to the present.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Fall of the Montgomery City Lines

<http://tinyurl.com/hvprej2>

[New York Times Historical Backfile.](#) Contains full-text and images in PDF format of the New York Times from 1851 to three years before current year.

Rosa Parks, 92, Intrepid Pioneer Of Civil Rights Movement, Is Dead.

<http://tinyurl.com/zkz5s77> (Requires library card.)

Buses Boycotted Over Race Issue: Montgomery, Ala., Negroes Protest Woman's Arrest for Defying Segregation. (Primary source.) <http://tinyurl.com/jc9cvz2> (Requires library card.)

[Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature.](#) Index of articles from more than 550 magazines from 1890-1982. Use the Readers' Guide to discover articles from Reference Services' print magazine collection.

Bus boycott anniversary. <http://tinyurl.com/gpw4wrv>
 Alabama's bus boycott. (Primary source.) <http://tinyurl.com/j4t66ep> (Contact us for access.)
 Montgomery morning, end of segregated buses. (Primary source.) <http://tinyurl.com/zgw2krk>
 (Contact us for access.)

Searching beyond Denver Public Library

As a Denver Public Library customer, you can also [borrow materials from other library systems](#). If DPL doesn't have something you need, search Prospector to check other Colorado libraries' catalogs.

Rosa Parks: My Story. (Autobiography; primary source.)
http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb28123187__Srosa%20parks%20my%20story_P0%2C2__Orightresult__U__X4?lang=eng&suite=def
 Women and the civil rights movement, 1954-1965.
http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb22351317__Srosa%20parks%20sources_P0%2C8__Orightresult__U__X1?lang=eng&suite=def

Internet Sources

Before using information you find on the internet for assignments and research, it is important to establish that the information comes from a reliable and appropriate source. The following websites, from government, academic and nonprofit organizations, have been evaluated for authority, accuracy, content and currency.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott: They Changed the World. Select stories from the *Montgomery Advertiser's* archives, photographs, biographies and video interviews with key boycott participants. (Primary sources.) <http://www.montgomeryboycott.com/>
 Library of Congress Rosa Parks Collection: Papers and photographs on "Parks' private life and public activism on behalf of civil rights for African Americans." (Primary sources.) <https://www.loc.gov/collections/rosa-parks-papers/about-this-collection/>