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News - Digital Library of Georgia

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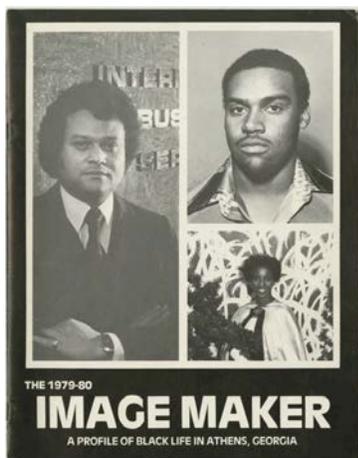
People, Libraries and Agencies **IN THE NEWS**

Digital Library of Georgia

First 2017 Subgrant Collection Debuts: 31 Issues of Athens-Based African American Lifestyle Magazine, *Image Magazine*, Now Online

Thirty-one issues dating from 1977 to 1980 of *Image Magazine*, one of the Athens area’s first African American lifestyle magazines, are now freely available online through the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) at: http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/CollectionsA-Z/immag_search.html.

Published by Dr. Robert Harrison from 1977 through 1980, *Image Magazine* covered the



Athens area African American community. Harrison and his staff regularly profiled African American businesses, civic leaders, notable students, social organizations, and churches in

the region. The magazine also documented the social and artistic life of the area’s African Americans through fiction and features on fashion, music, and art. Of particular note is a 1980 special issue, *The 1979-80 Image Maker: A Profile of Black Life in Athens, Georgia*.

“We are grateful to Dr. Harrison for sharing this collection, and we truly appreciate the DLG for helping us make it available to everyone,” said Rikki Chesley, Athens Regional Library System

head of archives and special collections. “Magazines like *Image* provide a unique glimpse into the daily lives of Athens families. This collection is a great way for researchers to learn about our community’s recent past.”

Harrison, an Athens civic leader and graduate of the University of Georgia, is the current executive director of the Institute for Community and Organizational Development, Inc., whose mission is “to empower people and communities through advocacy, education, and training.”

DLG Digitizes One Millionth Historic Newspaper Page and Receives Georgia Genealogical Society 2017 Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Genealogy Award



This fall, DLG digitized its one millionth historic newspaper page, the premier issue of *The Georgia Gazette*, Georgia's first newspaper, published from 1763–1776 in Savannah. Public libraries around the state were provided with printed materials, including bookmarks, rack cards, and temporary tattoos, as well as a freely downloadable digital press kit to encourage local celebrations of the milestone.

The online press kit, available at: <https://sites.google.com/view/ghn-presskits>, includes:

- A curriculum guide for educational/library programming with Georgia Historic Newspapers (GHN);
- A PowerPoint slide deck template for creating presentations on how to use the GHN web site;
- A DLG quick facts document with information about the DLG, its public library partners, communication channels, and our historic newspaper milestones;
- A selection of prepared GHN-related posts that can be shared on social media; and
- A Millionth Page badge graphic to share within posts on social media.

The DLG promoted its millionth page with weekly social media posts that featured items from our digitized newspapers, and conducted a contest with Facebook users who share our millionth page social media posts and tag us. Two winners were awarded a copy of University of Georgia (UGA) Press's book *For Free Press and Equal Rights* by Richard H. Abbott.

In honor of DLG's efforts to digitize historic Georgia newspapers, the Georgia Genealogical Society has awarded the DLG its 2017 Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Genealogy Award.

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System's African American Funeral Programs Collection Expanded

Georgia HomePLACE, the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG), and the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System are pleased to announce the addition of over 10,000 digitized pages of African American funeral programs to the Augusta

Public Library's Eula M. Ramsey Johnson Memorial Funeral Program Collection. Spanning 1933–2017 and consisting of over 3,000 programs, the digital collection provides both a rich source of genealogical information and local history about the African American community. Programs are freely available online through the DLG at: http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/CollectionsA-Z/fpro_search.html.

The current project more than doubles the total number of programs originally available in the digital collection. In 2009, HomePLACE and the DLG digitized the approximately 1,000 funeral programs available in the Georgia Heritage Room of the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System. The bulk of the collection was donated in the early 2000s by local historian Gloria Ramsey Lucas. An avid genealogist and former president of the Augusta Genealogical Society, Ms. Lucas is known for her award-winning work, *Slave Records of Edgefield County*, a compilation which came about during her own search for enslaved ancestors. The donated funeral programs belonged to her aunt, Eula M. Ramsey Johnson, who had been collecting them for over 30 years and for whom the collection is named.

"Family history researchers are familiar with common vital records rich in genealogical data—such as birth, marriage, and death certificates—and frequently exhaust these resources in their ancestral search," said HomePLACE Director Angela Stanley. "Though often difficult to find, funeral programs can provide critical information about a person's relationships, character, community ties, and social prominence that coroner's reports and death certificates



cannot. These context clues become all the more precious when we consider that genealogists researching African American lineage are frequently told the work cannot be done. Yet what we often find is that when the right records come to light, the people behind them do, too.”

A majority of the programs are from churches in Augusta, Georgia and the surrounding area, with a few outliers in other states, such as New York and Florida. The programs typically contain a photograph of the deceased, an obituary, a list of surviving relatives, and the order of service. The collection provides extensive genealogical information about the deceased, including birth and death dates, maiden names, names of relatives, past residences, and place of burial. Many of the people included in this collection were prominent in their communities

and involved locally in the struggle for civil rights. In 2010, the collection was honored with a Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia’s History.

Said Georgia Heritage Room Librarian Tina Monaco, "This award-winning collection has truly been, from its inception, a community-driven endeavor. The digital collection offers a much-needed resource to those researching African-American family and social history."

Funding for this project was provided by Georgia HomePLACE, a unit of the Georgia Public Library Service. The new collection was made possible through a partnership between Georgia HomePLACE, the Digital Library of Georgia, and the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System in Augusta, Georgia.