

# Africa Commons



## Digitising, disseminating and showcasing African cultural materials.

Africa Commons is a digital platform that aims to **enable Africa to control, digitise, and disseminate its archival riches**—those within the continent and items residing internationally.

### Integrated on a single platform, Africa Commons currently comprises:

- Africa Commons: South African Magazines - out of copyright
- Africa Commons: West African Magazines
- Africa Commons: Southern African Films and Documentaries

African Academic institutions that subscribe to either the South African Magazines, West African Magazines or Southern African Films and Documentaries will receive free access to the East African Newspapers, Magazines & Films, Pan-African Magazines, and the History and Culture Modules.

- Africa Commons: History and Culture
- Africa Commons: East African Newspapers, Magazines & Films

### Giving a global voice to African content.

The goal of Africa Commons is to digitise and preserve African content, enabling African scholars and students to easily find and access expressions of their heritage, including in Western collections. Making these collections available digitally not only enables access for scholars, but also gives a global voice to the writers and filmmakers telling these stories. Many materials are now digitally and accessible for the first time.

### This service supports researchers and students in:

- Literature
- History
- Journalism
- Politics
- Education
- Media Studies
- Political Science
- Africana Studies
- Culture
- Gender Studies

Sabinet and Coherent Digital share a common goal of preserving African content and facilitating its accessibility to researchers in South Africa and Africa, making us ideal partners.

**Sabinet**

Contact us for more information

+27 12 643 9500 [info@sabinet.co.za](mailto:info@sabinet.co.za) [www.sabinet.co.za](http://www.sabinet.co.za)

Facilitating *access* to information

Pick a module or combine a few to fit your research focus:

### **Africa Commons: South African Magazines** **Historically significant magazines, written for African audiences.**

This groundbreaking, digitised collection of rare, historical, and out-of-copyright magazines comprises historically significant magazines, written for African audiences.

- **Drum Magazine 1951-1973**
- **The Township Housewife**
- **Grace Magazine**
- **Hi-Note!**
- **Contrast**
- **And more being added.**

At the heart of this compilation stands the iconic, Drum Magazine:

- Once the most widely read magazine in Africa
- Drum reflected the heartbeat of our society
- Over 300 issues, spanning 1951-1973

### **Africa Commons: West African Magazines** **Showcasing rare, historically significant magazines from West Africa.**

Up to 50,000 pages of historically significant popular magazines and literary journals from West Africa spanning the decades from the 1930s to today. The growing collection promises unparalleled insights into Africa's literary, artistic, and cultural identity during this time.

- **Nigeria Magazine (1937 - 1985)**
- **Okyeame (1960 - 1972)**
- **La Vie Africaine (1959 - 1965)**
- **Black orpheus (1957 - 1967)**

### **Africa Commons: Southern African Films and Documentaries** **Streaming access to more than a century of African history, politics, and culture.**

With content spanning the 1900s to the early 2000s, this collection features:

- Over 100 films and documentaries dating from the 1900s to the early 2000s
- Films and newsreels covering key events from 1919 onwards
- Exclusive interviews from the 1980s
- Writers, journalists, and activists discussing first-hand accounts of key events

All films are transcribed and keyword searchable.

The content supports teaching and research in:

- **Film & cinema**
- **History & world culture**
- **Race & ethnicity**
- **Women's studies**
- **And other areas.**

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## **Africa Commons: History and Culture** **Showcasing rare and endangered African cultural materials.**

The most comprehensive place for searching and collecting African historical and cultural materials. The collection features:

- Central access point to over 609 000 digital cultural artefacts
- Curated from more than 4 500 collections worldwide
- 600 contributing organisations
- Books, newspapers, government documents, letters, diaries, posters, and manuscripts
- Oral history, photographs, art, music, and videos
- Simple, powerful search

**Users can find thousands of digital collections of African materials in one place. Organisations located in Africa can upload their relevant content for free to the platform to make it more discoverable.**

## **Africa Commons: East African Newspapers, Magazines & Films** **Showcasing the work of Hillary Ng'weno, an iconic Kenyan journalist, publisher, and social commentator.**

The Archive provides access to over 100,000 pages of digitised publications from Ng'weno's media company, including:

- **The Weekly Review (1975-1999)**
- **The Nairobi Times (1977-1983)**
- **Rainbow children's magazines (1976-1995)**
- **The Kenyan Heritage Series films**

Users can explore Kenyan history and culture in one place.

## **Africa Commons: Pan-African Magazines** **Over 70,000 pages of rare magazines from South, East and West Africa documenting African life.**

An exclusive agreement with the Drum Archive gives users access to regional editions of Drum:

- **Drum South Africa: 1974-1983**
- **Drum isiZulu: 1963-1964**
- **Drum East Africa: 1957-1991**
- **Drum Federation: 1960-1961**
- **Drum West Africa: 1954-1957**
- **Drum Ghana: 1958-1972**
- **Drum Nigeria: 1958-1982**
- **Drum International: 1966**

**Africa Commons is the answer to exploring  
African intellectual identity through  
literature, art, culture and commentary.**

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