Open to the Public

The AAPB is a digital archive with online access at americanarchive.org. Users anywhere in the United States can access a wide range of historical public television and radio programs that were submitted for digitization by more than 100 stations and archives from across the country.

More than 36,000 programs are available online for research, educational and informational purposes. The entire collection is available for research on location at WGBH and the Library of Congress.

Educational Content

Because of the geographical breadth of the material, researchers, students, teachers, and lifelong learners can use the collection to help uncover ways that national historical events and processes played out on the local scene.

The long chronological reach from the late 1940s to the present provides researchers with previously inaccessible primary source material to document change over time.

Curated Exhibits

American Archive of Public Broadcasting staff and guest curators create exhibits of selected recordings that focus on themes, topics, and events of cultural and historical significance.

In the exhibits, curators contextualize digitized primary and secondary source public television and radio materials. Each curated set of selected recordings present a diversity of perspectives concerning the exhibit’s focus.

As a result, AAPB exhibits often illuminate how public broadcasting stations and producers have covered topics such as the Watergate hearings, climate change, protesting in America, civil rights, and more.
Special Collections

Notable collections are featured and provide detailed information about the content, its background, recommended search strategies, and related resources.

The PBS NEWSHOUR COLLECTION includes every broadcast episode of PBS NewsHour predecessor programs from 1972 - 2005. More than 8,000 episodes will be made available in full on the AABP website once the digitization has been completed.

The KEN BURNS' CIVIL WAR INTERVIEWS include full-length, never before seen interviews featuring distinguished historians from Ken Burns' The Civil War by American Documentaries, Inc. Only minutes of these interviews were included in the edited documentary.

The NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION (NET) COLLECTION consists of more than 10,000 television programs from non-commercial TV stations and producers from 1952-1972 on public affairs, social issues, arts, culture, the humanities, science, and education.

The AFRICANS IN AMERICA INTERVIEWS COLLECTION is made up of 53 raw interviews from the award-winning, four-part documentary of the same name, which aired on PBS in 1998. The first documentary to fully examine the history of slavery in the US, it focused on the experiences of African people and their transformation of America, beginning with 16th-century enslavement on Africa's Gold Coast and ending on the eve of the American Civil War in 1881.

Interviews from AMERICAN EXPERIENCE include raw interviews from American Experience documentary films. Only minutes of these interviews were included in the edited productions and include Jubilee Singers, Freedom Riders, The Murder of Emmett Till, and John Brown's Holy Wars.

The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTERS (NAEB) COLLECTION consists of more than 5,500 radio programs from the 1950s and 1960s, created by over 100 NAEB member stations. The collection includes radio documentaries, coverage of events (hearings, meetings, conferences, and seminars), interviews, debates, and lectures on public affairs topics such as civil rights, foreign affairs, health, politics, education, and broadcasting.

The EYES ON THE PRIZE INTERVIEWS include 75 hours of full-length interviews from the iconic civil rights documentary series Eyes on the Prize and includes conversations with iconic civil rights leaders such as Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, and Stokely Carmichael.

The WOMAN SERIES COLLECTION consists of more than 200 episodes of WNED's Woman Series, a 1970s talk show featuring in-depth conversations exploring issues affecting the lives of women.

70+ years of recorded history, at your fingertips. Watch and listen at americanarchive.org

Connect

Questions, suggestions, or want to collaborate?

Contact AAPB Engagement and Use Manager Ryn Marchese, ryn_marchese@wgbh.org

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