



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection**

1982-2001

Sc MG 580

Processed by Janice Quinter, April 2003.

## Summary

**Creator:** Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project

**Title:** Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection

**Date:** 1982-2001

**Size:** 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Gift of Michon Boston, 2001.

**Abstract:** The Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project was created by Oberlin College alumna Michon Boston in 1982 to collect and document the college experiences of living black graduates. The study was done following the College's sesquicentennial celebration. Oberlin admitted women in 1835 and was the first American college to admit blacks, also in the nineteenth century. The women included in this survey were graduated between 1923 and 1979. The Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection consists of fifty-three questionnaires. The information gathered in the questionnaires ranges from issues about college life to race, gender, and personal and professional backgrounds, including participation in community activities. There is data concerning the campus lives of these women, especially the relationship between blacks and whites and other minority groups, the unity of black students, black student organizations, the concerns of black students on campus, affirmative action, and the general feelings about being black women in a predominately white college, spanning six decades.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection, Sc MG 580, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Janice Quinter, April 2003.

## Creator History

The Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project was created by Oberlin College alumna Michon Boston in 1982 to collect and document the college experiences of living black graduates. The study

was done following the College's sesquicentennial celebration. Oberlin admitted women in 1835 and was the first American college to admit blacks, also in the nineteenth century. The women included in this survey were graduated between 1923 and 1979. Survey results published by Michon Boston in "A Matter of Race and Sex: Black women at Oberlin College" in "Oberlin Alumni Magazine," Summer 1.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection consists of fifty-three questionnaires. The information gathered in the questionnaires ranges from issues about college life to race, gender, and personal and professional backgrounds, including participation in community activities. There is data concerning the campus lives of these women, especially the relationship between blacks and whites and other minority groups, the unity of black students, black student organizations, the concerns of black students on campus, affirmative action, and the general feelings about being black women in a predominately white college, spanning six decades.

In addition to the questionnaires for Boston's project, there is a photocopy of a questionnaire completed by Anna Julia Cooper, an educator and 1884 Oberlin graduate, on which Boston's questionnaire was based. The Cooper manuscript collection at the Moorland Spingarn Research Center at Howard University contains her questionnaire from a survey with which the sociologist Charles S. Johnson was involved, entitled "Negro College Graduates." An article by Boston, "A Matter of Race and Sex: Black Women at Oberlin College" summarizing her research results is also included in the collection (1983).

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American college students -- Ohio -- Oberlin  
African American girls -- Education  
African American students -- Ohio -- Oberlin  
African American women -- Education  
College students -- Ohio -- Oberlin  
Women college students -- Ohio -- Oberlin

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Questionnaires

### **Names**

Cooper, Anna Julia  
Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project  
Oberlin College

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Questionnaires, B-Ja (17 surveys) 1982-1983
- b. 1 f. 2 Questionnaires, Jo-P (14 surveys) 1982
- b. 1 f. 3 Questionnaires, R-W (11 surveys) 1982-1983
- b. 1 f. 4 Questionnaires - restricted (11 surveys) 1982-1983  
Eleven alumni did not grant permission to include their names and addresses in the surveys. The originals of these eleven questionnaires have been photocopied and the identifying information redacted; the originals of these questionnaires are closed.
- b. 1 f. 5 Sample questionnaires  
Includes questionnaire by Anna Julia Cooper.
- b. 1 f. 6 Boston, Michon. "A Matter of Race and Sex: Black Women at Oberlin College" 1983