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## **AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS: SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF FASHION, 1890-1910**

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The major goal of this descriptive study was to examine the types of fashion information disseminated in selected African American newspapers and magazines published between 1890-1910. The newspapers examined included The African American Baltimore, the Atlanta Independent, and The Savannah Tribune. The magazines examined included The Colored American Magazine and The Voice of the Negro. Generally speaking, these African American publications spanned 1890 to 1910.

Each publication was examined for the presence of fashion information and the types of fashion information. The publications revealed four types of sources: advertisements, fashion columns, wedding announcements, and other. Advertisements listed specific items for sale, and some provided comments and illustrations about the merchandise. Wedding announcements provided detailed descriptions of dresses worn by the bride, bridesmaids, and some guests. The "other" category included various articles that referred to fashion or the wearing of fashionable dress but did not provide specific information about the types of fashion. The source that provided the most interesting information about fashion was the "fashion notes." These columns appeared in most newspapers and in one magazine.

Altogether the publications examined did not provide an abundance of material about women's fashions between 1890-1910; however, the information compiled presents another picture of American fashion and serves as a valuable source through which to study dress.