We’re excited to bring Brandeis students, faculty, and staff access to The HistoryMakers Digital Archive!

The HistoryMakers is the largest African American video oral history archive. It includes more than 2,700 oral histories, totaling 9,000 hours from historically significant African Americans, as well as African American organizations, events, and movements that have made significant contributions to American society and culture. The collection includes interviews with President Barack Obama (then an Illinois State Senator), civil rights leader Julian Bond, and children’s advocate Marian Wright Edelman.

In the HistoryMakers Digital Archive, you can search for interviews and oral history videos by individual HistoryMaker names, gender, birth year, job type, as well as themes, subjects, and historical context. Transcripts for the interviews are available and searchable.

The HistoryMakers was founded in 1999 by Brandeis alum Julieanna Richardson. The mission of The HistoryMakers is to interview and preserve the oral history of 5,000 African American HistoryMakers, and to establish an online database that will educate and show the breadth and depth of the accomplishments of individual African Americans across a variety of disciplines. The HistoryMakers recently partnered with Brandeis and Carnegie Mellon to modernize the technological foundations of the digital archive.

Tags: Faculty · Graduate Students · Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship · Research · Scholarly Information Resources · Staff · Undergraduate Students