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Institution: Roosevelt University

Collection Title: Dempsey Travis papers

Date Span: 1885-2008, bulk 1980-2002

Extent: 90 linear feet

Processors: Processed by CLIR funded Black Metropolis Research Consortium "Color Curtain Processing Project." By T.J. Szafranski and Dominique Fuqua, August 24, 2012

Restrictions:

Related Collections:

Dempsey Travis Papers, Chicago History Museum;

Dempsey Travis Papers, Chicago Public Library, Woodson Regional Library, Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature

Abstract:

Dempsey J. Travis (1920-2009) was an entrepreneur and civil rights activist whose real estate and mortgage businesses helped shape African American communities throughout Chicago during the mid-20th Century. Travis was also a prominent author who wrote about African American history, politics, and music. The Dempsey Travis papers span from 1902-2008, with the bulk of material from 1980-2002, and showcase Travis' career as an author. The papers include drafts, transcripts of interviews, and research.

Biographical Note:

Dempsey Travis (1920-2009) was a real estate entrepreneur and civil rights activist who, later in life, became a prominent historian and author, writing extensively on African American history, politics, social issues, and music. Travis was born in 1920 in Chicago, IL, and served in the United States Army from 1942-1946 before earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Roosevelt University in 1949. As an entrepreneur, Travis sought to revitalize African American neighborhoods in Chicago. Travis Realty Company, which he founded in 1949, and Sivart Mortgage Company, which he founded four years later, increased the availability of mortgages for African Americans. Together, the two companies worked to sell properties located in the Chicagoland area to African Americans who were being displaced by urban renewal projects. In 1961, Travis founded the United Mortgage Bankers of America and served as its president until 1974. During the late sixties and early seventies, Travis served on President Richard Nixon's Housing Task Force and President Gerald Ford's Task Force on Urban Renewal.

Travis was also involved with the Civil Rights movement, and while serving as president of the NAACP Chicago chapter in 1959 he coordinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s first civil rights march in Chicago on July 24, 1960.

Travis' career as an author began when he founded Urban Research Institute, later renamed Urban Research Press, in 1969. The Press was initially established to publish

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The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

studies on socioeconomic issues affecting urban African Americans, but later evolved into a literary press, publishing 21 of Travis' books. Travis's first book was the children's book, *Don't Stop Me Now* (1970). In 1981, he wrote *An Autobiography of Black Chicago* and became the first African American author to have a book listed on the Chicago Tribune non-fiction bestsellers list. Travis would later publish *An Autobiography of Black Jazz* (1983) and *An Autobiography of Black Politics* (1987). These three books exemplify Travis' writing style, which weaves historical research and information gathered from in-depth interviews with biographical anecdotes.

Cited Sources:

Chicago Tribune, and Mitchum, Robert. "Dempsey J. Travis, 1920-2009." Chicago Tribune Online 3 July 2009. Accessed 24 August 2012.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2009-07-03/news/0907020863_1_mr-travis-black-belt-harold-washington

Scope and Content Note:

The Dempsey Travis papers span from 1885-2008, with the bulk of material from 1980-2002. The papers showcase Travis' career as an author, as opposed to his career as a real estate entrepreneur, and contain an extensive collection of interviews with prominent African American figures in various fields including politics, business, and entertainment. The papers are arranged in series based on individual books, or subject of books, with the majority of series containing edited drafts, transcribed interviews, and general research. The papers are arranged into 16 series, "An Autobiography of Black Politics," "An Autobiography of Black Chicago," "Racism," "Jazz," "Harold Washington," "World War II," "FBI," "Real Estate is the Gold in Your Future," "Victory Monument: The Beacon of Chicago's Bronzeville," "The Chosen, the Damned, and Other People," "Obama's Race to the White House," "The Life and Times of Red Foxx," "Dempsey Travis Real Estate," "Personal," "Photographs," and "Publications." Researchers interested in African American history, politics, and jazz music will find this collection useful. Audio/Visual material has been removed from the collection and transferred to the Performing Arts Library.

Access Headings:

Travis, Dempsey

Washington, Harold

Terry, Clark

Ellington, Duke

African American history

Jazz

African American politics

African American politician

Chicago politics

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

Chicago history
Racism

Container List:

Series I: An Autobiography of Black Politics, 1983-1987

An Autobiography of Black Politics was published by Urban Research Press in 1987. The book uses accounts of influential African Americans to chronicle Chicago's political evolution from the early 1800s through the election of Mayor Harold Washington in 1983. The series is arranged into three subseries: "Writings," "Interviews," and "Research."

Subseries 1: Writings, 1984-1987

This subseries contains edited drafts, publicity, and student workbooks for *An Autobiography of Black Politics*, and is arranged by book chapter.

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Publicity and Chapter 1
	2	Chapter 1-2
	3	Chapter 3
	4	Chapter 4-7
	5	Chapter 8-13
	6	Chapter 14-16
	7	Chapter 20-21
	8-10	Bibliography
	11	Student Workbooks

Subseries 2: Interviews, 1983-1987

This subseries contains transcripts of interviews. Travis conducted the majority of interviews, and some folders include a cassette recording of the interview. Interviews occurred between 1983 and 1987. This subseries is arranged alphabetically by the name of the interviewee.

Box	Folder	
2	12	Alter, Joanne
	13	Barnett, William
	14	Barrett, Brenetta Howell
	15	Berry, Bill
	16	Bevel, James
	17	Black, Timuel
	18	Black, Timuel and Gilbert, Herman
	19	Boutte, Alvin
	20	Braun, Carol Mosley

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	21	Brazier, Arthur
	22	Broadcast - Inside Politics, May 1, 1986
	23	Brown, Oscar
	24	Burris, Roland
	25	Byrne, Jane
	26	Caldwell, Louis
	27	Calloway, John
	28	Campbell, Kenneth
	29	Canter, David S.
	30	Cerda, Maria B.
	31	Cheefus, Dolores M.
	32	Cheefus, John
	33	Chew, Charles
	34	Clements, George
	35	Coffey, Thomas
	36	Cole, Charles
	37	Collins, Cardiss and Davis, Danny
	38	Collins, Otis
	39	Cotton, Jesse
3	40	Davis, Bessie
	41-42	Davis, Corneal A.
	43	Davis, Danny
	44	Davis, J. and Washington, Harold, and Travis, D.
	45	Davis, Theodore
	46	Dawson, Ira
	47	Deas, Milton B.
	48	Depres, Leon
	49	Dickerson, Earl B.
	50	Dunne, George W.
	51	Duster, Benjamin
	52	Ellis, Morris
	53	Eskridge, Chauncey
	54	Evans, Lovelyne
	55	Evans, Tim
	56	Ewing, Russ
	57	Franklin, John Hope
	58	Frost, Wilson

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	59	Frye
	60	Gaines, Charles
	61	Garcia, Jesus
	62	Gardner, Edward
	63	Gilbert, Herman
	64	Gregory, Dick
	65	Gutierrez, Louis
	66	Gutierrez, Louis and Torres, Maria
4	67	Hamilton, Arthur
	68	Hansberry, Mamie
	69	Harris, William
	70	Hayes, Charles
	71	Hicks, Odell
	72	Hill, Hugh
	73	Hill, Richard
	74	Hughes, Joe and Velma
	75	Humes, Marion
	76	Hutchinson, Elson
	77	Hynes, Tom
	78	Hynes, Tom, and Vrdolyak, Edward and Washington, Harold
	79	Jackson, Edgar
	80	Jackson, Jesse
	81	Jackson, Mahalia
	82	Johnson, Bennett
	83	Johnson, George
	84	Johnson, Rose H.
	85	Jones, John T.
	86	Jones, Mark
	87	Jones, Sadie Waterford
	88	Jones, Sidney
	89	Juarez
	90	Kennon, Lawrence
	91	King Jr. , Martin Luther – Broadcast, Mar 22 1986
	92	Korshak, Marshall
	93	Langford, Anna
	94	Lewis, Benjamin
	95	Lewis, Julian

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	96	Lipinski, William
5	97	Madison, Jesse
	98	McKeever, Lester
	99	Metcalf, Fay M.
	100	Montgomery, James
	101	Morgan, Fred
	102	Neal, Earl L.
	103	Oberman, Marty
	104	O'Hare, George
	105	Ordower, Sid
	106	Orr
	107	Palmer, Lu
	108	Partee, Cecil
	109	Payne, Aaron
	110	Pincham, R. Eugene
	111	Price, Raymond
	112	Raby, Al
	113	Ramero, Ray and Ketcum, Mars
	114	Rayner Sr., Ahmed A. and Rayner, Jr., Ahmed A.
	115	Saffold, Howard
	116-117	Savage, Gus
	118	Savage, Howard T.
	119	Scofford, Howard
	120	Sengstacke, John
	121	Simon, Paul
	122	Sims, George
	123	Smith, Phil
	124	Soliz, Juan
	125	South, Wesley
	126	Speed, Dennis and Jarret, Vernon
	127	Stevenson, Adlai
6	128	Stewart, Bennett M.
	129	Stone, Bernard, and Evans, Tim
	130	Thompson, James
	131-132	Todd, Thomas
	133	Torres, Maria
	134	Turkim, Studs

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	135	Vrdolyak, Edward
	136	Vrdolyak, Edward and Thompson, James
	137-140	Washington, Harold
	141	Washington, Harold and Byrne, Jane
	142	Washington, Harold and Jackson, Jesse
	143	Washington, Harold and Vrdolyak, Edward
	144	Wheeler, Lloyd
	145	Williams, Kale
	146	Wilson, C.
	147	Worril, Conrad and Brown, Bob
	148	Wyatt, Charles and Addie

Subseries 3: Research, 1902-1992

This subseries primarily contains newspaper clippings and printed articles collected by Travis while working on *An Autobiography of Black Politics*.

Box	Folder		
7-13	149-331	Research	1902-1992

Series II: An Autobiography of Black Chicago, 1940-2006

An Autobiography of Black Chicago, Travis' first bestseller, was published by Urban Research Press in 1981. In 1982, Travis received the Midland Award for literary excellence for the book. The book uses autobiographical anecdotes, historical research, and information from interviews to give a narrative of Chicago's African American history from the early 1900s through 1980. This series is arranged into three subseries: "Writings," "Publicity" and "Research."

Subseries 1: Writings, 2006

This subseries contains drafts of the book that were edited in 2006 by Travis and an editor, and a copy of the book. *An Autobiography of Black Chicago* is scheduled to be reissued in November of 2012.

Box	Folder		
14	332-333	<i>An Autobiography of Black Chicago</i>	2006

Subseries 2: Publicity, 1981-1982

This subseries contains newspaper clippings concerning *An Autobiography of Black Chicago*. It includes reviews of the book, profiles of Travis, and notices of speaking engagements and book signings.

Box	Folder		
14	334-336	Publicity	1981-1982

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The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

Subseries 3: Research, 1940-1980

This subseries mindless primarily contains newspaper clippings and printed articles collected by Travis while working on *An Autobiography of Black Chicago*.

Box	Folder		
14	337-338	Research	1940-1980

Series III: Racism, 1941-2007

Travis published three books on the subject of racism, *Racism, American Style – A Corporate Gift* (1991); *Racism: Round ‘n’ Round it Goes* (1998); and *An American Story in Red, White and Blue* (2002). *An American Story in Red White and Blue* traces the meaning of race in America from the Native Americans and founding fathers to present. *Racism: Round ‘n’ Round it Goes* relays firsthand accounts of racism and prejudice faced by African Americans that Travis interviewed. *Racism: American Style, A Corporate Gift* explores the challenges facing African Americans as they attempted to advance their careers in the corporate world. The series is arranged into three subseries: “Writings,” “Interviews,” and “Research.”

Subseries 1: Writings, 1990-2001

This subseries contain edited drafts from Travis’ three books dealing with racism. The series is arranged by book.

Box	Folder	
15	339-345	<i>Racism: American Style A Corporate Gift</i>
	346-347	<i>Racism: Round ‘n’ Round it Goes</i>
	348-351	<i>An American Story in Red, White and Blue</i>
16	352-358	<i>An American Story in Red, White and Blue</i>

Subseries 2: Interviews, 1983-1994

This subseries contains transcripts of interviews. The majority of interviews were conducted by Travis, and interviewees come from a wide background, including politicians, businessmen, religious leaders, athletes, and entertainers. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by interviewee, and interview dates range from 1983 to 1994.

Box	Folder	
16	359	Alexander, Ty
	360	Bateman, Paul
	361	Bell, Carl
	362	Bonaparte, William
	363	Bowles, Barbara
	364	Brady, Neville
	365	Brown, Buck
	366	Brown, Johnny

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	367	Brown, Oscar
	368	Burris, Roland
17	369	Byrd, Manford
	370	Campbell, Wendell
	371	Chatman, Linda
	372	Clark, Walter
	373	Clements, George
	374	Cullers, Vince
	375	Davis, Allerson
	376	Dickens, Jacoby
	377	Dobbins, Lucille
	378	Dugas, Lester
	379	Finley, Syd
	380	Floyd, Tom
	381	Gardner, Frank
	382	Gibbs, Kenard
	383	Gillespie, Ed
	384	Gist-Gilliam, Sharon
	385	Green, Michael
	386	Grimshaw, Jackie
	387	Haliburton, Lawrence
	388	Harris, William B.
	389	Harriston, Octavia
18	390	Harston, Glenn M.
	391	Henderson, Bill
	392	Henderson, Cynthia T.
	393	Hicks, Odell
	394	Hodges, Craig
	395	Hunt, Richard
	396	Jefferson, Darryl
	397	Johnson, Bob
	398	Jones, John T.
	399	Jones, Norma
	400	Jones-Stewart, Roma
	401	Kimbrough, Robert
	402	King, Paul
	403	Leighton, Gerorge

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	404	Linyard, Richard
	405	Madhubuti, Haki
	406	McGee, Carlton
	407	McKinney, Dennis
	408	Moore, Ralph
19	409	Moore, Stan
	410	Ozverby, Karen
	411	Parnell, Silas
	412	Pincham, Eugene
	413	Pugh, Roderick
	414	Reed
	415	Rivera, Harry
	416	Rodgers, Jonathan
	417	Sampson, Al
	418	Smith, Hale
	419	Smith, Robbie
	420	Stepto, Robert C.
	421	Taylor, Anita
	422	Taylor, Donna Brook
	423	Taylor, Hycel
	424	Taylor, Stewart
20	425	Todd, Thomas
	426	Turnquist, Bryant
	427	Tyners, Morris
	428	Walters, Kevin
	429	Ward, Lloyd
	430	Warren, Vernon and McElvey, Purvis
	431	Westmoreland, Sandra
	432	Wilkins, J. Ernest
	433	Williams, Elynor
	434	Williams, Jerry
	435	Williams, Nate
	436	Wilson, Willis
	437	Wright, Jeremiah A.

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The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

Subseries 3: Research, 1941-2007

This subseries primarily contains newspaper clippings and printed articles collected by Travis while writing books dealing with racism.

Box	Folder		
21-23	438-477	Research	1941-2007

Series IV: Jazz, 1909-2002

Dempsey Travis had aspirations to become a musician after learning to play the piano at age 6, but he gave up playing music after serving in the army. He expressed his love for music through writing, and published numerous books about jazz music throughout his life, including *An Autobiography of Black Jazz* (1983), *The Duke Ellington Primer* (1996), and *The Louis Armstrong Odyssey* (1997), and *Norman Granz: The White Moses of Black Jazz* (2003). This series is arranged into three subseries: "Writings, Interviews," and "Research."

Subseries 1: Writings, 1982-2002

This subseries contains drafts from Travis' jazz related books. Writings in this series are arranged by book, and drafts from *Norman Granz: The White Moses of Black Jazz* are arranged by chapter.

Box	Folders		
24	478-479	An Autobiography of Black Jazz	1982
	480	An Autobiography of Black Jazz – Pictures	1982
	481-482	The Duke Ellington Primer	1995-1996
	483-484	Norman Granz: The White Moses of Black Jazz	2002
	485	Ella Fitzgerald	2002
	486	Nat King Cole	2002
	487	Billie Holiday	2002
	488	Dizzy Gillespie	2002
	489	Mary Lou Williams	2002
	490-491	Clark Terry	2002
	492	Oscar Peterson	2002
	493	Lester "Prez" Young	2002
25	494-495	Coleman "Bean" Hawkins	2002
	496-497	Ben Webster	2002
	498-499	Charlie Parker	2002
	500	Gene Krupa	2002
	501	The Louis Armstrong Odyssey	1996
	502	Unidentified Writings	n.d.

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Research Consortium

Subseries 2: Interviews, 1979-1991

This subseries contains transcripts of interviews. The majority of interviews were conducted by Travis. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by interviewee, and interview dates range from 1979-1991.

Box	Folder	
	503	Armstrong, Louis
	504	Barnett, Etta Moten
	505	Bascomb, Paul
	506	Bates, Lefty and Cole, Freddie
	507	Bellson, Louie
	508	Blakey, Art
26	509	Blewitt, Ken
	510	Blewitt, Ken and Bates, Lefty and Cole, Freddie
	511	Board, Johnny
	512	Boyd, Bob
	513	Brown Jr., Oscar
	514	Browne, William
	515	Buckley, Dick
	516	Butler, Roy
	517	Calloway, Cab
	518	Campbell, Floyd
	519	Canterino, Mike
	520	Carter, Benny
	521	Chilton, Carol
	522	Cole, Nat King
	523	Davis, Bob
	524	Davis, Jimmy
	525	Deems, Barrett
27	526	Delisa, James
	527-528	Dixon, George
	529	Dixon, George and Campbell, Floyd
	530	Donnegan, Dorothy
	531	Dorsey, Thomas
	532	Dyett, Walter and Davis, Mack
	533	Eckstine, Billy
	534	Edwards, Eva Wheatley
	535	Evans, Bill
	536	Faye, Marty

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	537	Feileman, Toots
	538	Fort, Henry
	539	Fouch, Ruth Allen
	540	Francis, Panama
	541	Freeman, Bud
	542	Getz, Stan and Smith, Larry
28	543	Gillepsie, Dizzy
	544	Grappeli, Stephanie
	545	Gray, Harry
	546	Griffin, Johnny
	547	Guider, Vernon
	548	Hammond, John and Carter, Betty
	549	Henderson, Finnis
	550	Hibler, Al
	551	Hines, Earl
	552	Hinton, Milton
	553	Hoder, Art
	554	Hughes, Eloise
	555	Jackson, Franz
	556	Jackson, Milt
	557	Jefferson, Viola
	558	Jeffries, Herb
	559	Johnson, Eddie
	560	Jones, Gordon
29	561	Jones, Nat
	562	Kirby, George
	563	Loe, Walter L.
	564	Martin, Sallie
	565	MCP, Jimmy
	566	Montgomery, Little Brother
	567	Morton, Jelly Roll
	568	Needham, Theresa
	569	O'Dalie, Daddy
	570	O'Day, Anita
	571	O'Hare, George
	572	Patterson, Tommye
	573	Pierce, James

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	574	Piper, Scott
	575	Plicque, Eddie
	576	Randolph, Zilmer
	577	Roberts, Herman
	578	Shearing, George
	579	Simons, Lonnie
	580	Sims, Zoot
	581	Smith, Jabbo
	582	Spann, Purvis
	583	Sullivan, Maxine
	584	Taylor, Billy
30	585-589	Terry, Clark
	590	Trimble, Steve
	591	Washington, Harold
	592	Williams, Joe
	593	Wilson, Nancy
	594	Winfield, Eddie
	595	Young, Dave
	596	Young, David and Cole, Freddie
	597	Young, John
	598	Unidentified Transcript

Subseries 3: Research, 1909-2000

This subseries primarily contains newspaper clippings and printed articles collected by Travis while working on his jazz books.

Box	Folder		
31-34	599-671	Research	1909-2000

Series V: Harold Washington, 1948-1988

Dempsey Travis was a close friend and financial supporter of Harold Washington throughout his political career. In 1989, Travis published *Harold, the People's Mayor: The Authorized Biography of Mayor Harold Washington*. This series includes drafts of that book, interviews with Washington, his family, friends, and colleagues, and general research regarding Chicago's political scene and Washington's administration. The series is arranged into three subseries: "Writings," "Interviews," and "Research."

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

Subseries 1: Writings, 1988

This subseries contains drafts of chapters from *Harold, the People's Mayor: The Authorized Biography of Mayor Harold Washington*.

Box	Folder	
35	672-697	Chapter 1-26
	698	Front Matter
	699	Back Matter
	700	Bibliography

Subseries 2: Interviews, 1984-1988

This subseries contains transcripts of interviews. The majority of interviews were conducted by Travis. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by interviewee, and interview dates range from 1984-1988.

Box	Folder	
36	701	Bevel, James
	702	Black, Timuel
	703	Brookins, Howard
	704	Bros, Jackson
	705	Brown, Albert
	706	Burke, Edward
	707	Byrne, Jane
	708	Caldwell, Lewis
	709	Canter, David
	710	Coleman, Slim
	711	Coleman, Slim and Shillar, Helen
	712	Davis, Corneal
	713	Denoms, Carl
	714	Depres, Leon
	715	Dunne, George
	716	Ellis, Morris
	717	Epton, Saul
	718	Evans, Timothy
	719	Ferguson, Margaret
	720	Gilbert, Herman
	721	Gilliam, Sharon
	722	Gutierrez, Luis and Torres, Manuel
	723	Goldsborough, Evelyn
	724	Hartigan, Neil

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	725	Hayes, Charles
	726	Hicks, Odell
37	727	Jefferson, Nancy
	728	Jennings, Rose
	729	Johnson, Al
	730	Johnson, Bennett
	731	Kennedy, Winston
	732	Landry, Lawrence
	733	Lee, Frank
	734	Logan, Al
	735	Lucas, Robert
	736	McClain, Clarence
	737	Miller, Alton
	738	Minor, Judson
	739	Newhouse, Richard
	740	O'Hare, George
	741	Ordower, Harold
	742	Partee, Cecil
	743	Passmore, Juanita
	744	Patch, Sam
	745	Pincham, Eugene
	746	Rayner, A.A.
	747	Rice, Fred
	748	Robinson, Renault
	749	Roundtree, Louis
	750	Saffold, Harold
38	751	Sampson, Al
	752	Savage, Gus
	753	Scott, Michael
	754	Simon, Paul
	755	Sive-Tomashefsky, Rebecca
	756	Stroger, John
	757	Thompson, James
	758	Tillman, Dorothy
	759	Todd, Thomas
	760	Triplett, Felecia
	761	Vrdolyak, Edward

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	762	Walls, Bill
	763-767	Washington, Harold
	768	Washington, Harold - Rally, March 10 1986
	769	Washington Jr., Roy Lee

Subseries 3: Research, 1948-1988

This subseries primarily contains newspaper clippings and printed articles collected by Travis while working on *Harold, the People's Mayor: The Authorized Biography of Mayor Harold Washington*.

Box	Folder		
39-41	770-816	Research	1948-1988

Series VI: World War II, 1938-1995

Dempsey Travis served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946. This series contains drafts of his book, *Views from the Back of the Bus During WWII and Beyond* (1995), interviews, correspondence from soldiers overseas who graduated from DuSable High School, and research. The series is arranged into four subseries: "Writings," "Interviews," "Correspondence," and "Research"

Subseries 1: Writings, 1994-1995

This subseries contains drafts of Travis' book, *Views from the Back of the Bus During WWII and Beyond*.

Box	Folder		
42	817	Writings	1994-1995

Subseries 2: Interviews, 1991-1995

This subseries contains transcripts of interviews. The majority of interviews were conducted by Travis. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by interviewee, and the interview dates range from 1991-1995.

Box	Folder	
42	818	Black, Timuel D.
	819	Brazier, Bishop
	820	Campbell, Wendell
	821	Coleman, David
	822	Cousins, William
	823	Deas, Milton
	824	Gardner, Edward
	825	Gibson, Truman
	826	Harvey, Henry P.

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	827	Johnson, Judge E.C.
	828	Jones, Mark
	829	Kirkpatrick, Felix
	830	Leighton, George
	831	Leighton, J.
	832	Long, Alvin
	833	Martin, Robert
	834	Myles, Eddie
	835	Pelky, David
43	836	Rodgers, John
	837	Russel, Harvey
	838	Skinner, Clementine
	839	Stewart, Wilborn
	840	Strayhorn, Earl
	841	Taylor, George
	842	Taylor, Raymond
	843	Taylor, Welton
	844	Thatcher, Harold
	845	Thomas, Joseph
	846	Thompson, Bill
	847	Westbrook, Shelby
	848	Wheeler, Lloyd
	849	Williams, James

Subseries 3: Correspondence, 1938-1981 (bulk 1941-1945)

This subseries contains correspondence between Mary Herrick, a teacher at DuSable High School, and soldiers who graduated from DuSable High School; the correspondence was given to Dempsey Travis by Mary Herrick. Herrick also helped create *The Fighting DuSabelite*, a newspaper about the men from DuSable who were stationed abroad.

Box	Folder		
43	850-854	Correspondence	1938-1981
	855-856	The Fighting DuSabelite	1944

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

Subseries 4: Research, 1941-1997

This subseries primarily contains newspaper clippings and printed articles collected by Travis while working on *Views from the Back of the Bus During WWII and Beyond*.

Box	Folder		
44	857-860	Research	1941-1997
	N/A	3 Binders	n.d.

Series VII: FBI, 1998-2002

Travis wrote two books about the FBI's interest in notable celebrities: *J Edgar Hoover's FBI Wired the Nation* (2000) and *The FBI Files: On the Tainted and the Damned* (2002). This series contains drafts of chapters, and the FBI files on individual persons that Travis requested through the Freedom of Information Act. The series is arranged into two subseries: "Writings" and "Freedom of Information Act Request Files."

Subseries 1: Writings, 1998-2002

This subseries contains drafts of chapters from Travis two FBI books. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by the subject of each chapter.

Box	Folder	
45	861	J. Edgar Hoover's FBI Wired the Nation Book Cover
	862	Anderson, Marian
	863	Bradley, Tom
	864	Dandridge, Dorothy
	865	Davis Jr., Sammy
	866	Fitzgerald, Ella
	867-868	Hughes, Howard
	869	Keller, Hellen
	870	Marx, Groucho
	871	Monroe, Marilyn
	872	Robinson, Jackie
	873	Sinatra, Frank
	874	Welles, Orson
	875-876	Wilkins, Roy
	877	Wright, Frank Lloyd
	878	Young, Coleman

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Subseries 2: Freedom of Information Act Request Files, n.d.

This subseries contains the FBI files of individuals that Travis acquired through the Freedom of Information Act. Dates for when the material was collected by the FBI can usually be found within the individual files. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by the subject of the file.

Box	Folder	
46	879-883	Abernathy, Ralph
	884	Anderson, Marian
	885	Ashe, Arthur
	886	Bailey, Pearl
	887-888	Baker, Josephine
47	889-893	Baldwin, James
	894	Benny, Jack
	895	Berlin, Irving
	896-898	Bernstein, Leonard
48	899-903	Bethune, Mary McLeod
	904-905	Billingsley, Sherman
	906	Bogart, Humphrey
49	907-908	Bradley, Tom
	909-912	Brown, Ronald H.
	913-914	Buck, Pearl S.
	915	Capote, Truman
	916	Carmichael, Stokely
50	917-922	Chaplin, Charlie
	923	Cole, Nat King
	924	Crawford, Joan
	925	Crosby, Bing
51	926-928	Davis, Benjamin J.
	929	Davis Jr., Sammy
	930	Dawson, William Levi
	931	De Priest, Oscar
	932	Dimaggio, Joe
	933-934	Disney, Walt
52	935-938	Du Bois, W.E.B.
	939	Ellington, Duke
	940	Ellison, Ralph
	941	Forbes, Malcolm
	942	Garland, Judy

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The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	943	Gershwin, George
	944	Gleason, Jackie
	945-951	Hansberry, Lorraine
53	952	Hayworth, Rita
	953-956	Hellman, Lillian
	957	Hemingway, Ernest
	958	Heywood, Eddie
	959	Hitchcock, Alfred
	960	Holiday, Billie
	961-962	Hughes, Howard
54	963-966	Hughes, Howard
	967	Hurston, Zora Neale
	968	Hutton, Ina Ray
	969-970	Lardner, Ring
	971	Lawrence, Jacob
	972	Lee, Canada
55	973	Lennon, John
	974	Lewis, Sinclair
	975	Louis, Joe
	976	Marx, Groucho
	977	Metcalf, Ralph
	978	Miles Van der Rohe, Ludwig
	979	Mingus, Charlie
	980	Monroe, Marilyn
	981	Motley, Willard
	982-983	Newton, Huey
	984	Owens, Jesse
	985	Parker, Dorothy
	986	Porter, Cole
	987	Powell, Adam Clayton
56	988-989	Presley, Elvis
	990-991	Randolph, Philip A.
	992-993	Robinson, Edward
	994-995	Robinson, Jackie
	996	Robinson, Ray
57	997-1005	Rockefeller, Nelson
58	1006-1014	Rockefeller, Nelson

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

59	1015-1017	Rockefeller, Nelson
	1018	Salk, Jonas
	1019	Sandberg, Carl
	1020	Simms, Hilda
	1021-1024	Sinatra, Frank
60	1025-1026	Sinatra, Frank
	1027	Steinbeck, John
	1028-1029	Stevenson, Adlai
	1030	Stokes, Carl
	1031	Swanson, Gloria
	1032	Thurber, James
	1033	Turner, Lana
	1034	Warhol, Andy
	1035	Washington, Harold
	1036	Waters, Ethel
	1037	Welles, Orson
	1038	West, Mae
61	1039	White, Josh
	1040	Wilder, Thornton
	1041-1044	Wright, Frank Lloyd
	1045	Wright Richard
	1046-1048	Young, Coleman
62	1049-1056	Young, Coleman
63	1057-1058	Young Jr., Whitney

Series VIII: Real Estate is the Gold in Your Future, 1977-2007 (bulk 1987)

In 1988, after having become a self-made millionaire in the real estate business, Travis wrote *Real Estate is the Gold in Your Future*. The book is a product of the author's 40 years as a successful real estate broker and mortgage banker. The book imparts guidance and advice for real estate investing based on Travis' experiences and through case studies of clients that Travis advised. The series is arranged into 3 subseries "Writings and Case Studies," "Interviews," and "Research."

Subseries 1: Writings and Case Studies, 1987

This subseries contains drafts of chapters and case studies used in *Real Estate is the Gold in Your Future*.

Box	Folder	
63	1059	Chapter 1

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The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	1060	Chapter 2
	1061	Chapter 3
	1062	Chapter 4
	1063	Chapter 5
	1064	Chapter 6
	1065	Chapter 7
	1066	Glossary
	1067-1068	Case Studies

Subseries 2: Interviews, 1987

This subseries contains transcripts of interviews. The majority of interviews were conducted by Travis. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by interviewee.

Box	Folder	
63	1069	Brown, Johnny
	1070	Hickman, Darryl
	1071	Johnson, John H.
	1072	Jones, Russell and Mamie
	1073	Martin, Joseph
	1074	Murray, Leonard
	1075	Myles, Eddie
	1076	Parham, Mack and Mary
	1077	Price, Beverly
	1078	Sutherland, Linford

Subseries 3: Research, 1977-2007

This subseries primarily contains newspaper clippings and printed articles collected by Travis while working on *Real Estate is the Gold in Your Future*.

Box	Folder		
64	1079-1097	Research	1977-2007

Series IX: The Victory Monument: The Beacon of Chicago's Bronzeville, 1999

Travis wrote *The Victory Monument: The Beacon of Chicago's Bronzeville* in 1999. The Victory Monument is a sculpture at 35th Street and King Drive in Chicago that was built to honor the Eighth Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, an African-American unit that served in France during World War I. The series contains drafts of the book.

Box	Folder		
65	1098	Writings	1999

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Series X: The Chosen, the Damned, and Other People, 2006

The Chosen, the Damned, and Other People (2007) is a historical account of Chicago history told through individual accounts of prominent Chicago figures such as Charlie Cole, Al Capone, and Ted Roe. This series contains drafts of the book.

Box	Folder		
65	1099-1102	Writings	2006

Series XI: Obama's Race to the White House, 2007

Obama's Race to the White House (2008) chronicles Barack Obama's political career including his campaign for President as well as the campaigns of past African American who have run for president. This series contains drafts of the book.

Box	Folder		
65	1103-1104	Writings	2007

Series XII: The Life and Times of Red Foxx, 1972-1999

Travis and Red Foxx were classmates at DuSable High School, and Travis published *The Life and Times of Red Foxx* in 1999. The series contains research on Red Foxx, including an interview with Robert Townsend.

Box	Folder		
65	1105-1112	Research	2006

Series XIII: Dempsey Travis Real Estate, 1885-2007

This series contains material related to Travis' real estate and mortgage banking ventures. It includes documents from Sivart Corporation, Travis Realty Company, and the United Mortgage Bankers of America, as well as reports related to housing for minorities in Illinois.

Box	Folder		
66	1113	Publicity	1959-1969
	1114	Correspondence	1991-1994
	1115-1117	Black Banking	1971-2004
	1118-1119	United Mortgage Bankers of America, Inc.	1972-1973
	1120	Project Manual	1989
	1121	Travis Realty Company Brochures	n.d.
	1122	Sivart Corporation Preorganization Subscription Agreement	1953-1993
	1123	Advisory Council of Chicago Housing Authority	1988
	1124	Certificates & Awards	1961-1991
	1125	Chicago Urban League Research Report	1965

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	1126	Prediction for 2100: Twice the Americans	2001
	1127	The Chicago Long Range Cultural Plan	1985-1986
	1128	Fair Housing Center of Home Investment Fund	1970-1977
	1129	Housing and Mortgage Financing of Saul Klanman	1970
	1130-1132	U.S. Department of Commerce Reports	1974-1979
	1133	Department of Cultural Affairs	1985
	1134-1135	Government Reports	1970
	1136-1137	Housing Reports	1971-1974
67	1138	Management Survey	1974
	1139	The Woodlawn Organization	1973
	1140	Chatham Park Place	1990-1997
	1141	Economical Status of Chicago's Black Community	1977
	1142	Development of a General Plan for Transformation of Areas Studied	1971
	1143	Stock Market	1993
68	1144-1162	Research	1885-2000

Series XIV: Personal, 1941-2004

This series contains material not directly related to Travis' writing process or real estate businesses, and includes correspondence, alma matter documents, financial documents and notebooks, travel itineraries, programs, personal interest material, and artifacts. The correspondence is primarily letters of appreciation for Travis' book, *An Autobiography of Black Chicago*.

Box	Folder		
69	1163-1167	Correspondence	1975-1987
	1168-1175	Sympathy Cards	1989
70	1176	Publicity and Biographical	1973-2003
	1177-1180	Regal Theatre	1983-1987
	1181-1182	American Federation of Television and Radio Artists	1972-1977
	1183	Moseylyne Travis Schoolwork	n.d.
	1184	Earl B Dickerson Remarks	1982
	1185	Wrightwood Development	1994
	1186	Horace Revels Clayton	1981
	1187	The Chicago Theater and Movie Museum	1983
	1188	Copies of Pictures Used in Books	n.d.

BMRC

The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

	1189-1193	Programs and Events	1981-200
71	1194-1195	Scripts	n.d.
	1196	U.S. Army Service Album	1945
	1197	Roosevelt University Board of Trustees Meeting	Nov 13 1996
	1198	Roosevelt University Proposal for a Center of the Performing Arts	1996
	1199	Chicago Historical Society	1985-1986
	1200	The Society of Midland Authors	1988-1992
	1201	ET Creative Arts Foundation	1971-1991
	1202	Japan American Society	1985
	N/A	Japan American Society of Chicago (Binder)	1985
	1203	Creative Writing Class	1968-1975
	1204-1207	Personal	1977-1997
	1208	Fashion Clippings	n.d.
72	1209-1214	Financial Documents	1996-2005
	N/A	Notebook	n.d.
	N/A	Notebook	n.d.
	N/A	Notebook	n.d.
	N/A	Figuring Book	n.d.
73	N/A	Invitation to Dempsey Travis 88 th Birthday	2008
	1215-1216	Press Kits	n.d.
	1217	Buttons	n.d.
	1218	Scrap Book	n.d.
	N/A	Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminar	1987
	N/A	Lincoln Lore Bulletins	1987-1988
	N/A	Sears Bank and Trust Company	1983
	N/A	Sears Bank and Trust Company Advertising	1983-1984
	N/A	UniBancTrust Company	1984

Series XV: Photographs, n.d.

This series contains photographs from public events that Travis attended, such as book signings and dinners, and personal events. It also contains photographs of notable African Americans, many of whom were musicians, as well as some pictures of real estate developments at various stages in the construction process.

74-75	1219-1240	Photographs	n.d.
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The Black Metropolis
Research Consortium

Series XVI: Publications, n.d.

This series contains full magazines, journals, and newspapers. Titles include *The Half Century Magazine*, *Ebony*, *Nostalgia Digest*, *Dollars and Sense*, and *The Black Scholar*.

Box	Folder		
76-78	1241-1277	Publications	n.d.
79	N/A	Newspapers	n.d.