

Alabama Mosaic F.A.Q.

About AlabamaMosaic

Updated: March 2009

What is AlabamaMosaic?

[AlabamaMosaic](#) is an online collection of digital materials about Alabama's history, culture, places, and people. Its purpose is to make unique historical treasures from Alabama's archives, libraries, museums, and other repositories accessible online to Alabama residents and to students, researchers, and the general public in other states and countries. It was conceived in cooperation with the Alabama Virtual Library to add content about Alabama to the AVL.

Who is responsible for AlabamaMosaic?

AlabamaMosaic was initiated by the [Network of Alabama Academic Libraries](#) (NAAL) with assistance from a National Leadership grant awarded by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS). AlabamaMosaic is part of the Digital Content Program of NAAL, is operated and managed by [Auburn University Libraries](#) on behalf of NAAL. The digital resources are contributed by the AlabamaMosaic partners. For information about the partners, view [Contributing Partners](#) on the [AlabamaMosaic](#) website

What kinds of materials are in AlabamaMosaic?

AlabamaMosaic includes digital copies of materials selected from archival collections. It includes digital copies of such items as photographs, letters, manuscripts, postcards, books, maps, and slides as well as digital copies of audio recordings. Go to [Browse Collections](#) on AlabamaMosaic, click on the name of a contributor to see the collections and the kinds of materials that have been included.

Does it cost anything to use images from AlabamaMosaic?

AlabamaMosaic content is available for public educational and research use at no cost. Anyone may use the content for instruction and personal research. If you use materials from AlabamaMosaic, you should always give credit to the repository contributing them.

May I use the materials from AlabamaMosaic for class work?

Yes. The primary purpose of AlabamaMosaic is to support the study of Alabama history. Many items were selected to support the curriculum enrichment guide, [Alabama Moments in American History](#), developed for the study of Alabama History. Any AlabamaMosaic content may be used for classroom instruction, homework assignments, class projects, or other educational purposes. All uses should abide by the U. S. Copyright Law (U.S. Code, Title 17) and guidelines for fair use. All uses should include a credit to the source.

May I use the materials from AlabamaMosaic for a published work?

Other uses, such as commercial use (selling copies) or publication, are not permitted without prior permission. If you wish to use AlabamaMosaic images for other uses,

contact the contributing repository for information about obtaining permission from the copyright owner.

How do I credit the source?

Proper credit or “attribution” includes the name of the creator (author, photographer, etc.), name of the item, name of the copyright holder, and the phrase, “downloaded from <http://www.alabamamosaic.org> on *date*.”

What is copyright?

Copyright is the legal right granted by the U. S. Government (U.S. Code, Title 17) to the creators of original works. Copyright gives the person who originally created the item the exclusive right to publish, produce, sell, or distribute a literary, musical, dramatic, or artistic work. Copyright applies to both published and unpublished works. For more information about copyright, review the [Frequently Asked Questions: Copyright](#) on this website.

Why does copyright apply to AlabamaMosaic?

All digital images in AlabamaMosaic are protected by copyrights held by the repository that scanned the original. The original materials which were scanned may also be protected by copyright. The U. S. Copyright Law (U. S. Code, Title 17) allows “fair use” for instruction and personal research. Under fair use, you may view, print, copy, and download digital files from AlabamaMosaic without prior permission provided that you give proper credit to the source of the material **every time you use it**.

Some works are not protected by copyright, and these are “in the public domain” which means anyone can use them without giving credit to the creator. Public domain materials are works created before 1923, works created for public use such as some federal government publications, or works that are now in the public domain because the copyright expired with the passage of time.

Can I obtain high-quality prints or digital copies of items in AlabamaMosaic?

Some repositories offer prints or high resolution digital copies of materials in their collections. You must contact the contributing repository to determine the availability and possible cost for reproductions – either print or high-resolution digital copies.

I used the basic search box in the upper right of the webpage, but did not find what I wanted. Is there an advanced search feature?

The basic search box on the opening page searches across all fields. To limit your search, go to Browse Collections, scroll to the bottom of that webpage, and select “Search across collections.” This will open Advanced Search and provide options to search by fields. Each search box has a “pull-down” menu to select the fields you want to search, for example: creator, title, publisher, date, etc.