Kwanzaa is a non-heroic and non-religious holiday created in Los Angeles, California in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. The holiday has grown from a cultural idea and expression by a dedicated few to a national and international celebration by an estimated 12 million people. Although Kwanzaa has been in existence for over 20 years, many either don't know of its existence or have only recently learned of it, the chief reason seeming to be that since its genesis was via community-based organizations, general information about the holiday remained within these organizations until they began publishing and distributing printed information in the 1970s. After this period, the national press and electronics media began reporting on this holiday. This longitudinal bibliography on Kwanzaa consists of 145 selected entries arranged in eight topical sections: (1) audiovisual; (2) books; (3) children's newspapers; (4) children's literature; (5) newsletters; (6) newspapers; (7) magazines; and (8) unpublished works at the Library of Congress. It is designed to provide a bibliographic introduction to Kwanzaa, illustrate its first 20 year bibliographic history, and spark interest in the idea of developing a Kwanzaa bibliographic network/database interest group to explore this African American holiday.
Kwanzaa 1969-1989: A Selected Bibliography

by

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I. Introduction

Kwanzaa is a (non-heroic and non-religious) African American holiday created in Los Angeles, California in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a Professor of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. The holiday has grown from a cultural idea and expression of a dedicated few to a national and international celebration celebrated by an estimated 12 million people. The holiday is a synthesis of African and African American history and culture which uses seven core principles (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, faith) to highlight the end of the harvest season in traditional African societies. The celebration begins on December 26 and ends seven days later on January 1 of each year.

Although Kwanzaa has been in existence for over twenty years, many don't know of its existence or have only recently learned of it. There are many reasons for this, however, the chief reason seems to be that since its genesis was via community-based organizations, general information about the holiday remained with them until they began publishing and distributing printed information in the 1970's. After this period, the national press (mainly newspapers) and the electronic media began reporting the dynamics of the holiday.

To my knowledge, this is the first longitudinal bibliography on Kwanzaa. It consists of 145 selected entries arranged in eight topical sections: (1) Audiovisual; (2) Books; (3) Children's Activity Materials; (4) Children's Literature; (5) Newsletters; (6) Newspapers; (7) Magazines; and (8) Unpublished Works at the Library of Congress. It is designed to provide a bibliographic introduction to Kwanzaa, illustrate its first twenty years (1969-1989) bibliographic history, and (hopefully) spark interest in the idea of developing a (local, national international) Kwanzaa bibliographic network/database interest-group to explore this unique African American holiday.
II. Audiovisual


III. Books


IV. *Children's Activity Materials*


V. Children's Literature


VI. Newsletters


"Kwanza and Anokwalei Enyo (Two Relative Truths)." Pan African Communications Committee Newsletter (Fresno, CA), 1978, pp.12-13.

"Kwanza, Our First Fruits." Pan African Communications Committee Newsletter (Fresno, CA), 1978, p.11.


VII. Newspapers


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VIII. Periodicals


"Interview with Maulana R. Karenga : Creator of Kwanzaa." Black News (Brooklyn, N.Y.), 1979, pp.4-7.


IX. Unpublished Works at the Library of Congress


**X. ABBREVIATIONS**

COHM: Copyright Office History Monograph  
Kwanza: Kwanza  
PAU: Unpublished Performance  
TX: Nondramatic Literary Arts  
TXU: Unpublished Text  
VAU: Unpublished Performance Visual Arts  
VHS: Video Home System