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Press clipping services: monitoring social and political change in South Africa

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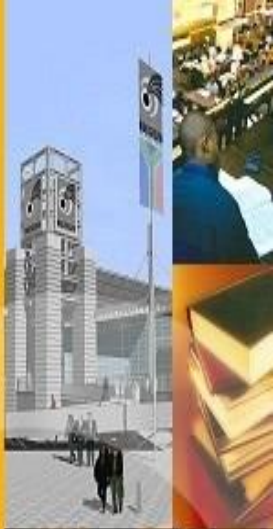
National Library of South Africa

The National Library of South Africa

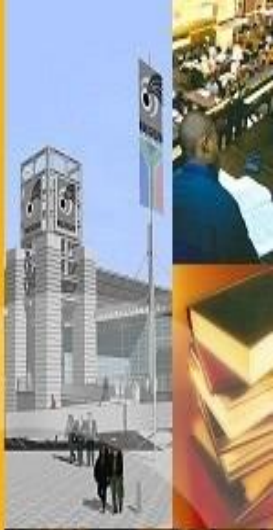
- Legal Deposit Library mandated by the Legal Deposit Act No.54,1997
- Two Campuses: Pretoria and Cape Town
- Wide array of Collections: SA publications, Foreign official publications(Germany, Canada Australia, US, UN collections etc)
- Special Collections include: Newspapers and periodicals, manuscripts, pictures, maps, Cape Times and Argus clippings and many more.







National Library of South Africa



Introduction

- The newspaper collections at the National Library of South Africa include press clippings collections of primarily the period 1919 to 1996/1998.
- Mid to late 90s clippings were replaced by electronic full-text searching.
- Collections were comprised of Cape Town based newspapers such as the Cape Times, Cape Argus as well as Die Burger. Personal Clippings belonging to Miss K.M. Jeffreys (1900-70) and AA Fullalove (1875-1960)
- Collection Content: 10k files comprising of biographies, court proceedings, sport reports and general reporting based on politically influenced events in South Africa.
- Other clipping collections in South Africa were compiled by INEG (Instituut vir eietydse Geskiedenis: Institute of current history) which was the indexing service at the University of the Free State, this is now continued by SABINET in digital form.



Overview

- The purpose of the paper is to research the role of clipping services as monitors of social and political change in South Africa in the 20th century. The indexes of a number of press clippings collections were consulted to identify and analyse the topics covered during the years of social and political change in South Africa.



Press clippings

- Definitions
- Press clippings or press cuttings can be defined as an article or picture cut from a number of daily and weekly publications. A press clippings service is defined by the Dictionary for Library and Information Science (Reitz, 2004) as an organisation in the business of collecting copies of reviews, articles, columns, photographs, etc. published in newspapers and magazines about authors, prominent people, news events, or topics of interest to clients who pay a fee to receive those on a regular basis. Other terms used are media or newspaper monitoring services



Criteria used for selection (period before 1990)

- As a reflection of the social and political change in South Africa it was decided to look at clippings indexed before the date of the release of Mandela in 1990. Names of persons, biographical files and political organisations were excluded.
- Conceptual analysis



Press clippings consulted

- *Cape Argus and Pretoria News (1920 to 1979)*
- This is one of the oldest printing, publishing and distribution companies over the past 100 years in South Africa. It was formerly known as the Argus Group during the pinnacle era of mining. The first newspaper launched was the Cape Argus in 1857, which was the first daily newspaper in Cape Town. The Pretoria News was established north of the Witwatersrand goldfields in 1898. The Cape Argus and Pretoria News clippings cover the years 1920 to 1979.



Sample Clippings

- ***Jeffreys collection (1900 to 1970)***
- Ms Marie Kathleen Jeffreys (1893-1968) was an Archivist and Africana Dealer. She worked in the Cape Town Archives for 29 years. She donated her general research material to the Library. She was a prolific essayist covering subject matter that ranged from politics to racism and the history of slavery.
- ***Fullalove (1875 to 1960)***
- Mr Arthur Anthony Fullalove (1911-1978), was a SA Railways employee, amateur writer and researcher. He donated his research collection to the Library



Sample Clippings continued

- ***SA Media (1977 to date)***
- SA Media is a news research and press clipping service that retrospectively covers mainstream publications in South Africa from 1977 to present day. It originally served as press cuttings service situated at the University of the Free State (Institute for Contemporary History). Close links with the then National Party is evident from INEG publications covering the politics of the day.
- ***SA Jewish Board of Deputies Newspaper Cuttings (1930's to date)***
- The South African Jewish Board of Deputies is an umbrella representative spokesperson and civil rights lobby of the SA Jewish community. The SAJBD is an organisation formed in 1912 to serve most of the country's Jewish societies and institutions. In his address to the 2015 Biennial National Conference of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, South African President Jacob Zuma credited the South African Jewish community's historical role in resisting apartheid.



Cape Town newspaper clipping collections



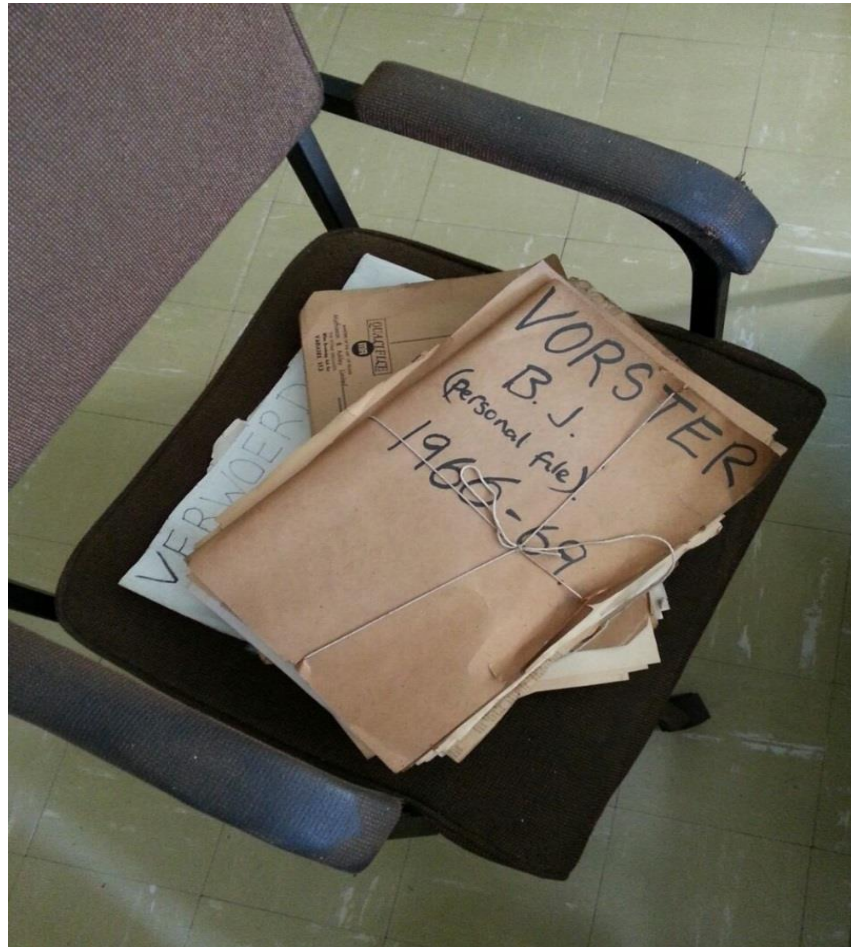
Press Clippings Pretoria news



Pretoria News Library Press Clippings



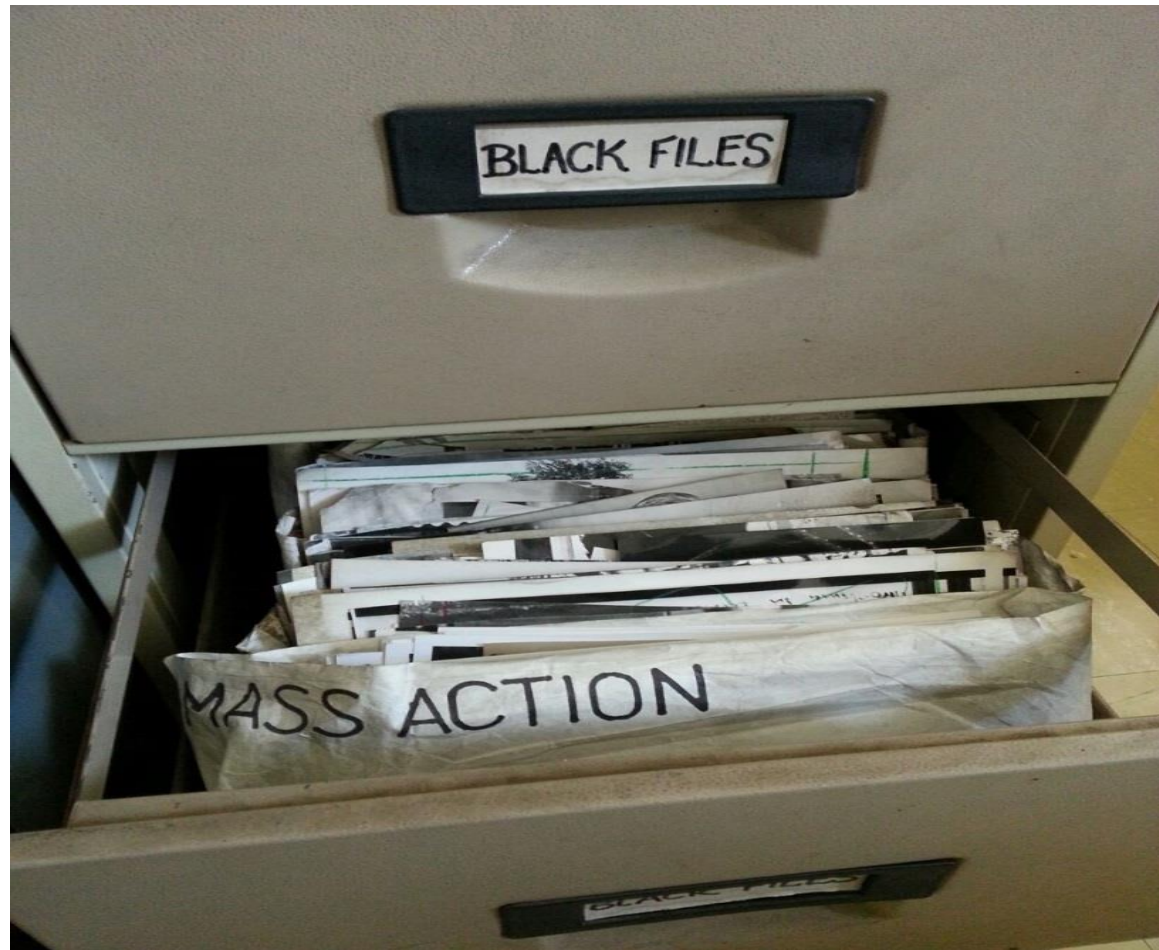
Clippings on Verwoed and BJ Vorster



Sample 1956-Beerhalls



Pretoria News/separate cabinet for black people



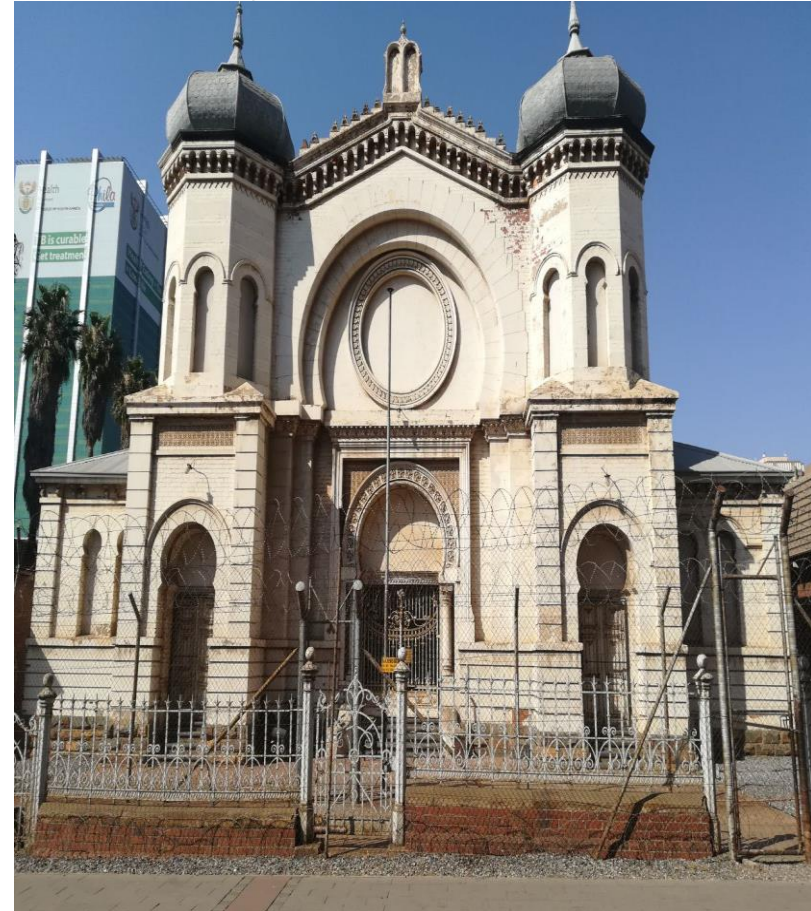
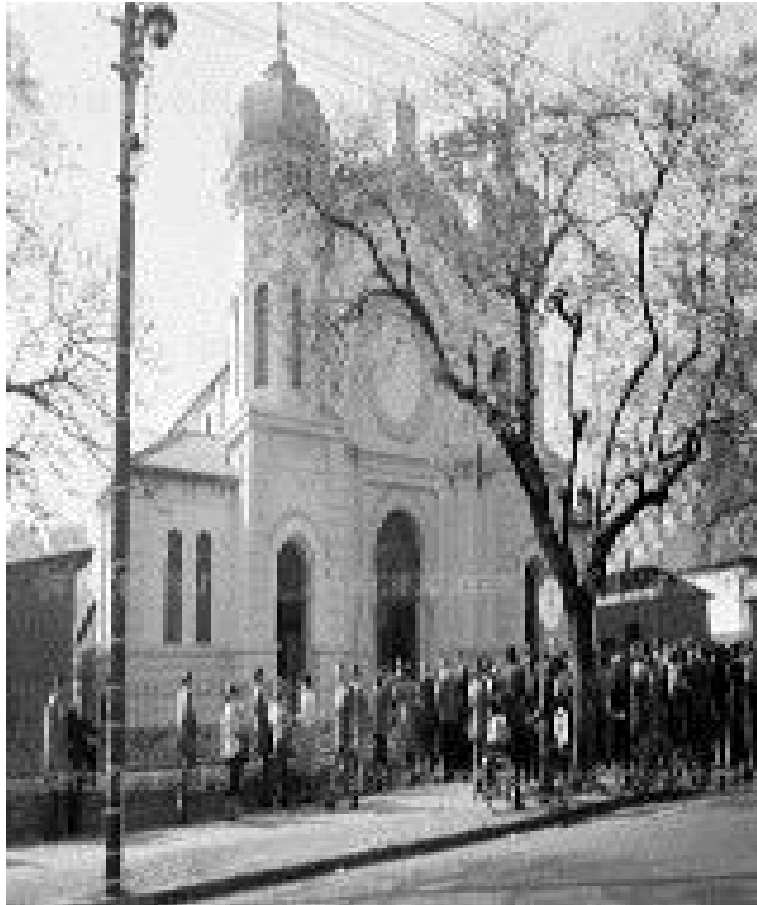
The socio-political climate in South Africa 1950-1980's

- 1956 Women's march to Union buildings
- 1963-1964 Rivonia Trial
- 1966 Sharpville
- 1976 Soweto Uprise
- 1990 Release of Mandela

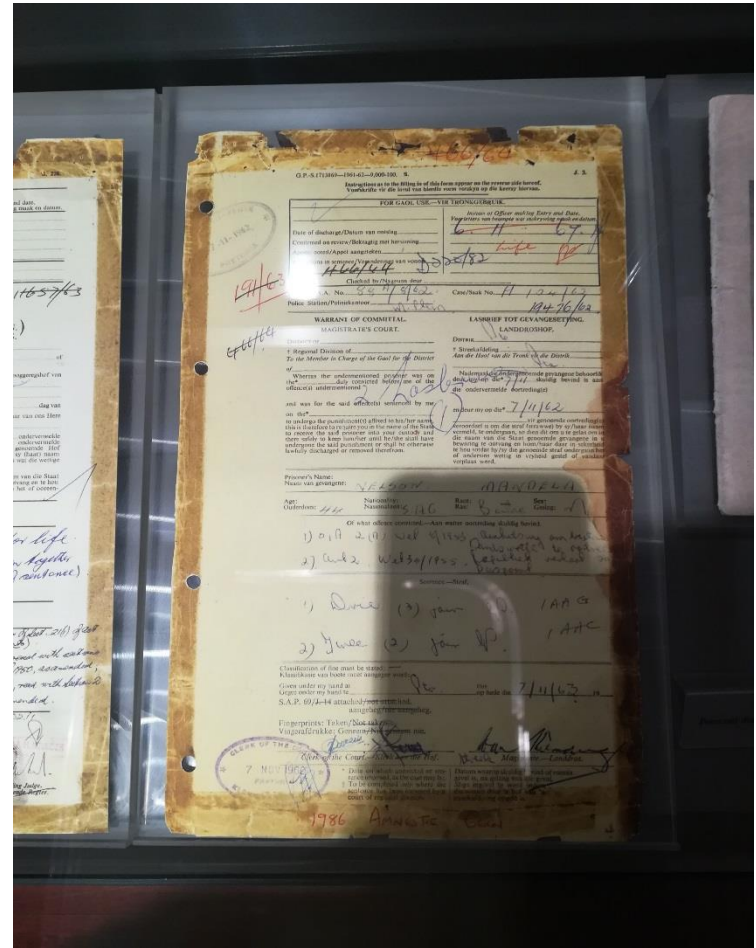
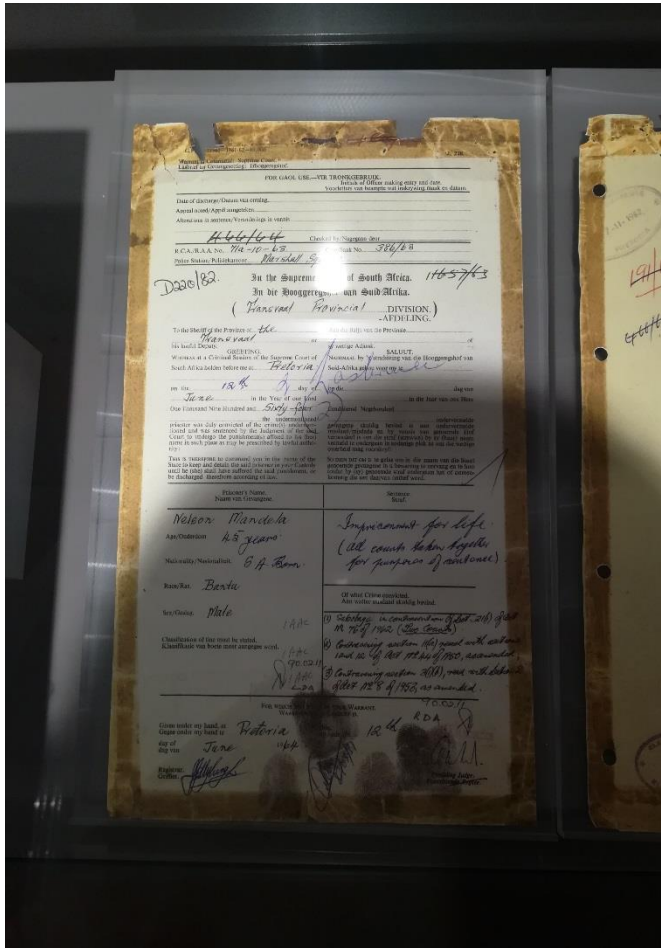


The Rivonia trial

- 1963 Old Synagogue • 2017 Old Synagogue today



Mr Nelson Mandela's sentencing documents/466/64



List of keywords: with some typical samples explained within context

- Apartheid (colour bar / segregation): Europeans only/Blacks only
- Black power:
- Freedom (Freedom Charter of 26 June 1955): Our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities. South African Congress Alliance which consisted of the ANC and its allies
- Group areas : Group Areas Act of 1950, Racial groups assigned to live in specific areas. Black,coloured,Indian and white to live in different areas
- Homelands/Bantustans: Kwazulu Natal
- Hostels: Residential areas for black people living in the urban areas.
- Immorality act of 1927: prohibition of interracial marriage or sexual relations.
- Pass laws: Inhibiting excessive or unlawful¹ movements of the black person

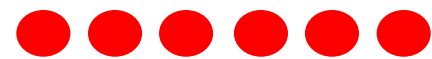
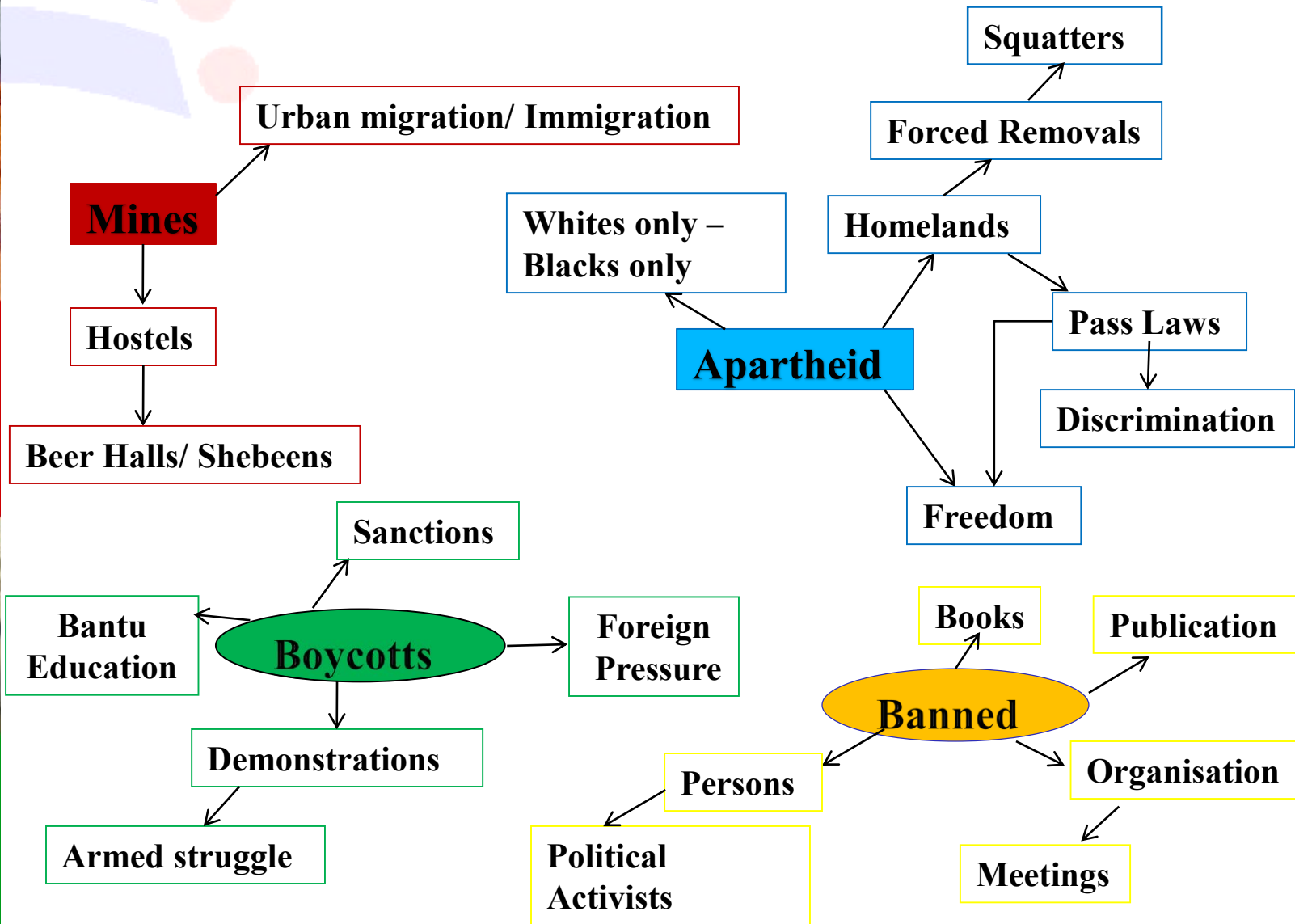


Continued.....

- Refusals
- Service delivery
- Shebeens
- Struggle
- Townships
- Bantu Education
- Banishment



Mapping of Index Terms



Summary and conclusion

- Newspaper clippings played a pivotal role as monitors of social and political change in South Africa's most crucial stage.
- It is thus important preserve these clippings for research and for posterity .





National Library of South Africa

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