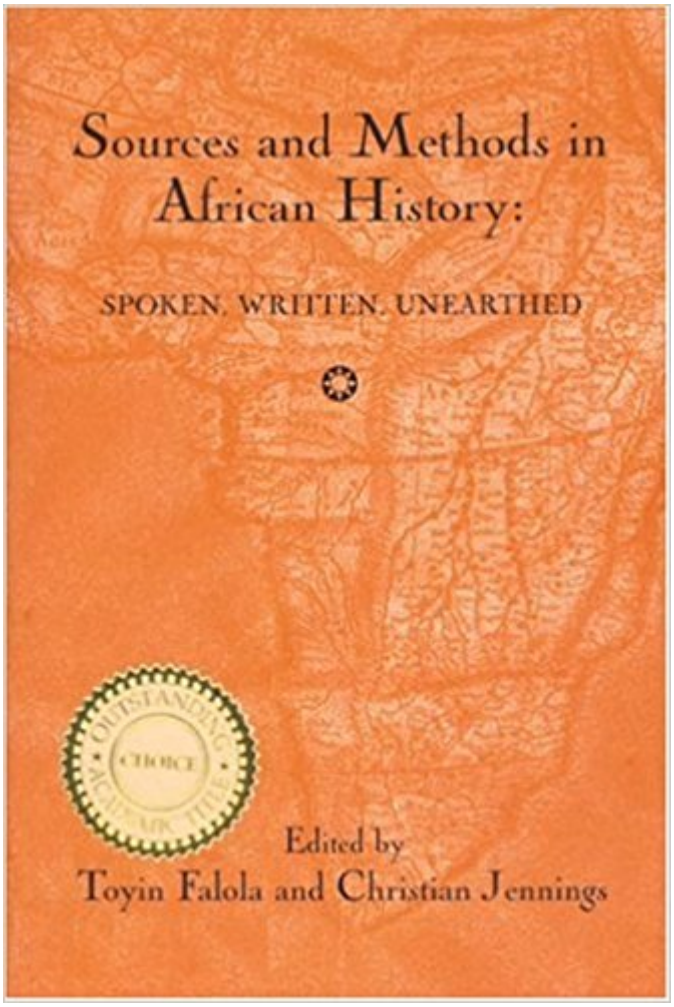
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Synopsis

Spurred in part by the ongoing re-evaluation of sources and methods in research, African historiography in the past two decades has been characterized by the continued branching and increasing sophistication of methodologies and areas of specialization. The rate of incorporation of new sources and methods into African historical research shows no signs of slowing. This book is both a snapshot of current academic practice and an attempt to sort through some of the problems scholars face within this unfolding web of sources and methods. The book is divided into five sections, each of which begins with a short introduction by a distinguished Africanist scholar. The first section deals with archaeological contributions to historical research. The second section examines the methodologies involved in deciphering historically accurate African ethnic identities from the records of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The third section mines old documentary sources for new historical perspectives. The fourth section deals with the method most often associated with African historians, that of drawing historical data from oral tradition. The fifth section is devoted to essays that present innovative sources and methods for African historical research. Together, the essays in this cutting-edge volume represent the current state of the art in African historical research.

Book Information

Series: Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora (Book 15)
Paperback: 432 pages
Publisher: BOYE6 (September 20, 2004)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1580461409
ISBN-13: 978-1580461405
Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item
Best Sellers Rank: #497,605 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #224 inÃ Â Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Essays #239 inÃ Â Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Study & Teaching #307 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Africa

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