

Historians and the sources for liberation struggles in southern Africa

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This paper will discuss the use that historians have made to date of the relevant sources for the history of liberation in southern Africa, and will suggest ways in which the historiography may move in the future, based on the use of such sources as the South African History Archive and the interviews that have been conducted by the South African Democracy Education Trust. The paper will point to the failure of historians thus far to link struggles in one country with developments elsewhere and to the difficulties of using very scattered sources, some now online but others not. Some comments will be made about the problems this practising historian has encountered when using such sites as DISA and Aluka and that of the Nordic Africa Institute.