D'Lana Lockett was born on August 9, 1961 in Toledo, Ohio, to Robert and Marilyn Lockett. Lockett began dancing at the age of five at the dance school owned by her family, the Bobby Lockett Dance Studio. Instrumental to her instruction was her uncle, Jerry A. Reed, Jr., who had been a vaudeville tap dancer. Lockett attended Ohio State University and was the owner and instructor of D'Lana's Dance Conservatory in Columbus, Ohio. In her late-thirties, Lockett returned to Toledo and received her Bachelor of Arts from Lourdes College. Lockett began research for a book on African American female tap dancers, but her book remained unfinished at her death in 2006, at the age of forty three.
Scope and content note
The D'Lana Lockett research files contain research materials regarding performers Lockett researched for her book. The files are arranged alphabetically by performer with one additional folder containing photographs. The files contain correspondence, notes, lists of performances, typescript drafts, and photographic prints and negatives of the performer. The correspondence consists of letters from friends and relatives of the performers, though the Carita Harbert file contains letters from Harbert herself. The folder of photographs contains photographic prints and negatives of male tap dancers including The Jungle Rhythm Boys, Jessie Franklin and James Hawthorne of "Jessie and James," The Ebony Pals, and Bill Robinson teaching at the Stanley Brown Studio of Rhythm.

Arrangement
Collection is arranged alphabetically by format.

Key terms
Subjects
African American dancers
Tap dancing -- United States -- History

Names
Harbert, Carita
Lockett, D'Lana Y.

Special formats
Negatives
Photographic prints
Container list

b.1 f.1  3 Rhythm Queens, undated
b.1 f.2  Barnes, Mae, undated
b.1 f.3  Bright, Lois, undated
b.1 f.4  Browne, Harriet, undated
b.1 f.5  Bryant, Marie, 1951, undated
b.1 f.6  Edward Sisters, 2001
b.1 f.7  Gossey, Edith Artis, undated
b.1 f.8  Harbert, Carita, 1995-2001
b.1 f.9  Harris, Eleanor, 1953
b.1 f.10  Jones, Ludie, 2001
b.1 f.11  Laredo, Cora, 2001-2002
b.1 f.12  Legon, Jeni, undated
b.1 f.13  Madison, Louise, 1994, undated
b.1 f.14  Nealy, Frances, 2003
b.1 f.15  Pitts, Juanita, undated
b.1 f.16  Rimmer Sisters, 2002
b.1 f.17  Whitman, Alice, 2001
b.1 f.18  Williams, Barbara, 1953, undated
b.1 f.19  Photographs, 1993, undated