



Fact Sheet - 2016

The HBCU Library Alliance (www.hbculibraries.org) is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. Created in 2002 by deans and directors of HBCU libraries, and incorporated in 2006, the HBCU Library Alliance is governed by a Board of Directors elected by and from the membership. Members of the HBCU Library Alliance are those HBCU institutions so designated by the White House Initiative on HBCUs. Loretta Parham, CEO and Library Director, Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library, is the founding Board Chair. Mantra Henderson, Library Director, Mississippi Valley State University, is the current Board Chair.

Mission

The HBCU Library Alliance works to transform and strengthen its membership by developing library leaders, preserving collections and planning for the future.

Benefits of Membership

The HBCU Library Alliance is committed to advocating for library services. Benefits include access to programs designed specifically to strengthen communities of HBCU libraries in service to their constituents, programs designed to address needs within HBCU institutions, and access to workshops and training opportunities.

HBCU Library Alliance Programs

Leadership Program www.hbculibraries.org/html/leadership.html

The HBCU Library Alliance is committed to leadership development as the key to strengthening HBCU libraries. Funded by grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, four successful programs of leadership development have been completed, reaching senior staff at fifty-one HBCUs. The primary objective of the Leadership Program was to provide theoretical and practical instruction and useful resources to encourage the development of leadership skills within the HBCU library community and on their own campuses. This project ended in 2013.

HBCU Cornell Digital Initiative www.hbculibraries.org/html/programs.html

The HBCU Library Alliance and Cornell University Library collaboration prepared HBCU librarians to produce digital collections and to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of HBCU library materials with descriptive information and selected digitization of historic pages. Funded by grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this unique project was one of the first in the nation to build a national framework for collaborative digitization of HBCU cultural heritage materials. This project ended in 2012.

The Preservation of Photographic and Magnetic Media Collections in Historically Black Colleges and Universities www.hbculibraries.org/html/preservation.html

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the goal of this program is to improve the preservation of significant collections held within HBCUs. These collections document the history and legacy of HBCUs and form a core of primary research materials for the study of African-American history. Two programs have been completed, focused on the goal



of stabilizing at-risk collections and building local preservation capacity within HBCUs. A third grant has been awarded to build on existing activities and accomplishments from the two previous preservation grant awards. This grant award provides a total of nine years of funding for photographic preservation, related student mentorship and staff development at HBCUs. This project will end in October 2016.

Preserving the Story of the HBCU Library Alliance <http://www.hbculibraries.org/html/hbcustory.html>

The HBCU Library Alliance received its first direct grant award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in November 2010. The goals of the project were twofold: to document the history and contributions of the HBCU Library Alliance to the field of librarianship and the larger field of education, and to document and share the success stories of nine libraries at HBCUs. Major outcomes of this proposal were increasing visibility of the HBCU Library Alliance and increasing its ability to acquire grants and secure new funding sources, thus increasing opportunities for organizational sustainability. This project ended in November 2013.

Expanding Library Support for Faculty Research in HBCUs <http://hbculibraries.org/html/research.html>

The HBCU Library Alliance received its second direct grant award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in October 2013. The long-term goals of the project were the integration of HBCU library services and resources into faculty research initiatives and building collaborative approaches to provide ongoing support for faculty research. An article on the project is scheduled to be published late summer 2016 in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Library Administration*. This project ended in August 2015.

Partnership

Wayne State University – Increasing Library Leadership <http://hbculibraries.org/html/waynestate.html>

The HBCU Library Alliance and Wayne State University School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) partnered in a three-year project to recruit, mentor and deliver an online Master of Library and Information Science degree to ten students from under-represented groups in order to achieve greater diversity among practicing library professionals. The project ended in April 2016.

Staff and Contact Information

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